

Trail Action Group & Byelaws Review

Aldershot Military Byelaws

Liss Parish Council Briefing



Trail Action
Group



DON'T LOSE YOUR WOODS

byelawsreview.com | [#saveyourwoods](https://twitter.com/saveyourwoods)

Agenda

- Introduction
 - Who are Trail Action Group & Byelaws Review?
- Aldershot Military Byelaws – Current Position
 - Recreational Access & Section 2
- Value of Recreation
 - Survey Results
- Loss of Access
 - Long Valley
 - Porridge Pots
 - Ash Ranges
- Bordon & Surrounding Area
 - Map Changes
- How Can You Help?
- Summary
- Questions & Answers

Who are Trail Action Group & Byelaws Review?



Trail Action Group Access Report 2017

CYCLISTS AND THE USE OF ALDERSHOT AND DISTRICT MILITARY TRAINING LANDS
SIMON BROWN - TAG CHAIR

Trail Action Group - Access Report 2017



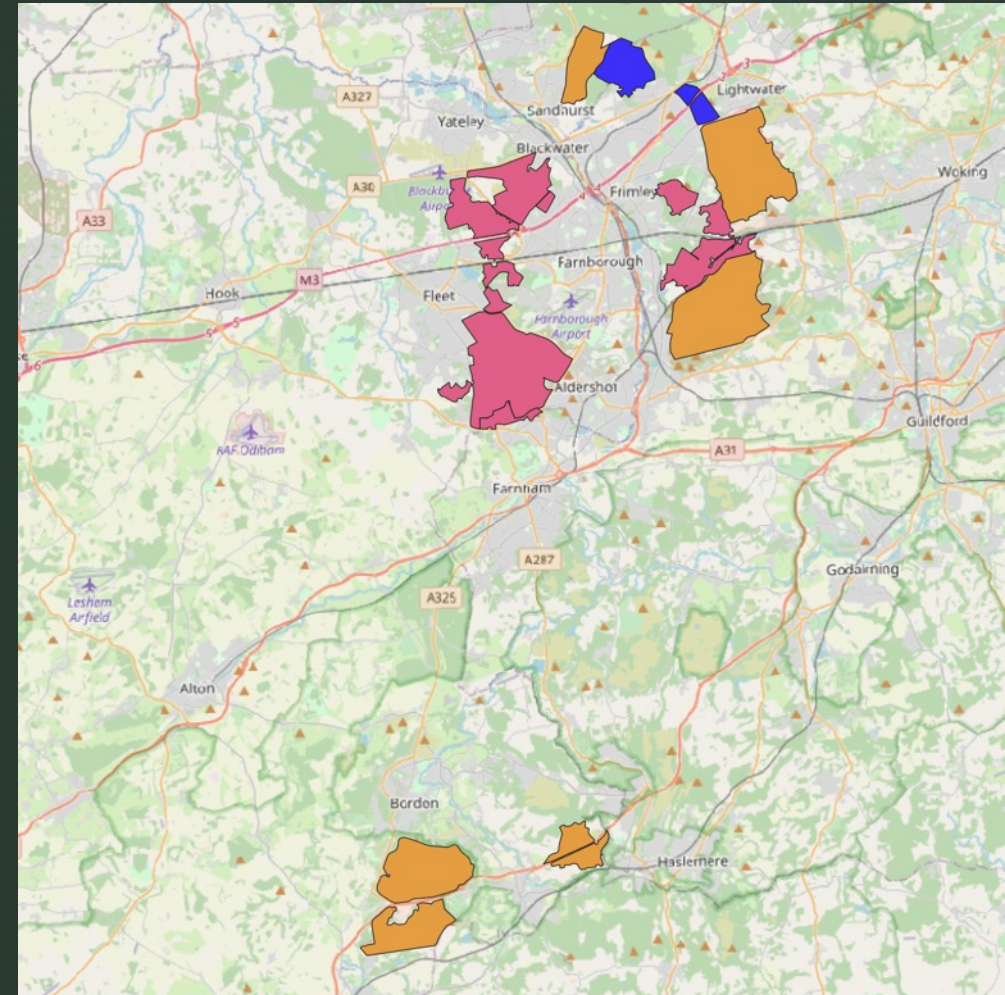
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- Trail Action Group
 - Founded 2011 by mountain bikers
 - Volunteers seeking to keep lands available for cycling
 - 2017 MTB survey revealed local use and respect for military
- Byelaws Review
 - Founded 2019
 - Volunteers seeking to keep lands available to all for recreation

