

## **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:** 2017028329  
**Name of site/land parcel:** Doe Fell – Grid Ref: NY599905

**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 465 days between the 1 June 2017 and 31 May 2021. 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](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 400 days to be used between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2022, for the purpose of clearfell of conifer by harvester/forwarder over 78ha.

### **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**

The proposed felling coupe, to be known as Doe Fell, is projected to produce around 41,000m<sup>3</sup>/33,100t of timber to supply local and national markets. The site covers approximately 76 hectares (Gross).

The parcel will be worked as part of the direct production programme commencing in June 2016. Due to the reliance on timber markets, precise timings of harvesting operations are not currently known, but it is planned that work will start on schedule and the site will be worked in one continuous operation.

The risk assessment carried out identifies that timber harvesting operations present a risk to public safety; it is therefore necessary to exclude the public from the site during operations.

The work will be carried out using normal forest harvesting techniques, i.e. harvester/forwarder, given estimated machine outputs of around 500 tonnes per week, and allowing time for unforeseen circumstances, it is estimated that harvesting operations will take approximately 66 weeks. It is expected that production will achieve this level of output.

In addition to the exclusion of the public other controls will include the use of warning and prohibition signs placed at strategic points around the worksite. Signs will also be placed on the forest roads approaching the worksite.

There are no formal recreational facilities or public rights of way within the site itself; however a public bridleway and cycle trail follows the forest road on the south boundary of the site. Operations on the road will be kept to a minimum during the course of work and as such the bridleway/cycle trail will remain open for use. The FC as Forest Works Manager will put in place reasonable controls so as to maintain safe use of the bridleway/cycle trail by the public while operations are carried out in the immediate vicinity of the footpath. This will include additional signage in the area of the site and the use of banksmen to control access.

To maintain operational flexibility it is not feasible to split the coupe into any smaller areas. We will need to have the ability to react to changes in the timber markets and changes in weather conditions by moving production around the site.

I hope that this additional information is of use to support the application for direction.

Neil Gibson  
Forester  
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 11 April 2017 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.