

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: 2015107946
Name of site/land parcel: Turf Hill, NGR: NY780770

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 240 days to be used between 01 January 2016 and 21 December 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 06 November 2015:

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 240 days to be used between between 01 January 2016 and the 21 December 2020, for the purpose of clearfell of conifer by harvester/forwarder over 41ha.

ii) Why is a statutory restriction necessary?

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

Turf Hill CROW Application Supporting Information

The proposed Felling Coupe is forecasted to produce 23700m³ of timber to supply local markets. The site covers an area of 41 Hectares (gross area).

At this stage of the operational planning process the site will be worked during the period of Jan 2016 to March 2020. The operation on the site will be carried out utilising approved and standard timber harvesting techniques, i.e. harvester / forwarder. Given normal rate of production (500m³ per week) and the likelihood that one harvester and one forwarder will work the site, it will take at least 240 days to complete the operation.

Due to the hazardous nature of timber harvesting operations, as Forestry Works Manager, I have a responsibility to consider the risks to members of public under Health & Safety legislation. With reference to current industry best practice which is outlined in the FASTCO publication, "Managing Public Safety in Harvesting Sites", exclusion of members of the public is one of a range of recommended control measures.

Further control measures include the use of warning and prohibition signs placed

at the forest road access points. One forest road serves Turf Hill harvesting site, signage (including CROW exclusion maps) will be placed at the point where forest road meets the site boundary.

To maintain operational flexibility it is unfeasible to split the site into smaller units. I need to be in a position to respond immediately to shifts in the market and weather by moving production from part of the site to another.

I hope this additional information is of use to support the application for direction. If you wish to discuss this any further please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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Pete Berry
Forestry Commission
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 04 December 2015 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.