



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Major ® J M Salisbury

**DIO RD Trg W&W Swynnerton
Cold Meece
Nr Stone
Staffordshire
ST15 0QN**

Tel: +44 01785 763 134

Tel (MOD): 94486 8434

Fax: +44 01785 763 135

Email: james.salisbury140@mod.gov.uk

Ref: DIORDTRG-WWSWY/G4/9000

Date: 27 November 2023

WHITTINGTON RANGES AND HOPWAS WOOD UPDATE

The days that firing will take place on the long ranges will be shown on the table below with start and finish timings.

Hopwas Woods will be out of bounds for 1 hour prior to and 1 hour post the timings listed within the Range Danger Areas. This will enable the staff to have time to raise flags and lock off gates and post sentries to ensure nobody enters the range danger area when firing is taking place all main entry points.

Do not enter or climb the barriers when they are locked and the red flags are flying.

Our Danger areas are marked with signs, red flags and barriers.

I cannot emphasise how important it is for all too fully realise how dangerous it would be to enter the danger area when firing is taking place as it could lead to loss of life.

The measures we put in place should ensure this should not happen.

The bridleway from Common Lane via the range and Hopwas Hey Lane to Hopwas Bridge on the canal will be closed as per the Byelaws when firing is due to take place till after firing is complete.

Can I please that we stick to the only access route along the bridleway when the Range Area is open to the public. I have been at the ranges and a large number of people feel they can go where they want, this is not the case and I ask that we all stick to the bridleway route when crossing the range.

Gates are installed on both the Hopwas bridge and the Tamhorn bridge. They will be locked when firing is taking place and locked in the open position when no firing is taking place.

If you are requested by a Military Sentry not to proceed past a given point please adhere to their instructions as they are given for your own safety. All sentries are equipped with body cameras to ensure all behaviours are correct.

No camping, overnight stays are permitted within Hopwas Woods. I also request that you all take your litter with you as it becomes an issue quickly when left in the woods.

I would request that care is taken in these extreme conditions, not to be careless with any flammable products and no fires of any kind or BBQ's **are not allowed in the woods.**

There is also a new initiative being run on lines like Crime stoppers and is called Fire stoppers. Anybody can ring 0800 169 5558 and report any activity that could lead to a fire, such as seeing people with BBQ equipment on the moors, and the Emergency services will deploy to stop the activity prior to it leading to a possible fire. The same number can be used in the event of a Fire to report any activity around is such as Car registration numbers to allow the Emergency services to track possible illegal actions and future fires. I again would ask for your cooperation in using the Fire stoppers service to assist our Emergency Services

If you know of somebody who would like to receive firing times please let us know to enable them to be added to our database. Alternatively there is an internet link shown later in this letter that can be used to access range firing times

Any questions or queries can be addressed to myself via the contact details below. Military Personnel may still carry out dry training, none live firing training, within the bounds of the MOD lands within Hopwas Wood during this period when the Wood is open to the public.

FIRING TIMES - WHITTINGTON RANGES
Friday 01 December– Friday 15 December 2023.

Any firing times which are indicated on the dates shown below refer to the long ranges.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Firing Times</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Fri 01 Dec	0700-1730	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Sat 02 Dec	0800-1730	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Sun 03 Dec	0800-1730	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Mon 04 Dec	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Tues 05 Dec	0700-1730	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Weds 06 Dec	0700-1730	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Thurs 07 Dec	0700-1730	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>

Fri 08 Dec	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Sat 09 Dec	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Sun 10 Dec	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Mon 11 Dec	0700-1730	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Tues 12 Dec	0700-1730	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Weds 13 Dec	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Thurs 14 Dec	0700-1730	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Fri 15 Dec	0700-1730	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>

- Updated information on the firing taking place on Whittington Range Complex can be obtained by ringing
Ops Room (24hrs) 01874 635599
Whittington Range 07827 982 444
Main Office 01785 763127
- Normal Firing Times are as follows:
Monday – Friday 0830 - 1630
Saturday and Sunday 0900 – 1630
- Please be aware that short notice additions or cancellations may be made to the above dates.
- The details are liable to change at short notice as notified on the following link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whittington-ranges-firing-times>
- If you would prefer to receive this notice via email, please email
bams907waleswest@landmarc.mod.uk Include your name, address, including postcode and contact number



Maj @ Jim Salisbury (TSO) - 01785 763 134
Training Area Operative – 07827 982 444 or 07881 848 323
Office at Swynnerton – 01785 763127
24Hr Manned Ops Room 01874 635599
24hr Manned Helpdesk 0800 0223334

