



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 8

Date: 3rd November 2021

Title: LAF members' report

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1. CROW Act Open Access consultation (West Wycombe Hill) - National Trust felling licence application to Forestry Commission to control Ash Dieback trees [Sept 2021].

See APPENDIX 6. Neil Harris reports: *this work will only be removing the diseased ash trees growing adjacent to rights of way on West Wycombe Hill. Any trees that show signs of recovery or have less than 50% crown dieback will be retained. West Wycombe Hill is predominantly secondary woodland, much of which has grown up on the grassland after the demise of rabbits after myxomatosis. The work will also benefit grassland plants and insects associated with calcareous soils and most importantly keep visitors safe.*

By written representations, members decided no formal closure was necessary, but local management of walkers would be undertaken during felling.

By early October 2021, most of the felling work had taken place, with just removal of arisings to take place, especially on the grassland areas.

2. CROW Act Open Access consultation on 5-year review proposing to maintain restrictions for shooting (Wayside Farm, Bledlow Ridge) and restricting walkers to a fenced, permissive path when grazing with cattle & calves (Chawley Manor Farm, West Wycombe).

Natural England sought input from the Local Access Forum regarding whether the existing land management restrictions are still necessary? The landowner states they are still necessary. What is the situation with regards to the fenced route, is it still passable?

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england/open-access-restriction-at-wayside-farm/>

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england/open-access-restriction-at-chawley-manor/>

The matter was addressed by written representations and a summary of those comments are contained in the Chairman's response (APPENDIX 7).

3. The 2026 cut-off date introduced by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000; and Definitive Map Modification Orders determined by the Planning Inspectorate under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1980.

Following members resolution to make representation regarding the 2021 cut-off date and concern regarding resources with the Planning Inspectorate to deal with outstanding DMMO's, a letter was drafted and signed by Richard Pushman to Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (APPENDIX 8).

4. Venue and dates of next meetings

Paralympic Room, The Gateway, Gatehouse Rd, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF

2nd Mar 2022; 13th Jul 2022; and 2nd Nov 2022