

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000:

PROPOSAL FOR A LONG TERM DIRECTION BY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY

SUMMARY FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION Prepared by Forestry Commission

1. INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Case Reference Number: 2014087340
Name of site/land parcel: Cinderford Northern Quarter – CNQ – SO643151

Access Authority: Gloucestershire County
Relevant Authority: Forestry Commission
Local Access Forum: West England, Gloucestershire

The Forestry Commission has received an application under section 25 (1b) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (the Act) for a direction to exclude the public from the site indicated on the attached map, in order to carry out timber harvesting operations.

This closure is currently running for 180 days between the 08 August 2014 to the 04 February 2015. The applicants have applied to extend this application. Having considered the application, the Forestry Commission now proposes to give a direction on the site that would last for longer than 6 months continuously, and extend the current closure for a further 299 days between the 05 February 2015 and 30 November 2015. The Act requires us to consult publicly on all such proposals for 'long-term directions'.

This is a summary of our proposal, explaining the reasoning in support of our proposal. It is accompanied by a map of the site which can be seen on the Open Access website >>

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?publication_filter_option=consultations

To access the consultation enter "Open Access" into the free text box titled "Contains" and then filter by "Natural England" in the Department drop down. Other documents relating to the proposed direction may be inspected and copies obtained by contacting the Forestry Commission Office at Room G34, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX, email: cca@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

2. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT AUTHORITY PROPOSAL

i) Summary of proposed direction to restrict access

Long term full direction

ii) Why is a statutory restriction necessary?

Sensitive ecological survey and public safety

iii) What is lowest level of restriction required?

Full Exclusion of Public access

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE APPLICATION FOR
OUTLINE DIRECTION OF LONG TERM CLOSURE**

Case number 2014087340 - Cinderford Northern Quarter.

This CRoW closure is required to facilitate a development project on the edge of Cinderford in the Forest of Dean. The plan is to create a new college and spine road, which is a core part of the Forest of Dean District Council's (FoDDC) development plan for the area. They are working in close partnership with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to achieve this.

The exclusion zone in question will be a mitigation area that must be successfully established as compensation for the loss of habitat where the planned college and spine road will be built.

The vegetation within the exclusion zone at present is primarily commercial conifer plantation that must be converted to a mixture of open grassland and mixed broadleaved woodland in order to compensate for the loss of this type of habitat on the college development site.

Great crested newts (GCN) have been found within the proposed mitigation area, and as European Protected Species, they need to be removed from this mitigation area prior to felling the conifers and converting the site into grassland with mixed broadleaves. To this end, a newt fence has been erected around the mitigation area to facilitate the trapping and translocation of GCN from this area.

When this translocation work is successfully completed, the trees within the exclusion zone will be felled. This work is essential in order for the development to proceed in compliance with the conditions of a Natural England licence.

Trapping and translocation work was taking place throughout September and October under licence from Natural England (NE), but the required minimum number of trapping days has not been achieved due to adverse weather conditions. Trapping has now been suspended for this year due to hibernation and will resume in the Spring. The fence needs to remain in situ during this

downtime to enable the exercise to start from where it left off.

Consequently, it is imperative for the future of this project that this fencing and exclusion zone remains in force until all trapping has been successfully completed, and the trees in the mitigation areas are felled.

I trust that the information above is sufficient to enable you to make a decision on this.

Yours faithfully,

James

James Williams

Area Forester – East Dean

Forest of Dean

01594 833057

3. SUBMITTING COMMENTS ON THE REVIEW:

If you wish to comment on the review of this direction then you must do so before 18 December 2014 directly to Yorkshire and North East Area Team - cca@forestry.gsi.gov.uk. A map accompanies this notice and can be seen on the Open Access website >>

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?publication_filter_option=consultations

If, following consultation, we decide to give a long-term direction, we must formally review the decision, not more than 5 years after it is given. We may also revoke or vary the direction at any other time, if new evidence comes to light showing that the circumstances have changed.