

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum is an independent, statutory advisory body on all matters relating to countryside access, with members representing a wide range of interests including farmers, landowners, walkers, cyclists, equestrians, parish councils, National Trust and those with disabilities.

5th October 2021

Dear Mr Morris,

Wayside Farm and Chawley Manor Farm Open Access Restriction consultation

Thank you for inviting comments from the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum on the above restrictions. This response is a summary of members' written representations as our meeting schedule falls outside Natural England's consultation period.

Members' concerns relate to: 1) overgrowth along the fenced-off permissive footpath; and 2) the necessity to segregate cows from the public.

We acknowledge the site's remoteness which reflects the relatively low public use. However, there seems no sense applying a restriction to use the permissive path while it remains overgrown and inaccessible. It would only be viable if the landowner agrees to mow it regularly, otherwise there is no reason for it.

The cows and calves are only likely to be grazed for part of the year and their presence shouldn't be a reason to deter or restrict public access, just for people to be aware of their presence. It seems unlikely people will use the site for open access purposes when cows are grazing as they are a natural deterrent, and we believe the vast majority of the site's use is as a through-route between roads. For these reasons we disagree there is a need to segregate cows and public from sharing the same space.

Members certainly accept they do not want the public on the land when there is a shoot in progress.

Yours faithfully,



Richard Pushman (Chairman)