

“Attached are the Minutes and associated papers from last month’s meeting of the Woodlands and Forestry Group. As you will see from item 3, we discussed the future of the Group and this has also now been considered by the Biodiversity South West Steering Group and the RFF Delivery Group. There is a feeling that there are currently perhaps too many woodland related standing groups in the SW region.

It is therefore proposed that, with the imminent refresh of the RFF Implementation Plan, this Woodlands and Forestry group should effectively become a ‘sub-group’ of the wider RFF Delivery Group on an as & when basis. We would continue to operate as an occasional ‘e-group’ and would get together, when necessary, to promote/organise task specific woodland biodiversity actions (eg like the water and woodlands seminar set for March 31<sup>st</sup>). In addition, it may well be that such specific woodland biodiversity actions will need to be taken up as a result of the RFF refresh. But we will no longer operate on a regular meeting basis.

I hope that you will agree with this rationalisation of the way woodland biodiversity is delivered in the region: if you have any queries, please let me know.”