



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](mailto:james.salisbury140@mod.gov.uk)

Ref: DIORDTRG-WWSWY/G4/9000

Date: 22 March 2024

## WHITTINGTON RANGES AND HOPWAS WOOD UPDATE

**Due to circumstances with our staffing for safety arrangements, it has been decided to cancel all firing during the month of April.**

**The permitted points of access and travel across the range and through the area of Hopwas Wood remain fully in force. No other access is permitted and all are requested to remain and use the permitted routes as advised and shown of the information board mounted at access points.**

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 Are 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 29 March– Friday 12 April 2024.**

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

| <b><u>Date</u></b>  | <b><u>Firing Times</u></b> | <b><u>Remarks</u></b>   |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Fri 22 Mar</b>   | <b>NO FIRING</b>           | <i>Hopwas woods open</i>  |
| <b>Sat 23 Mar</b>   | <b>NO FIRING</b>           | <i>Hopwas woods open</i>  |
| <b>Sun 24 Mar</b>   | <b>NO FIRING</b>           | <i>Hopwas woods open</i>  |
| <b>Mon 25 Mar</b>   | <b>NO FIRING</b>           | <i>Hopwas woods open</i>  |
| <b>Tues 26 Mar</b>  | <b>NO FIRING</b>           | <i>Hopwas woods open</i>  |
| <b>Weds 27 Mar</b>  | <b>NO FIRING</b>           | <i>Hopwas woods open</i>  |
| <b>Thurs 28 Mar</b> | <b>0700-1730</b>           | <i>Long Ranges<br/>Troop Shelter In Use<br/>Hopwas Woods Closed</i> |
| <b>Fri 29 Mar</b>   | <b>NO FIRING</b>           | <i>Hopwas woods open</i>  |
| <b>Sat 30 Mar</b>   | <b>NO FIRING</b>           | <i>Hopwas woods open</i>  |

|                     |                  |                          |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
|                     |                  |                          |
| <b>Sun 31 Mar</b>   | <b>NO FIRING</b> | <i>Hopwas woods open</i> |
| <b>Mon 01 Apr</b>   | <b>NO FIRING</b> | <i>Hopwas woods open</i> |
| <b>Tues 02 Apr</b>  | <b>NO FIRING</b> | <i>Hopwas woods open</i> |
| <b>Weds 03 Apr</b>  | <b>NO FIRING</b> | <i>Hopwas woods open</i> |
| <b>Thurs 04 Apr</b> | <b>NO FIRING</b> | <i>Hopwas woods open</i> |
| <b>Fri 05 Apr</b>   | <b>NO FIRING</b> | <i>Hopwas woods open</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](mailto: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**

