



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

Date: 29th February 2012

Title: Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 – Chawley Manor Farm Access Restriction Renewal

Author: Jonathan Clark

Contact Officer: Katy MacDonald (01296 383604)

1. Natural England is consulting on a review of the restrictions on land at Chawley Manor Farm, Bottom Road, West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP14 4BS. This is one of the largest pieces of chalk grassland open access land in the county and for the last six years has been subject to access restrictions between July and February to reduce disturbance to game birds.
2. The Forum was consulted about this at the 7th March 2011 meeting and the response is attached in Appendix 1. However, Natural England realised in October 2011 that this case actually runs to February 2012 and not 2011 as was stated in the initial consultation document (NE routinely gives directions for 6 years to be reviewed within 5 years).
3. The Forum will be aware that there is a fenced-off path for pedestrians along the northern boundary providing access all year. The site has been covered by two restriction cases: 2006070033 - a restriction originally for land management, for prevention of disruption to the shoot and disturbance to game restricting *people* to the fenced corridor from 1st July until the 1st February each year; and 2006040177 - for *dogs* to be kept on leads within the fenced corridor to prevent disturbance to game and for public safety due to cows and calves.
4. There are now three proposed restrictions on this site:
 - 2006070033 – outline restriction to prevent disturbance to game on shoot days and the day before a shoot. People restricted to the fenced route for up to 20 days during the shooting season.

The restrictions on dogs are now covered by two cases:

 - 2006040177 – public safety due to cows and calves (live, determined 5th May 2011). Dogs restricted to fenced route 1st May to 1st October;
 - 2012026254 – a new case for land management to prevent disturbance to game during the shooting season. Dogs restricted to fenced route from 2nd October to 1st February (if 2006040177 was revoked due to cessation of cattle grazing

2012026254 would need to be reassessed and extended to cover the pre-shoot season from 15th July).

5. The LAF's views on the current directions are sought to assist in deciding whether the restrictions are still necessary for the original purpose and, if so, whether the extent and nature of the restrictions are still appropriate for the original purpose.
6. Mr. Plumbridge will be present to personally make his case.

Recommendation: Members to discuss and arrange a response