



**Devon Countryside Access Forum  
c/o Public Rights of Way team  
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Ms E Waller  
Operations Admin Officer  
Forestry Commission England  
Operational Delivery Team  
Bullers Hill Hub  
Kennford  
Exeter  
EX6 7XR

13 June 2023

Dear Ms Waller

### **Felling licence application ref 018/1801/2023 Trenchard Farm**

Thank you for your email of 23 May consulting the Devon Countryside Access Forum on the above felling application.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum recognises the necessity of felling for effective woodland management. It notes that both woodland blocks affected by the proposed felling are crossed by public footpaths which are part of the Tarka trail network, an important recreational route. As Great Wood is CRoW access land, it is also possible that members of the public will explore other areas of the woodland off the footpath.

It would be helpful if you could confirm what measures are in place to ensure the safety of the public during felling operations and whether a direction will be sought to prohibit access during this period.

The Forum would welcome clarification on how and when details about felling will be communicated to the public. It is noted that the felling duration is 5 but it is not clear whether this is a period of weeks or months and when this is likely to start.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum is a local access forum. It is required, in accordance with Sections 94 and 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, to provide advice as to the improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment.

This response will be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum on 18 September for formal approval.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum would appreciate feedback on its comments.

Yours sincerely



Hilary Winter  
Forum Officer

*Letter sent on behalf of the Devon Countryside Access Forum  
Chair: Sarah Slade  
Vice Chair: Chris Cole*

**Trenchard Farm**  
**Summary of responses from the Forestry Commission**  
**June 2023**

The Woodland Officer spoke with the applicant. The area they are intending to work borders the CROW land rather than falling within it. The border traces along the south-eastern edge of the relevant compartments.

The applicant has provided written confirmation that they will not allow the works to interfere with the CROW land in any way. They will fell the trees away from the CROW land, meaning that their operators will ensure they land in the northern section of the compartment rather than into the accessible areas.

This is also a thinning operation, meaning that the applicant will be removing no more than 30% canopy cover evenly across the licenced areas. This means that the works are unlikely to be drastic and will hopefully not have too great a visual impact on the right of way.

Once the felling licence is approved it will be for a period of five years.