

## **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**

<b>Case Reference Number:</b>	2016018020
<b>Name of site/land parcel:</b>	<b>Windy Slack, NGR: NT915114</b>
<b>Access Authority:</b>	<b>Northumberland</b>
<b>Relevant Authority:</b>	Forestry Commission
<b>Local Access Forum:</b>	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 360 days to be used between 25 April 2016 and 31 March 2019. 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 21 March 2016:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?publication\\_filter\\_option=consultations](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](mailto: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 360 days to be used between between 25 April 2016 and the 31 March 2019, for the purpose of clearfell of conifer by harvester/forwarder and skyline winch extraction over 41ha.

### **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**

#### **Kidland – Windy Slack**

The site at Windy Slack in Kidland will be sold in March 2016. Under normal circumstances work will start in the 1 – 2 months following the sale date, but this depends on markets and machine availability. The site has approximately 21,000 tonnes to be worked.

This site will be worked by a combination of harvester and forwarder on the less steep areas and skyline for the steep ground, and secondary extraction by forwarder to roadside. The expected output for harvester forwarder on the site is 600t per week due to the sloping nature of the site and the length of the extraction distance along the top of the site to the stacking area. This proportion of the area, 16,000 tonnes, will take approximately 30 weeks. The skyline area equates to 5000 tonnes, and with an average output of 125 tonnes per week will take approximately 40 weeks. Both operations will work simultaneously, so the length of closure requested can be shortened.

Considering all the factors above I estimate that this job will take about 12 months, so have applied for a 360 day closure to cover this.

There is no other public access on site, except the access routes which have both Bridleway and footpath on them. These will remain open during the works as they are well out with the site boundaries.

Jonathan Farries  
Rothbury Beat Forester

### **3. SUBMITTING COMMENTS ON THE REVIEW:**

If you wish to comment on the review of this direction then you must do so before 18 April 2016 directly to the Forestry Commission at Buller's Hill, Kennford, Nr Exeter, EX6 7XR; e-mail: [cca@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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](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.