

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: 2014077320
Name of site/land parcel: South Reservoir – Rough Pike – NY630858

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 315 days between the 08/09/2014 and 31/07/2018. 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 >> <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/openaccess>. 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 outline direction

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 95156 – ROUGH PIKE – NORTH ENGLAND FOREST DISTRICT**

The proposed felling coupe, to be known as Rough Pike, is projected to produce around 22,750m³/18,425t of timber to supply local and national markets. The site covers approximately 87 hectares (Gross).

The parcel will be sold standing as part of a long term contract and it is expected to be worked during the 2014/2015 & 2015/2016 financial years. Due to the reliance on timber merchants, precise timings of harvesting operations are not currently known.

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 450 tonnes per week, and allowing time for unforeseen circumstances, it is estimated that harvesting operations will take approximately 45 weeks. The estimated level of production has been reduced from what would normally be expected on a standard clearfell site due to the poor ground conditions and small average tree size which will slow production.

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. 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. As a standing sale site, we will not be in direct control of the operation; the merchant will need to have the ability to react to changes in the timber markets and changes in weather conditions by moving production around the site.

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

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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 29 August 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 >> <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/openaccess>.

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.