



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Defence Infrastructure Organisation

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WHITTINGTON RANGES AND HOPWAS WOOD UPDATE

Due to circumstances with our staffing for safety arrangements, it has been decided to cancel all firing up until 31st August 2024. However, there is a possibility that Firing could resume in the meantime.

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 26 April– Friday 10 May 2024.

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 26 Apr	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Sat 27 Apr	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Sun 28 Apr	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Mon 29 Apr	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Tues 30 Apr	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Weds 01 May	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Thurs 02 May	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Fri 03 May	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Sat 04 May	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>

Sun 05 May	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Mon 06 May	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Tues 07 May	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Weds 08 May	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Thurs 09 May	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas woods open</i>
Fri 10 May	NO FIRING	<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 Include your name, address, including postcode and contact number



Mr Ivan Prescott (DTSO) - 07974090100
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

