

<b>1. MOD HOLDING:</b>	RAF Spadeadam		
<b>2. TLB:</b>	Royal Air Force		
<b>3. REGION:</b>	North		
<b>4. DATE OF REVIEW:</b>	30.09.2022		
<b>5. S28 TERM</b>	<b>SHORT TERM DATES: N/A</b>		
	<b>LONG TERM DATES: N/A</b>		
	<b>INDEFINITE: X</b>		
<b>6. DESCRIPTION OF SITE:</b>			
<p>The mapped area forms a small part of RAF Spadeadam land holding. The area is made up of moorland crossed by many small streams or sikes. A road divides the area in two towards the southern boundary as shown on the attached map.</p>			
<b>7. HECTARAGE OF DIRECTION: 714.06</b>			
<b>8. DESCRIPTION OF MILITARY USE:</b>			
<p>The area to the north of the road is a designated Air Weapons Range (AWR) for dropping of practice bombs, chaff and magnesium decoy flares, which burn at up to 3000°C. It is primarily used by attack helicopters which regularly fly knap-of-the-earth (extreme low-level flying to ground level).</p> <p>The area to the south, between the Wiley Sike road and the River Irthing is within the AWR although outside of the Danger Area. Within this southern area helicopters also fly to ground level when approaching the Danger Area and can appear without warning though the dispensation of ordnance is not permitted here.</p> <p>Additionally, Unmanned Air Vehicles (Drones) operate across the Spadeadam estate and the AWR.</p> <p>Ground troop training across the site has increased exponentially over the last 3 years and is predicted to continue to grow for the foreseeable future; this has brought with it an increase in the use of pyrotechnics potentially dangerous to the public.</p>			
<b>9. CURRENT PUBLIC ACCESS:</b>			
<p>No unauthorised public access is permissible within the Air Weapons Range for safety and defence security purposes.</p> <p>There are several laybys along the Wiley Sike Road and a small car park at the western end of the AWR at the start of the clearly signed permissive footpath, leading to the Irthing Gorge waterfall. The public can park and view the helicopters from these locations. However, the public is advised not to leave the road due to the potential for Unexploded Ordnance lodged in the peat moor.</p>			
<b>10. REASON FOR DIRECTION (tick all relevant)</b>			
<b>Training efficiency</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>National Security</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Training safety</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Public Safety</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other</b>	

**Please provide justification:**

1. Spadeadam is the UK's only Electronic Warfare Range training military aircrews and provides unique training opportunities to fly at ultra-low level whilst evading military systems. Aircrews are briefed to expect light traffic on the Wiley Sike road bisecting the range. However, should the public be granted freedom of access across the area this particular and unique form of helicopter training may have to cease because of Health and Safety risks to the public. The knock-on effect would be to expose aircrews to potential future hazard to life and mission due to having not trained against such systems. Public access is therefore not an option because of the effect upon military training.

2. The landscape criteria for CROW mapping does not account for land use, hence without exclusion under s28 a live firing danger area could be mapped as access land. It continues to be MOD policy that all land within any Danger Area must be subject to restriction in the interest of national security and public safety.

3. The MOD is working, under the current byelaw review programme, towards the creation of byelaws which would cover this area aiming to exempt this land from CROW access legislation. The proposed byelaw will be subject to public consultation. In the meantime, continued application of S28 is considered the best and safest way forward.

**11. ORIGINATOR:**

DIO Estates Advisor - [REDACTED]

**12. COMMAND REVIEW BY:**

Station Commander - [REDACTED]

**13. DIO REVIEW:**

DIO Estates Advisor - [REDACTED]

**14. LMS REVIEW BY:**

DIO LMS - [REDACTED]

**15. MAP ATTACHED:**

YES

NO

**16. RELEVANT ACCESS AUTHORITY:**

[REDACTED]

**17. LOCAL ACCESS FORUM INFORMED:**

[REDACTED]

**18. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

The area of Wiley Sike (WS) remains a range area, with the area north of the road subject to impact of training air-to-ground ordnance and to low flying and landing helicopters. The range at WS is open for the majority of the year and is heavily used in exercises, thus it remains a requirement to have a S28 for this area.

**19. NAME OF DESIGNATED OFFICER:**

[REDACTED] – DIO Senior Access and Recreation Advisor

**20. SIGNATURE ON REVIEW COMPLETION:**

[REDACTED] – E-Signed

**DATE:**

25.10.2022