

9th October 2015

Mr Giles Rowe
Ministry of Defence
Byelaws Review Team
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Your Ref. DIO/04/09/BRT/ BUTEC

Dear Mr Rowe

Proposed military byelaws: The British Underwater Test and Evaluation Centre (BUTEC)

Thank you for your letter of 25th September regarding the above proposed byelaws. Our interest is in public access to land, and we have no objections to the byelaws as proposed Kyle of Lochalsh or on the Applecross peninsular.

However, we do have concerns over the potential impacts of the installation of a controlled area around the Applecross site. We are aware that the beach at Sand, north of Applecross, is popular with visitors and this is close to the proposed controlled area. Although we have not been able to visit the area recently, we understand that there is a car park on the road to the current MoD facility which is used by these visitors. In summer this can be full with the result that cars park along the side of the access road. Also, many informal paths lead off from various points along this road across the dunes to the beach, and the bothy near the MoD base is used informally by groups including Applecross primary school on a regular basis.

Therefore, if public use of the car park and road is going to be affected by the closure of this road under the new byelaws, we would expect an alternative car park area to be provided with paths developed to the beach which would steer visitors away from the controlled area. Otherwise, if the existing car park is closed, visitors will attempt to park on the verges of the single track road running around the Applecross peninsular which could have impacts on public safety. We would like to be assured that visitor management is being considered as part of these proposals.

We trust these comments are helpful and would be pleased to discuss further if required.

Yours sincerely

Helen Todd
Campaigns & Policy Manager