



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.

In this very trying time where Government are resourcing and dealing with the COVID 19 virus, most military units are support or preparing to support Government plans. This has led to a great reduction in firing, but as we move with Government policy and Military training begins again, bookings will increase.

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.

Can I please request that during this time with little firing taking place that we stick to the only access route along the bridleway. 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 now 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

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.**

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 09 Oct – Friday 23 Oct 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 09 Oct	08.00 – 18.00	<i>Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Sat 10 Oct	08.00 – 18.00	<i>Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Sun 11 Oct	NO FIRING	
Mon 12 Oct	NO FIRING	
Tues 13 Oct	07.30 – 17.30	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>

Tues 13 Oct	07.30 – 17.30	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Weds 14 Oct	NO FIRING	
Thurs 15 Oct	07.30 – 17.30	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Fri 16 Oct	07.30 – 17.30	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Sat 17 Oct	07.30 – 17.30	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Sun 18 Oct	NO FIRING	
Mon 19 Oct	NO FIRING	
Tues 20 Oct	07.30 – 20.30	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Weds 21 Oct	NO FIRING	
Thurs 22 Oct	07.30 – 17.30	<i>Long Ranges Troop Shelter In Use Hopwas Woods Closed</i>
Fri 23 Oct	NO FIRING	

- 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