

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: 2014117437
Name of site/land parcel: Lewisburn – Stone Fell – NY600890

Access Authority: Northumberland
Relevant Authority: Forestry Commission
Local Access Forum: NE England, Northumberland

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.

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 for 360 days between the 05 January 2014 and 05 January 2017. 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

<p>i) Summary of proposed direction to restrict access Long term outline direction</p>

ii) Why is a statutory restriction necessary?

On Public Safety Grounds

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**

COUPE 85321 – STONE FELL– KIELDER FOREST DISTRICT

The proposed felling coupe, to be known as Stone Fell, is projected to produce around 23,500 tonnes of timber to supply local and national markets. The site covers approximately 68 hectares (Gross). Due to the limited amount of road frontage there is little possibility of splitting the site into two parts.

The site will be worked as part of our Direct Production over the next two years. Along with the influence of timber markets for production volumes and uplift means the precise timing is not yet know and the CRoW closure may be needed at short notice.

The risk assessment carried out identifies that timber harvesting operations present a risk to public safety; it is therefore necessary to exclude the public from the site during operations.

The work will be carried out using normal forest harvesting techniques, i.e. harvester/forwarder, given estimated machine outputs of around 500 tonnes per week, and allowing for unforeseen circumstances, especially access to site in snowy conditions, harvesting is estimated to take approximately 54 machine weeks. Although two harvesters may be present on site for some of that time, the majority of work will be carried out by one machine and as such this will take more than the 180 days allowed under the short/medium term closure guidelines.

In addition to the exclusion of the public other controls will include the use of warning and prohibition signs placed at strategic points around the worksite. Signs will also be placed on the forest roads approaching the worksite.

There are no formal recreational facilities within, or in the immediate area around, the felling coupe. One of the forest roads used for access is a dead end so is not used for access to other areas of the forest. Therefore, the controls mentioned above should be sufficient to manage access on the site.

To maintain operational flexibility it is not feasible to split the coupe into any smaller areas, especially as the site has limited access from forest roads. The ability to react to changes in the timber markets and changes in weather

conditions by moving production around the site is important, by not splitting the site further we will maintain that operational flexibility.

I hope that this additional information is of use to support the application.

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3. SUBMITTING COMMENTS ON THE REVIEW:

If you wish to comment on the review of this direction then you must do so before 19 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.