

Aldershot and District Military Lands Byelaws – Ramblers group walks

During 2013 and 2014, there have been a number of instances of Ramblers group walks being questioned by Landmarc, (who work on behalf of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation - DIO) before or during walks on Military Lands, the relevant area and byelaws of which are given in “Aldershot and District Military Lands Byelaws 1976”, appended to this document.

These byelaws specifically allow public access to all non-enclosed or restricted areas, including any paths or military roads which are not public rights of way, for open-air recreation when Military Lands are not being used for military purposes. This allowance of public access is set out in clause 2 of the byelaws. Public rights of way are not covered in the byelaws and the public has access to these rights of way at all times.

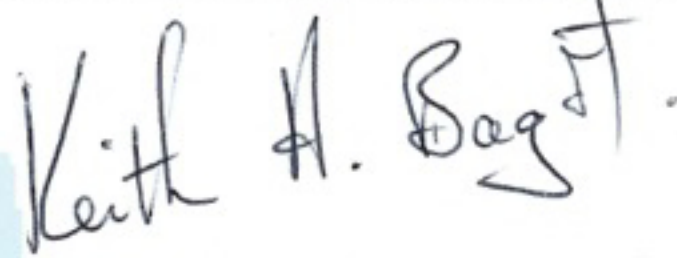
The byelaws do not allow any assembly of persons for the purpose of a private or public meeting (clause 4(5)), or any trade or business activity to be undertaken (clause 4(3)). It is agreed that these two clauses are not applicable to Ramblers-led walks. It is further agreed that the byelaws do not limit the number of persons allowed to undertake public access at any one time and no permit is required to enter the Military Lands for Ramblers-led walks.

When the Military Lands are being used for military purposes, an agent for DIO, or any military personnel may request that the group wait, alter a route or undertake any other reasonable request to avoid the military purpose. The Ramblers group must comply.

Outside the scope of the byelaws, DIO would be grateful if Ramblers walk leaders were to inform DIO at least two weeks in advance of a walk if, and only if, they intend to use a military harbour area/car park to park cars. Information about date, time, car park location, and indications of potential numbers of cars and intended route would be helpful. The current contact at DIO is Lt Col Mark Ludlow, email – DIOSDTrg-SEHQTSOSA@mod.uk or telephone 01420 483409 or 07710 524207.



MWH Ludlow
Lt Col (Retd)
Training Safety Officer, Security and Access
DIO Ops Training South East



Keith Bagot
Chairman of Surrey Heath Group
of The Ramblers.

Dated : 1 October 2014.