

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: East Sussex
Relevant authority: Natural England
Local access forum: East Sussex
Direction reference: 2009030025

Land Parcel Name	Direction Reference	Details of restriction on original direction
Kingstanding Training Facility	2009030025	Access excluded 05/12/2019 – 30/06/2025 For Public Safety

Natural England has now decided how to proceed following its review of the above-mentioned long-term direction to restrict open access rights on this land. A consultation was held between 12/09/2019 & 25/10/2019 with statutory consultees and the general public. We received one comment.

East Sussex Local Access Forum & East Sussex County Council Combined:

- The Forum had no objections to the continuation of this restriction and had no comment to make. Likewise, my team has no comments to make in this case.

Outcome of the review:

Natural England's decision is to (1) leave the original direction unchanged in the way it was originally proposed and extend the end date for a further six years.

The restricted area is fenced and gated heathland, used at various times of the day and week, often scheduled at the last moment, for training police dogs in search and rescue work, and in detaining suspects by force.

It is also used ad hoc for the essential free exercise of such dogs, which cannot safely be allowed to run freely with other dogs (as would be found on the substantial open area of Ashdown Forest which surrounds this site).

The Open Country also surrounds and provides the only access along a narrow road for, an inner enclosed partly built-up zone (not mapped as access land) used for training police officers on various activities such as hostage rescue and other sensitive operations. This inner zone is also used for training on joint activities with other emergency services.

The purpose of the restriction is to continue to allow such activities to continue on a site with minimal disruption to the public.

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 extended to an end date of **30/06/2031**.

Summary of changes made to the existing directions:

Land Parcel Name:	Details of restriction on original direction:	New details of restriction
Kingstanding Training Facility	Access is Excluded at all times until 30 th June 2025	Access is Excluded at all times until 30th June 2031

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

For long term directions

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: 05/03/2024