

DMMO Applications during Covid-19 Pandemic Restrictions

The current pandemic restrictions obviously impact on many aspects of everyday life and Project 2026 is no different:

- Access to archives and records offices is largely suspended, non-essential travel is not allowed and thus researchers are limited to using data they have already collected or is available online.
- Local authorities may have redeployed staff to other functions and generally will have a reduced capacity across most services.
- Landowners may have more pressing concerns and will find it harder to obtain information and advice should they receive notice of applications affecting their land.

In response to this, some organisations have suspended the making of DMMO applications for the time being. The BHS has reviewed its position and whilst it doesn't support a blanket ban on this activity, it does recognise that there are circumstances where it will not be appropriate to make new applications.

Until further notice, whilst restrictions on day-to-day life remain in place or until decided otherwise, the following points should be observed when preparing or making applications in the name of the BHS:

1. In the first instance applicants should be guided by their local authorities. Where an authority indicates they are willing to continue to receive applications then work should continue the preparation and submission of applications.
2. If an authority indicates that it does not have capacity to receive applications, then we recommend that people prepare applications ready for submission when the situation changes. Applications must not be submitted in the name of the BHS in these circumstances until the situation changes.
3. However, regardless of the local authority position on the submission of applications, until further notice, the BHS will cease the notification of landowners & occupiers of applications made for and on behalf of the BHS and would advise volunteers making applications in their own name to do likewise. Given the difficulties that landowners and occupiers may have in obtaining further information from their local authority and in responding appropriately to a notice, it is considered that it would be insensitive to serve notices at this point.
4. The posting of notices on site where permission has been authorised previously by the authority would also constitute non-essential travel and thus should not take place.
5. The BHS would be happy to have an understanding with authorities that applications could be submitted, validated and informally given a registration number but not added to the statutory public register until the lifting of restrictions to prevent to inadvertent discovery of applications by owners / occupiers.
6. Where applications can continue to be made, we would advise applicants to be patient and accept that processing and registration of applications may take longer than usual.

During this period, we would encourage volunteers to continue their research using online resources where available.

Visit www.bhsaccess.org.uk/2026 and check your county or highway authority area to see whether an online library has been set up and what data is available. (There is a downloadable Guide on the front page which explains how to do this.) The Ramblers also have a useful index of other data available to view online [here](#).



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