Aldershot Military Byelaws - Current Position

- Aldershot and District Military Byelaws (1976)
 - Enabled by Military Lands Act of 1892
 - 10476 acres of access
- Byelaws currently being reviewed
 - New byelaws due
 - Consultation period required by law – 30 days minimum
 - Been delayed three times

Do not expect consultation to be an opportunity to seek changes



Aldershot Military Byelaws - Current Position

- Section 2 – Use of Lands by Public
 - Just one of two military byelaws from over 100 that has casual recreational access embodied in the byelaws
 - Casual access for recreation at all times when not in use for military training

USE OF LANDS BY PUBLIC

2. Subject to the provisions of these Byelaws the public are permitted to use all parts of the Military Land not specially enclosed or the entry to which is not shown by notice as being prohibited or restricted, including those Ministry of Defence roads thereon which have been constructed and made up for general use by vehicular traffic, for the purposes of open-air recreation at all times when the Military Lands are not being used for military purposes for which they are appropriated.



Military training and use of lands by army is both acknowledged and respected – core part of TAG code of conduct

Aldershot Military Byelaws - Current Position

“...it is not the MoD’s intention to limit use [of the lands] for lawful purposes...”



Words are not matched by deeds – fences and locked gates are the reality

"It is my sanctuary, my place to be, my place to breathe."



Loss of Access

- Since 2018 Defence Infrastructure Organisation has degraded or removed access to significant areas of lands:
 - Long Valley – 960 acres
 - Porridge Pots – 252 acres
 - Ash Ranges Complex – 338 acres
- Closure has been either permanent or heavily restricts access even when the lands are not in use.



Loss of Access

- Case Study – Long Valley
 - Fenced in 2018
 - Political assurances to keep area open when not in use by military
 - Political assurances ignored by DIO
 - Additional fencing blocked access for 8kms
 - Political commitment for additional gates ignored by DIO
 - DIO now ignoring Ministerial Directive to keep Long Valley open when not in use
 - Audit of actual use vs locked gates:
 - Gates locked for 320 hours in February 2021
 - Actual use accounted for 34 hours
 - Use vs locked gates worse September 2020 – Jan 2020 with 10% of closed/locked time actually in use.



B4 Long Valley February 2021							
Published Times			Booking Sheet				
Date	Closure Times	More Information	Hours Closed	Activity	Start Time	End Time	Duration
1	Closed to Public 08.00am to 6.00pm	Military Driver Training	10				0:00
2	Closed to Public 08.00am to 6.00pm	Military Driver Training	10				0:00
3	Closed to Public 08.00am to 6.00pm	Military Driver Training	10				0:00
4	Closed to Public 08.00am to 6.00pm	Military Driver Training	10	Chainsaw Training	08.34	15:43	7:09
5	Closed to Public 08.00am to 6.00pm	Military Driver Training	10				0:00
6	Open to Public	Public Access	0				0:00
7	Open to Public	Public Access	0				0:00
8	Closed to Public 08.00am to 6.00pm	Military Driver Training	10				0:00
9	Closed to Public 08.00am to 6.00pm	Military Driver Training	10				0:00
10	Closed to Public 08.00am to 6.00pm	Military Driver Training	10				0:00
11	Closed to Public 08.00am to 6.00pm	Military Driver Training	10	Chainsaw Training	08.26	16:00	7:43
12	Closed to Public 08.00am to 6.00pm	Military Driver Training	10	Chainsaw Training	08.28	15:52	7:24
13	Open to Public	Public Access	0				0:00
14	Open to Public	Public Access	0				0:00
15	Closed to Public	Military Driver Training Night Driving	24	Refresher Only	10:13	15:39	5:26
16	Closed to Public	Military Driver Training Night Driving	24				0:00
17	Closed to Public	Military Driver Training Night Driving	24				0:00
18	Closed to Public	Military Driver Training Night Driving	24		09:10	11:29	2:19
19	Closed to Public 08.00am to 6.00pm	Military Driver Training	10				0:00
20	Open to Public	Public Access	0				0:00
21	Open to Public	Public Access	0				0:00
22	Closed to Public	Military Driver Training Night Driving	24				0:00
23	Closed to Public	Military Driver Training Night Driving	24				0:00
24	Closed to Public	Military Driver Training Night Driving	24	Refresher Only	10:14	16:33	6:19
25	Closed to Public	Military Driver Training Night Driving	24				0:00
26	Closed to Public	Military Driver Training Night Driving	24				0:00
27	Open to Public	Public Access	0				0:00
28	Open to Public	Public Access	0				0:00
Total Hours Closed			320			Actual Hours Used	34.3



