



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Defence Infrastructure Organisation

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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.

We are at the moment in the midst of changing over from a manual bookings system to an electronic one, for both us and user units. This in itself is throwing up transitions issues which have been impacting on you with some short notice firing days taking place.

We also have had on a couple of occasions had units who were booked to fire and published not actually arriving to do so. This has then taken time to open the woods for access and has been unable to be published and passed on due to short notice.

We apologise for these issues arising and thank you for your patience as we work through matters as they arise and will endeavour to fully restrict all such issues in the shortest time.

This will obviously entail the area of Hopwas Woods being out of bounds for 1 hour prior to and 1 hour post the timings listed.

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.

I cannot emphasise how important it is for all to 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 will 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.

Gates have now been 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.

I would like also like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have assisted us by reporting any matters of incidents you may have come across whilst using the woods. It greatly assists by receiving early notification of such matters and allows us to react in a timely manner – Thank You

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

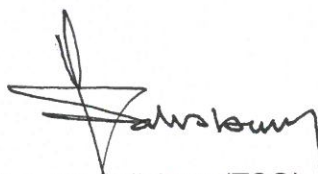
FIRING TIMES - WHITTINGTON RANGES
Friday 20 Mar – Friday 03 Apr 2020

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 20 Mar	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas Woods Open</i>
Sat 21 Mar	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas Woods Open</i>
Sun 22 Mar	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas Woods Open</i>
Mon 23 Mar	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas Woods Open</i>
Tues 24 Mar	17.30-22.30	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Weds 25 Mar	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas Woods Open</i>
Thurs 26 Mar	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas Woods Open</i>
Fri 27 Mar	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas Woods Open</i>
Sat 28 Mar	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas Woods Open</i>

Sun 29 Mar	08.00 – 17.30	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Mon 30 Mar	08.00 – 17.00	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Tues 31 Mar	00.01 – 22.30	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Weds 01 Apr	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas Woods Open</i>
Thurs 02 Apr	NO FIRING	<i>Hopwas Woods Open</i>
Fri 03 Apr	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 or 07881 848323
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