



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 7

Date: 2nd March 2022

Title: LAF members' report

Author: Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer

Contact Officer: Rebecca Binstead (01296 585244)

- 1. 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).**

In September 2021 Natural England sought Local Access Forum comments regarding the existing land management restrictions on two parcels of land along Bledlow Ridge and whether they were still necessary. These included Wayside Farm and Chawley Manor Farm and in reply the chairman wrote to Natural England [Appendix 2]. The Wayside Farm restriction has now been granted. However, a second consultation commenced on 18th January 2022, with a closing date of 23rd February 2022, for Chawley Manor Farm only [Appendix 3]. The LAF have secured a response deadline extension to 4th March 2022 and additional comments are sought. The consultation map is enclosed in Appendix 4, but for clarity, it has been requested the 'marked route' is moved off the scrub corridor and relocated slightly south-west of the road.

The second consultation is an improvement on the former proposal and takes into account the LAF's September 2021 comments. Should the current proposal be acceptable, walkers generally would have unrestricted access to the whole open access parcel and would not be required to stick within the fenced-off corridor of scrub when cows were present. However, walkers with dogs should, all times keep dogs on a lead and stick to the marked route. This simplifies the restriction and reflects the unmanageable situation keeping on top of the scrub growth.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england/open-access-restriction-at-chawley-manor2nd/>

2. 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 in July 2021 to make representation regarding the 2021 cut-off date and concerns regarding resources with the Planning Inspectorate to deal with outstanding DMMO's, a letter was sent to Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (Appendix 4). The Secretary of State's reply is included in Appendix 5.

3. National Trust Open access works

Neil Harris is managing Ash dieback works on open access land. Their teams are currently working behind the Manor at Bradenham, then moving back to areas at Small Dean, Wendover. The felling works at West Wycombe have been completed, short of chipping brash piles and hauling timber away.

4. Local Access Forum Annual review [April 2020 – March 2021]

This is for members to note at Appendix 6.

5. Venue and dates of next meetings

The Gateway, Gatehouse Rd, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF

13th July 2022; and 2nd November 2022.