Loss of Access

- Access Issues

- Car parks closed
- Lack of provisions for less able access
- Barbed wire topped “Deterrent fences”
- Blocked wildlife corridors
- Longstanding routes closed

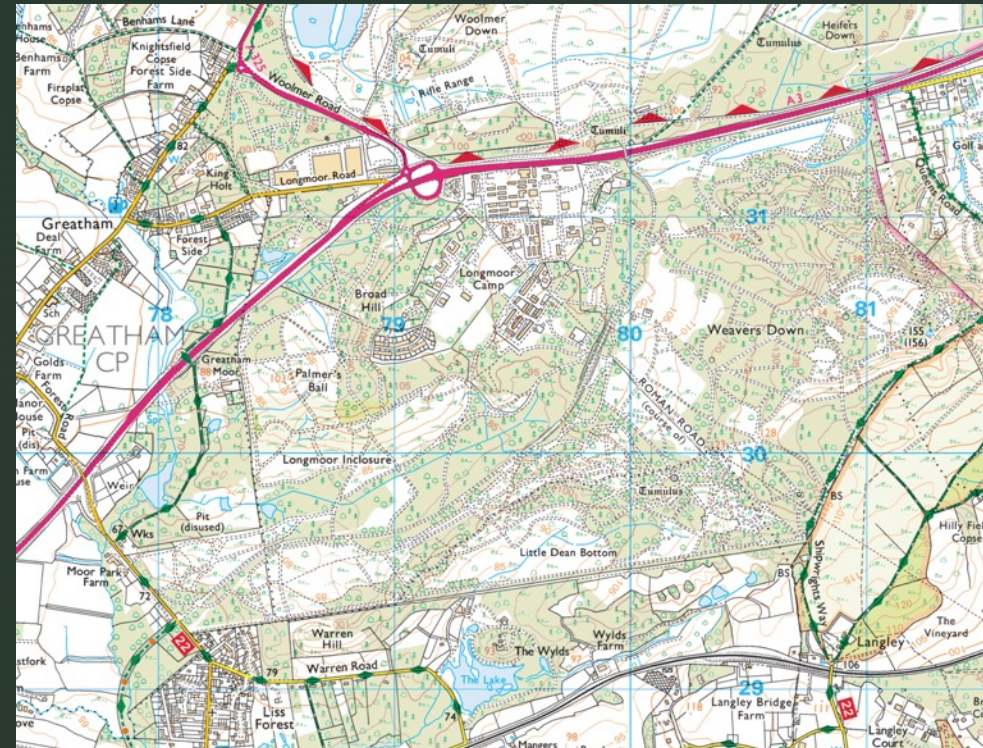
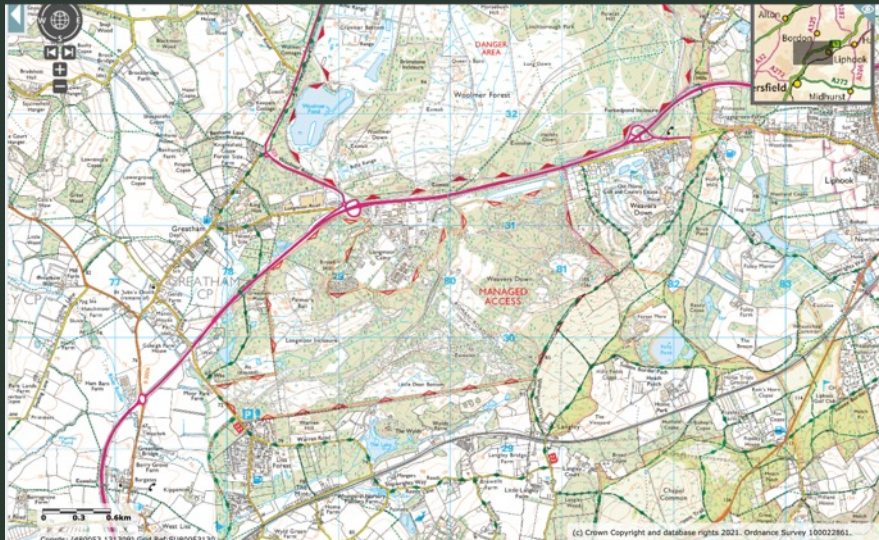
- Results

