

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000:

NOTICE OF RELEVANT AUTHORITY DECISION FOLLOWING CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSED LONG-TERM RESTRICTION OF CROW ACCESS

Prepared by Forestry Commission

Case reference number: 2014087340
Name of site/land parcel: Cinderford Northern Quarter
Grid reference: SO643151
Access authority: Forestry Commission
Local access forum: Gloucestershire County
Consultation began: 27/11/2015
Consultation ended: 24/12/2015

Date of direction notice: 07/01/2016

The Forestry Commission has now decided how to proceed following its consultation about a proposed direction to restrict CROW access on this land. The relevant authority's decision is to give a direction restricting CROW access as proposed.

This is because it is necessary to restrict CROW access to this extent for site management purposes.

Details of the restriction will appear on the relevant map of access land on the Open Access website at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/openaccess>.

Where a direction restricts access indefinitely, for more than five years, for part of every year, or for part of at least six consecutive years, we are obliged to review it within five years of the date of issue.

Justification for direction

The consultation period ran from 27th November 2015 to 24th December 2015 with the proposal published on the GOV.UK consultation web site. Forest Services also notified the following formal consultees of the application for their comment:

- The Local Access Forum (Gloucestershire County Council in this instance)
- Local Highway Authority (Gloucestershire County Council in this instance)
- British Association for Shooting and Conservation
- British Mountaineering Council
- Country Land and Business Association
- National Farmers Union

- Open Spaces Society
- Ramblers' Association

Of these statutory consultees two responded, both agreeing to the closure. Copies of these responses are included within the notes below.

Two objections to the closure were made, one from a private individual and one from a private group. The Forestry Commission has responded individually to both of these respondents.

Notes

- Consultation responses from formal consultees:

1/ Gloucestershire Local Access Forum:

'Thank you for your consultation request to the Gloucestershire Local Access Forum (GLAF) regarding the proposal to restrict access on open access land. As a member of the GLAF I have responsibility for arranging feedback from consultations.

I have passed the details of the consultation to all members of the GLAF. I have received responses from several members.

All of these responses indicate agreement with the extension of the existing closure to complete the protected species clearance.

However given the wording in the documentation provided in your email (23.11.15) members of the GLAF felt it should be made clear that this is a temporary closure and in the long term the area will be returned as open access land.'

The Forestry Commission would like to take this opportunity to confirm in regard to the above that in the long term the area will be returned as open access land.

2/ Ramblers' Association

'The Ramblers would like to make the following formal comments on the application for a direction to exclude on the grounds of trapping and translocation of great crested newts and timber harvesting operations for land at Cinderford Northern Quarter.

Given the need for the translocation of great crested newts before the use of machinery for felling, as well as the relevant health and safety legislation, the Ramblers support the direction.

We believe this is the lowest level of restriction necessary and in line with the relevant authority guidance.

We request that all signs and notices on the site or at suitable locations near the site clearly state the reason and duration of the restriction and any public rights of way effected remain open at all times.'