

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:	2015027569
Name of site/land parcel:	Dryhope Hill – NT930120
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 330 days between the 01/05/2015 and 31/03/2017. 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:

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 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 (felling)

ii) Why is a statutory restriction necessary?
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

Kidland – Dryhope Hill

The site at Dryhope Hill in Kidland will be sold in March 2015. 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 19,000 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 625t per week due to the sloping nature of the site. This proportion of the area will take approximately 24 weeks. The skyline area equates to 4000 tonnes, and with an average output of 125 tonnes per week will take approximately 24 weeks.

Considering all the factors above I estimate that this job will take about 11 months, so have applied for a 330 day closure to cover this.

There are also two Public Footpaths through the site. Once the parcel is sold we will hold a meeting with the successful purchaser to agree an appropriate method of tree felling in their vicinity to ensure public

safety and continued access when the work is complete. Temporary diversions may need to be used during the works. This will also be discussed with the local Highway Authority to ensure suitable measures to protect public safety are taken.

**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 20/04/2015 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.