- Damaged fences
- Degraded community relationship
- Loss goodwill and positive environment
- Access prevented at all times – even when not in use
- Community ignoring signs “crying wolf”



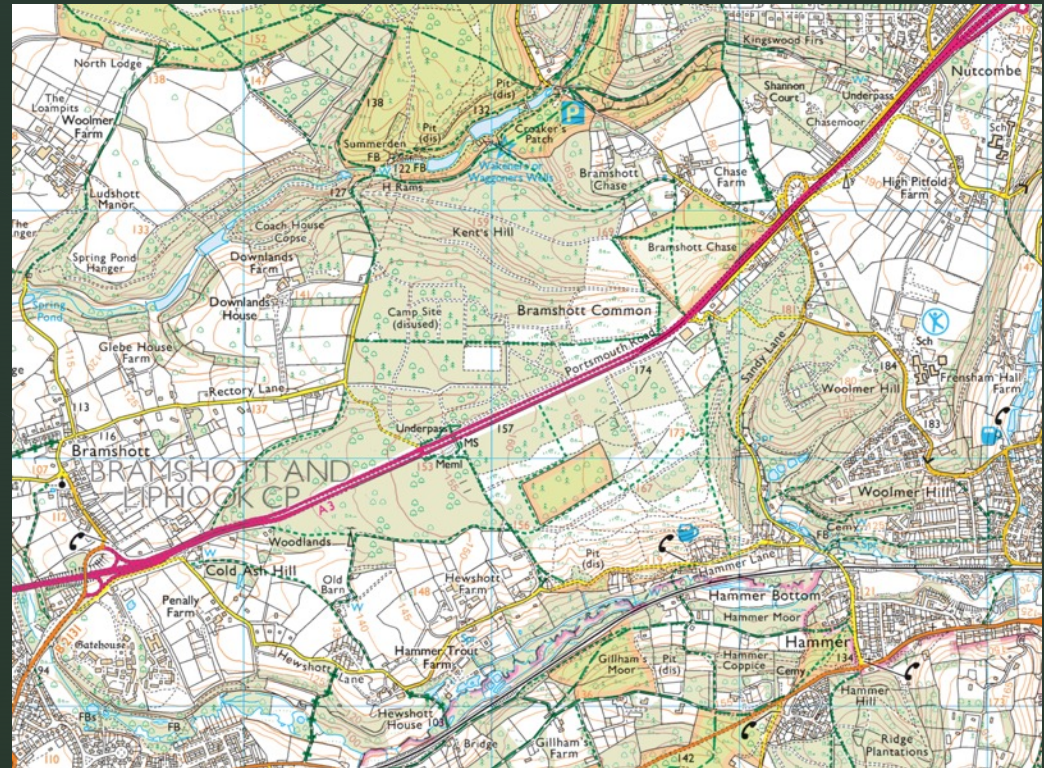
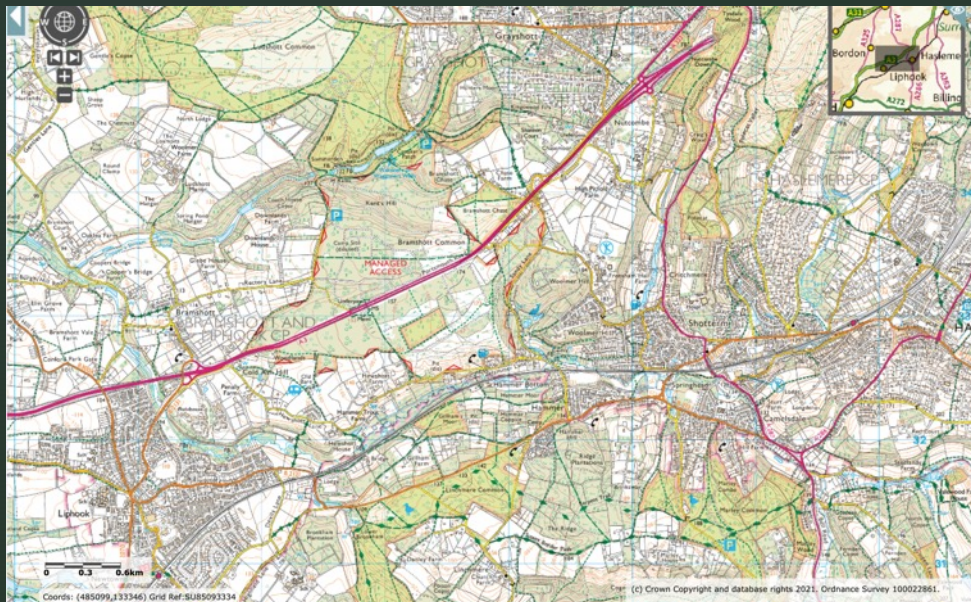
Bordon and Surrounds

