

## Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000

### NOTICE OF RELEVANT AUTHORITY DECISION FOLLOWING REVIEW OF DIRECTION RESTRICTING COASTAL ACCESS RIGHTS

Prepared by Natural England

**Access authority:** Hartlepool Borough Council & Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

**Relevant authority:** Natural England

**Local access forum:** Tees Valley Local Access Forum

**Direction reference:** 2014087356 & 2018038613

Land Parcel Name:	Open Access or England Coast Path	Direction Ref.	Dates of restriction/exclusion on existing direction:	Reason for restricting/excluding access
Seal Sands Industrial Complex	King Charles III England Coast Path: Newport Bridge to North Gare	2014087356	Year round	sections: 24 and s25(1)(b) - Land management and public safety
North Tees Mudflats	King Charles III England Coast Path: Newport Bridge to North Gare	2018038613	Year round	sections:25A - Unsuitable for public access

Natural England has now decided how to proceed following its review of the long-term directions to restrict coastal access rights in association with the King Charles III England Coast Path on this land.

#### **Outcome of the review**

Natural England's decision is to leave the original direction unchanged in the way it was originally proposed and extend the end date for a further six years.

As confirmed by the land owners and the access authorities (Hartlepool Borough Council & Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council) the land management within the Seal Sands Industrial Complex, which is an area of heavy industry, has not changed since the direction was implemented in 2019. The intertidal mudflats of the North Tees area are also unsuitable for public access due to the terrain.

Natural England's policy for long-term directions is that they should not be given for a period of more than six years. Therefore the original direction will be extended to an end date of 18/09/2030.

Details of the restriction will appear on the relevant map of access land on the Open Access website - [www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk).

Where a direction restricts access indefinitely, for more than five years, for part of every year, or for part of at least six consecutive years, we have a statutory duty to review it within five years of the date of its issue.