

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

### **NOTICE OF RELEVANT AUTHORITY DECISION FOLLOWING CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSED LONG-TERM RESTRICTION OF CROW ACCESS**

Prepared by Forestry Commission

**Case reference number:** 2021109497  
**Name of site/land parcel:** Williams Cleugh – East Kielder  
**Grid reference:** NY6564 9916  
**Access authority:** Northumberland County Council  
**Local access forum:** Northumberland National Park & Countryside  
Joint LAF  
**Consultation began:** 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
**Consultation ended:** 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
**Date of direction notice:** 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022

The Forestry Commission has now decided how to proceed following its consultation about a proposed direction to restrict CROW access on this land. The relevant authority's decision is to give a direction restricting CROW access in the way it originally proposed. This is because it is necessary to restrict CROW access to this extent to prevent danger to the public.

A copy of the direction is enclosed for your information. Details of the restriction will appear on the relevant map of access land on the Open Access website at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/openaccess>.

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 are obliged to review it within five years of the date of issue.

#### Justification for direction

- Official closure of CROW land is needed to exclude the public for safety reasons as timber harvesting operations are extremely hazardous.
- Additional days were requested for the following reasons. Ideally the site would take the 36 weeks to fell and extract the timber with the current harvesting team. Unfortunately there have been retirements within the team and it is forecasted that the site may take a little longer to work with operators that are less experienced than the ones we currently have. In addition, timber haulage is currently delayed due to the lack of HGV drivers. This is having an impact on how long timber sits at the roadside after a site is complete.