- Changes to OS Maps see removal of Managed Access
 - Managed Access carries no legal definition – byelaws remain in force
 - Areas removed by OS on instruction from DIO February 2021



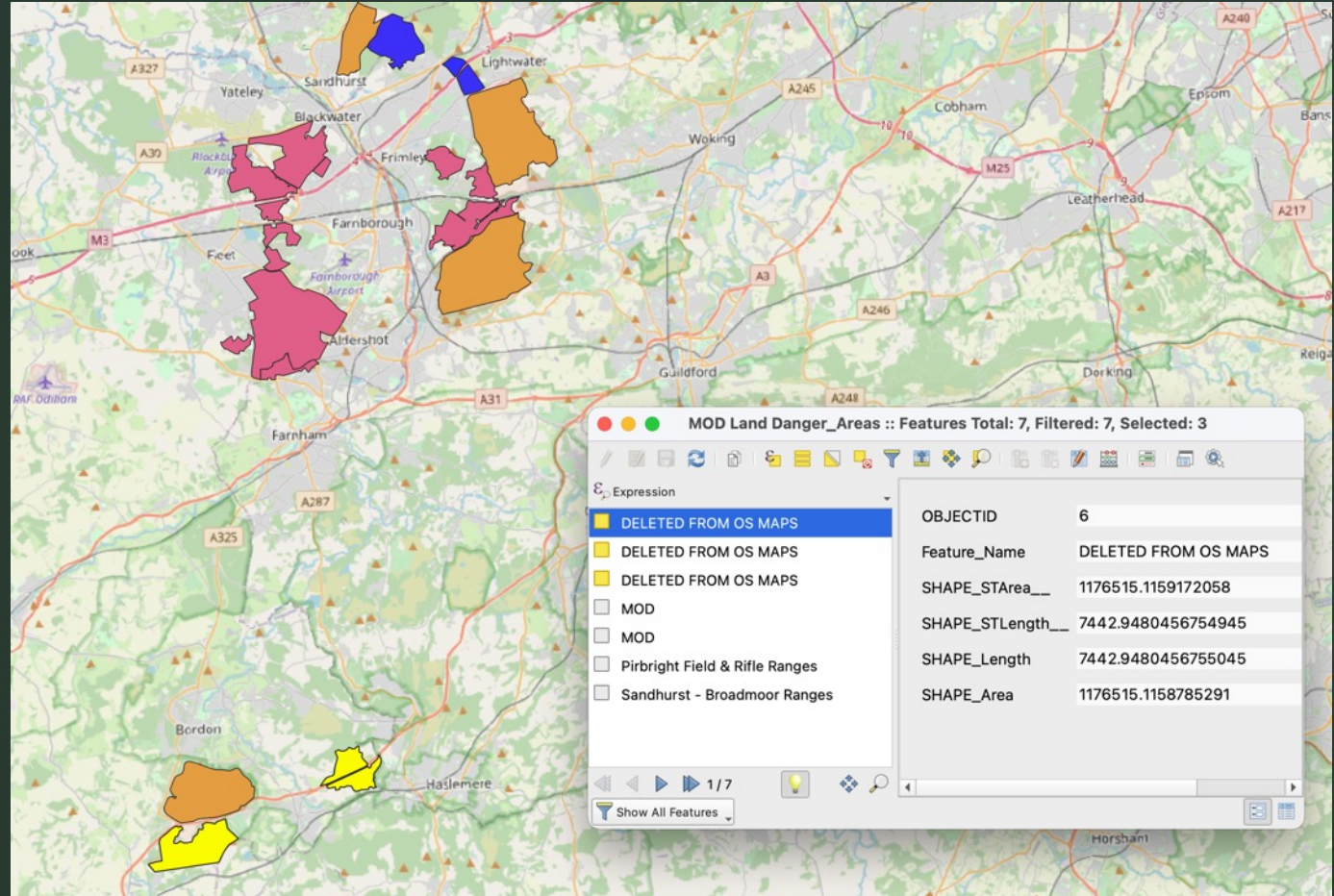
Bordon and Surrounds

- Changes to OS Maps see removal of Managed Access



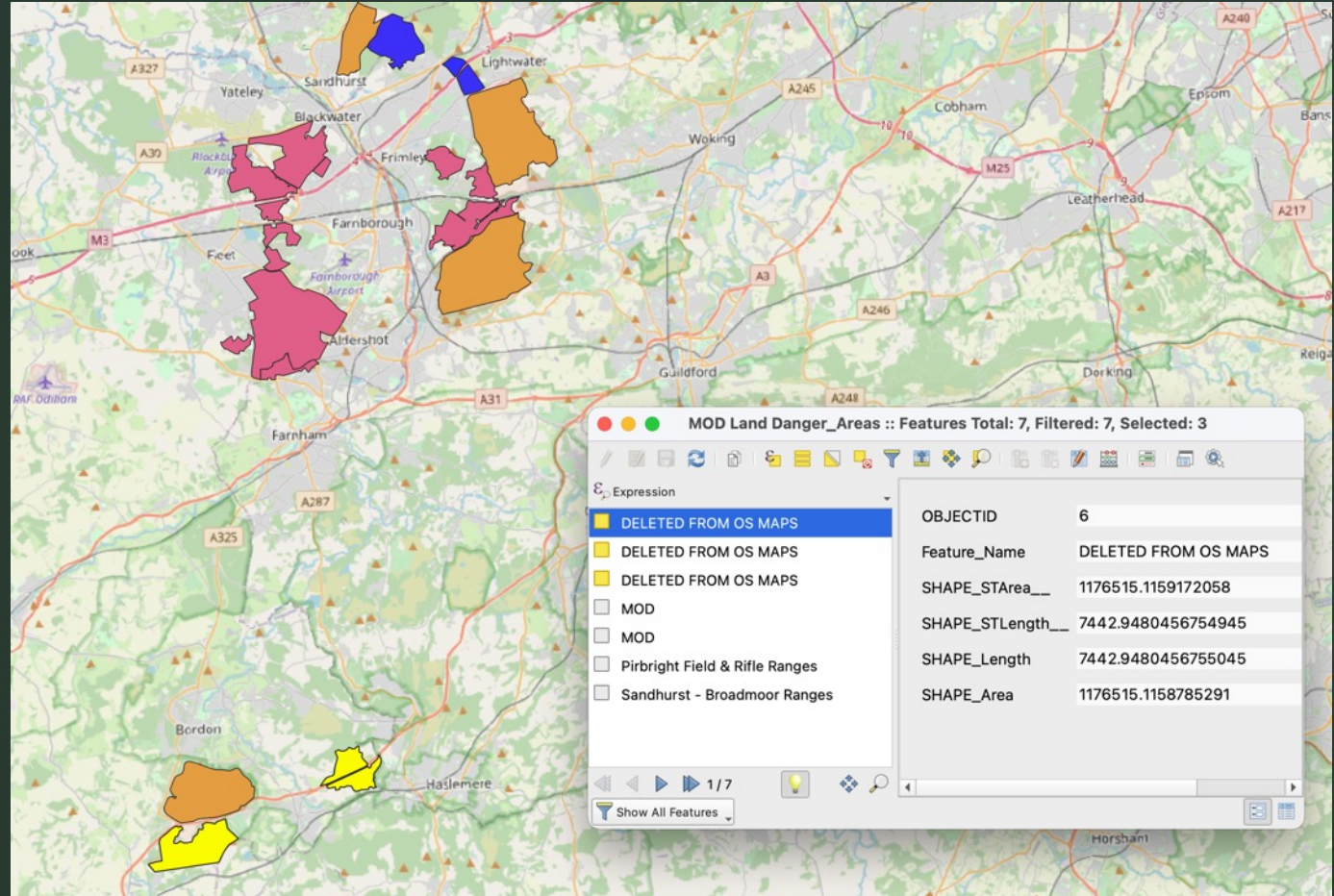
Bordon and Surrounds

- OS have confirmed DIO supplied data removed Bordon areas from Managed Access scope
- View on right shows FOI data released from OS
- DIO FOI response does not match OS supplied information



Bordon and Surrounds

- Bordon lands will be removed from Aldershot and District Military Byelaws
- Bordon lands to get separate byelaws



How Can You Help?

- Checklist of Action
 - Write to the local MP
 - Explain the value of the lands to the local community
