

Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan – Pre-Submission Draft

25th August 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan - Pre-submission Draft

I am writing this letter after having seen the above plan. As an Employee for Lazonby Estate Shooting Syndicate, working as the Head Gamekeeper, I feel I have to advise you on a number of areas which don't appear to have been taken into consideration when drafting this plan which seems to me making it 'undeliverable'.

The existing footpaths have no impact upon the sporting rights of the Estate as these are currently out-with any of the shooting areas and therefore do not create a health and safety issue. However, your proposed footpaths, on what is currently private Estate roads and tracks used for maintenance and management of the Estate's sporting businesses certainly do. In particular, the proposed use of what you call a 'historic footpath' which follows the route of the river, would have a huge impact on the Estate's shooting business. The main reason for this would be risk of injury or death to a member of the public. There can be up to eight men/woman at one time with guns, firing live ammunition in quick succession, detailed risk assessments are carried out before every shoot and signed by all participants to make them aware of any hazards/risks/dangers, but this obviously cannot be done for members for the public who could potentially put themselves in harms way.

In addition, throughout the year, deer-stalking/management is conducted in order to control deer numbers in accordance with regulations related to the SSSI rules which must be adhered to.

I, as Estate Vermin Controller, also on a regular basis patrol the entire Estate to control the vermin which may have an impact on the ground nesting birds, this could again have a potential risk to members of the public. We also work very closely with the Eden Rivers Trust on management aspects on the river.

I believe there is a genuine concern for the health and safety and risk of injury for any member of the public across these proposed access routes. Not to mention what effect it may have on the Shooting business, my own employment and the future employment of all the seasonal beaters, pickers-up etc who have worked with us for many years, most of whom are local and support Lazonby Village.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. John Atkinson