

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: 2016048119
Name of site/land parcel: Fuller Hill, NGR: NY655950

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 may last for longer than 6 months continuously. The direction proposed is for a closure of a maximum of 275 days to be used between 01 August 2016 and 31 July 2020. 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 will be available on the Open Access website from 01 June 2016:

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 at Buller's Hill, Kennford, Nr Exeter, EX6 7XR; e-mail: cca@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

2. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT AUTHORITY PROPOSAL

i) Summary of proposed direction to restrict access

Long term outline direction for a closure of a maximum of 275 days to be used between 01 August 2016 and 31 July 2020, for the purpose of clearfell of conifer by harvester/forwarder over 26.8ha.

ii) Why is a statutory restriction necessary?

Public Safety

iii) What is lowest level of restriction required?

Full Exclusion of Public access

Extra Information re Longterm CROW Application for

FULLER HILL – COUPE 70610 – NORTH ENGLAND FOREST DISTRICT

The proposed felling coupe, to be known as Fuller Hill, is projected to produce around 22,150m³/17,850t of timber to supply local and national markets. The site covers approximately 27 hectares (Gross).

The parcel will be sold standing on the open market in July 2016 and it is expected to be worked during the 2016/2017 financial year. 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 500 tonnes per week, and allowing time for unforeseen circumstances, it is estimated that harvesting operations will take approximately 39 weeks. It is expected that production will achieve this level of output.

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 or public rights of way within the site itself; however a public footpath follows the ride on the north-west boundary of the site. The ride will not be used during the course of operations and as such the footpath will remain open for use. The purchaser of the site will be required to put in place, reasonable controls so as to maintain safe use of the footpath by the public while operations are carried out in the immediate vicinity of the footpath.

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.

Neil Gibson
Forester

North England Forest District

3. SUBMITTING COMMENTS ON THE REVIEW:

If you wish to comment on the review of this direction then you must do so before 29 June 2016 directly to the Forestry Commission at Buller's Hill, Kennford, Nr Exeter, EX6 7XR; e-mail: 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.