

With the announcement of a further lockdown in England and ongoing restrictions in Wales, the BHS has reviewed its advice to those involved in researching and submitting Definitive Map Modification Orders in the name of the BHS. The situation is different from last year's first lockdown and local authorities and other organisations are generally more geared up to deliver their normal services with remote working where necessary. Consequently, there is no need to suspend the making of applications. Additionally, owners and occupiers who receive a statutory notice of the making of an application, should be able to obtain any necessary advice on how to respond, either from their local authority or elsewhere.

Such notices are normally served either by post or, with the consent of the local authority, by being erected on site. Service of notices by post raises no issues. However, whilst there is an exemption to leave home and to travel "to fulfil a legal obligation", it is our view that it could not be justified as essential travel at this time. It would be undesirable and unfair for some landowners to be notified of an application but not others and therefore, it is the BHS's position that notices of an application should only be served at the moment if it is possible to serve all required notices by post. If any site notices are required, then the notification stage should be suspended for the time being.

In summary, for DMMO applications being made in the name of the BHS:

- . DMMO applications can continue to be submitted to highway authorities
- . Notices can continue to be served on landowners/occupiers if all of these notices can be served by post
- . If any of the landowner/occupier notifications require signs on the path or hand delivered notices then not only should these not be submitted, but no notices for a particular path should be served during lockdown (to avoid the situation where some landowners/occupiers know and some don't).

The BHS is working closely with the Ramblers and both organisations have adopted a similar policy. This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis.

22 January 2021