

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000

NOTICE OF RELEVANT AUTHORITY DECISION FOLLOWING REVIEW OF DIRECTIONS RESTRICTING CROW ACCESS RIGHTS

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Access authority: Suffolk County Council
Relevant authority: Natural England
Local access forum: Suffolk Local Access Forum

Case reference and land parcel name	Details of restriction on original direction
2007020104: Brick Kiln Walks	Dogs on leads between 1 August and 31 August each year annually until 31 August 2018 to protect ground nesting birds under Section 26(3)(a) of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000
2007020105: Westleton Heath	
2007020106: Dunwich Heath	
2007020109: Walberswick Common, Tinkers Walk & East Sheeps Walk, Newdelight Walks	

Natural England has now decided how to proceed following its review of the above mentioned long-term directions to restrict CROW access rights on these sites in Suffolk.

A second consultation was held between 17 July and 11 August 2017 with statutory consultees and the general public. We received feedback from the RSPB, supporting our proposal for dogs to be restricted to leads during August each year.

Summary of circumstances

Under Schedule 2 of the CROW Act there is a national restriction to keep dogs on leads from 1 March to 31 July on CROW access land. There are a number breeding bird species that are vulnerable to disturbance by dogs on these sites during this period, and nightjars can be rearing young from a second clutch of eggs into August. To minimise disturbance to breeding nightjars the national dogs on lead restriction from 1 March to 31 July each year has been extended to include the month of August as well.

Outcome of the review

Natural England's decision is to extend the expiry date of the directions. Natural England's policy for long term directions is that they should not be given for a period of more than 6 years. Therefore the original direction will be varied to have an end date of 31 August 2023.

Summary of changes made to the existing directions

Land parcel name	Details of restriction on original directions	Details of restriction on new directions
Brick Kiln Walks	Dogs on leads between 1 August and 31 August each year annually until 31 August <u>2018</u> to protect ground nesting birds under Section 26 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000	Dogs on leads between 1 August and 31 August each year annually until 31 August <u>2023</u> to protect ground nesting birds under Section 26 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000
Westleton Heath		
Dunwich Heath		
Walberswick Common, Tinkers Walk & East Sheeps Walk, Newdelight Walks		

Details of the restriction will appear on the relevant map of access land on the Open Access website - 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.

Date review completed: 16 August 2017