

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 1 December 2011

Item: 10

Title: Open Access Update

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on one issue related to the management of open access in the Peak District. This is an interim report. A further meeting of the Access Sub-group will be held in due course.

Snares on Open Access Land

Snaring on land managed for grouse shooting and the implications for public access has been considered during 2010/11 by the Forum.

In September 2011, an application for a long-term permanent exclusion of the public on four areas of access land was submitted by the landowner of the Moscar Estate. The Access sub-group provided informal comments relating to duty of care of the landowner and a pragmatic and coherent approach to access in these and wider areas.

Meetings with the landowner and fell runners were subsequently held. These sought to establish how best to draw the public's attention to the location of the snares whilst seeking co-operation in avoiding those areas. It was agreed that areas which meet the needs of land management will be identified, and fenced, if necessary, and other measures to minimise the risk to the public will include signage, marking the location of snares, and alternative routes. Dark Peak Fell Runners are also providing details of these areas to their members and co-ordinating any feedback received.

As a result of the proposed measures and the fact that the submitted areas are likely to be subject to variation, the application to restrict access on public safety grounds has now been withdrawn.

The success of the ongoing measures to manage access will be monitored and kept under review.

Recommendation

- 1. That the report be noted.**