

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 18th June 2009

Item: 6

Title: Review of Directions to Restrict Access

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the progress that has been made so far in reviewing the long-term directions to restrict access under the CRoW Act.

Background

A report was presented to the March meeting of the Local Access Forum to advise on the process for reviewing long-term directions for the exclusion of public to open access land; update the Forum on the sites to be statutorily reviewed; seek written comments on a consultation and to establish a Local Access Forum Sub-Group to deal with these consultations.

These long-term directions are required to be reviewed no later than their fifth anniversary. Consultations have been undertaken for the first three reviews.

The LAF Restrictions Review Sub-Group met on 2 April 2009 to consider the consultations for Lydgate Rifle & Pistol Club, Meltham, Diggle Rifle Range, and West Nab, Bradfield. Their comments are attached in Appendix 1.

In accordance with recently revised guidance, restrictions of this nature should normally be given for no longer than 6 years. If following a further 5 year review, it is concluded that the circumstances that gave rise to the direction have not changed then the direction should be varied so as to restrict access for a further 6 years. The existing directions will therefore all be required to be varied from their current end date of 2999 to take into account the amended time period specified in the revised guidance. Variation to a direction must be accompanied by a further round of consultation.

Proposals

Discussions on use of the sites, fall of shot zones and the potential for voluntary access are still ongoing for these sites. However in order to meet the statutory deadlines for Diggle Rifle Range and West Nab it is proposed that a further round of consultation is undertaken for the directions to be dealt with as previously but subject to a reduced period of

6 years and a scheduled reassessment date before the end of the year to give additional time for negotiations to be concluded and consulted on. Negotiations are currently still taking place at Lydgate Rifle Range.

The next reviews to be initiated are for the Authority's outline fire directions. Other directions will be progressed in accordance with deadlines. Consultations will be forwarded to members of the sub-group for their comments and progress reports will be given to full meetings of the Local Access Forum.

Recommendation

1. That the report be noted; and
2. A further meeting of the Sub-Group is held to consider the next set of consultations.

Appendix 1

Peak District Local Access Forum

Meeting of the LAF Sub-group to Review Statutory Directions to Restrict Access

Date: 2nd April 2009

Attendees:

Andrew McCloy, Henry Folkard, Terry Howard, Sue Weatherley, James Kellie, Sue Smith, Mike Rhodes

1. Lydgate Rifle & Pistol Club, Deer Hill, Meltham

The Local Access Forum supports the direction subject to confirmation of fall of shot zones. In addition, it encourages the Authority to seek a structured voluntary arrangement with the Club, which will allow access to the site at certain times.

2. Pennine Shooting Sports Association Ltd, Diggle Rifle Range, Diggle

The Forum can see no reason not to support this direction subject to verification of fall of shot and use of site. Again, it encourages the Authority to explore the possibility of voluntary access.

3. Arthur Turner Gunmakers (1830) & Sycamore Shooting Grounds (1947), West Nab, Bradfield

The Forum wishes to see the use of the site verified before it can take a view on this direction. It is suggested that, if necessary, a short-term direction to extend the current arrangements could be made until clarification of the site's use can be made. The Forum wishes to see the linear access route maintained, and investigate whether there is potential to increase that.