 - Ask them to seek answers – why has Managed Access been removed?
 - Make it clear any future byelaws must preserve and protect casual recreational access when not in use
 - Reassure politicians respect for the military is acknowledged and DIO must be held to account
 - Volunteer for TAG or Byelaws Review
 - We willingly accept help and assistance:
 - Social media engagement
 - Legal – a Barrister or QC willing to review the issues would be welcomed
 - Some funding for legal advice may be available
 - Political lobbying

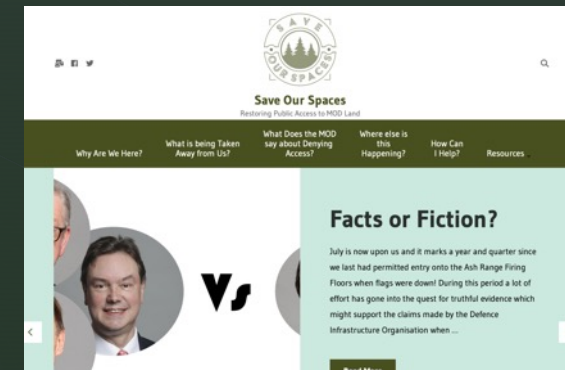
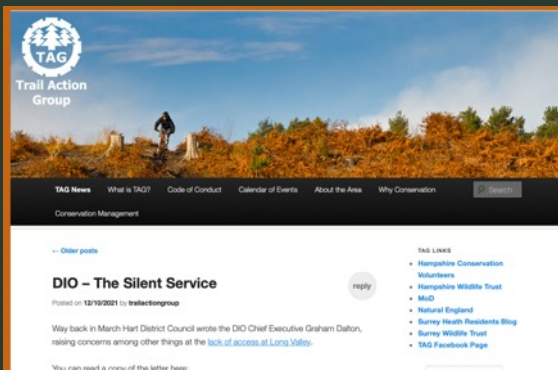
Summary

- The issues
 - DIO are maintaining a hostile approach to casual recreation – words are not matched by deeds and actions.
 - The Byelaws governing the lands are being reviewed.
 - Changes to the OS maps have already occurred
 - Without political accountability DIO will continue to ignore the local community
- The Challenge
 - All byelaws must preserve casual recreational access at all times when not in use
 - The new byelaws must protect casual access and restrict DIO's powers

DIO is in a position to make decisions based on abstract and theoretical matters, with the illusion that they will be taking them in a rational and accountable way. Locked gates and deterrent fences are a direct attempt to prevent access irrespective of military use

Summary– Useful Links

- The issues
 - Ash Ranges Protest Group <https://saveourspace.co.uk>
 - Byelaws Review <https://www.byelawsreview.com>
 - Trail Action Group <https://trailactiongroup.co.uk>



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