

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000

NOTICE OF RELEVANT AUTHORITY DECISION FOLLOWING REVIEW OF DIRECTION RESTRICTING CROW ACCESS

Prepared by Natural England

Access Authority: Dorset County Council
Relevant Authority: Natural England
Local Access Forum: Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole Local Access Forum

Direction reference: 2012056425

Land Parcel Name	Direction Reference	Details of restriction on original direction
Eweleaze Farm	2012056425	22 June 2012 until 22 June 2018 28 days per year

Natural England has now decided how to proceed following its review of the above mentioned long-term direction to restrict CROW Access rights on this land.

An initial consultation has been held between 3rd April 2017 and 21st April 2017 with statutory consultees and the general public. We received feedback from two consultees, The Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole Local Access Forum (LAF) and the Ramblers, Dorset Area.

In summary the feedback was:

- Assuming the restriction is for the continued operation of a campsite the LAF have no objection as long as the coast path and public footpath remain open for public use at all times.
- The Ramblers (Dorset Area) are supportive as long as the coast path and public footpath are not obstructed in any way by any camping activities.

Outcome of the review:

Natural England's decision is to extend the direction for a further six years.

As this is not a long term direction, i.e. access will not be restricted for more than 6 months continuously; there is no requirement to carry out a second consultation.

This direction was made as part of Natural England's proposals for the Rufus Castle (Portland) to Lulworth Cove (Dorset - Weymouth) stretch of the England Coast Path. The Coastal Access rights came into force along this stretch of coast on 29 June 2012.

The approved route is part of the South West Coast Path National Trail, coastal access rights also apply within the coastal margin (including along the coast path itself).

As part of the proposals for this stretch it was determined that a direction would be required under s24 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, to close the landward coastal margin at Eweleaze Farm, when it was being used as a temporary campsite. This direction proposed in the Report to The Secretary of State gave an outline direction for up to 28 days annually between 1 March and 31 October. The coast path and the public footpath crossing the coastal margin remain open for public use at all times.

The exact times and dates during which access is to be excluded was to be determined by the landowner and Natural England determined in 2012 that no requirement would be made for him to notify Natural England of the dates, though he would need to keep a record of the dates.

During this review the landowner confirmed that he has been calling off the direction every year to close the land for one continuous block of 28 days in August, and that he keeps a record of these closure periods.

As the landowner is still operating a campsite in the same way and there have been no objections to the restriction continuing, Natural England has decided to continue with the current arrangements, extending them for a further 6 years. It has also concluded that it is in the interest of access users if the requirement for the landowner to notify closure dates is re-instated. That way the days which the land is closed will be notified on the Natural England website as well as any signage the landowner should be using on the ground.

Summary of changes made to the existing directions:

Land Parcel Name:	Details of restriction on original direction:	New details of restriction
Eweleaze Farm	2012056425	No Public Access on 28 days per year between 1 st March and 31 st October until 31 st October 2023.

Details of the restriction will appear on the relevant map of access land on the Open Access website - www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk.

You should note that the applicant has the right to appeal within six weeks against our decision not to act in accordance with the application originally submitted to us. Only the applicant can appeal against this decision. Details of any appeal will appear on the Planning Inspectorate's website at www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/countryside/countryside.

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: 5th October 2017