



# INFORMATION LEAFLET 007-0917

## Pedestrian Access Alert

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This leaflet is based on a Forestry Commission England Health & Safety Briefing.

### 1. Background

Sometimes there is a lot in the Royal Navy's training mantra "Keep it simple stupid".

On a recent trip to the South Forest District, we were shown a really simple system to monitor public access on a worksite operated by a contractor that alerts the machine operator to unauthorised public ingress.



### 2. How it works

The system can be set up on all the main access routes with the sensor sending a wireless beam approx. 20m across the ride or road and including any unofficial public access or desire lines, which may be closed off with signs and barriers. The sensors then act as a second line of warning to the operator. The sensor is connected wirelessly to an alert box that is fitted in the machine operators cab and is powered by a 9v battery, with battery life in excess of 6months.

The Alert unit has 4 'zones' which can be differentiated between by setting different alarm tones. A total of 4 sensors can be fitted to a single zone, meaning a total of 16 sensors can be operated on a single site. The alert system also has up to 8 different switches which correspond to the sensors, allowing up to 8 different units to be used on the same site with the same sensors and alerts but specific to each operator/machine.



The range of the units is up to 1 km on open ground. This can be greatly reduced in wooded areas but the contractor has found the range to easily cover 500-800m.



### 3. What it can be used for

The system can be placed on any route where access needs to be monitored, specifically to harvesting sites in loading areas and on cat 1 roads where public access is granted and diversions are not an option. But timber still has to be stacked ready for uplift by lorry. This means the operators during busy periods of the year and in high footfall areas, along with good observation and standard practice with forestry machines, can work safely and have a second line of alert with dog walkers, runners and especially cyclists and mountain bikers. It can also apply to gateways, wicket gates, grass rides - the possibilities are endless!

With the system making the operator aware at an early stage of a public presence, it will give the loader or the machine operator time to power down the machine and assess the situation, before someone enters the risk zone.





#### 4. Cost

The cost is not prohibitive either, around £300-£350 for an alert unit and 2 sensors.

#### 5. Other Applications

Another use for the sensors could be to act as another set of eyes on a rifle range to act as an acoustic advanced warning system, so that shooting can be safely stopped and rifles made safe and an inspection party can go and investigate the potential ingress.

#### 6. Precautions

If unauthorised tampering is considered likely to occur, the sensors can be hidden in bracken or other vegetation close to the ride.

This is a great system that adds another level of monitoring to the working area, but does **NOT** negate the need for a banksman.

Other makes & models of systems are available and may be equally as suitable, as this is a simple off-the-shelf product.