

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: Dorset County Council
Relevant Authority: Natural England
Local Access Forum: Dorset Local Access Forum

Direction reference: 2012056403

Land Parcel Name	Direction Reference	Details of restriction on original direction
Preston Beach	2012056403	No Public Access with temporary route provided 14 days annually. Additional 14 days during one year every decade. Until 20/11/2023

Natural England has now decided how to proceed following its review of the long-term direction to restrict coastal access rights in association with the England Coast Path on this land. A consultation was held between 08 April and 13 June 2022 with statutory consultees and the general public. We received feedback from The Dorset Local Access Forum.

In summary the feedback was as follows, they see no reason to oppose the continuation of the direction if the Environment Agency consider it necessary. They did say that if the direction is still required then they think that the requirement for the landowner to notify Natural England of the closure dates, to allow Natural England to publish the dates on its website, and therefore better inform the public as to when the land is closed, should be continued.

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. Therefore the direction to exclude people for 14 days annually with a temporary route provided, and an additional 14 years every decade will remain in place.

The Environment Agency responded to our initial consultation to confirm that they hadn't implemented the outline direction on this section of promenade since 2017, as they managed any local beach and maintenance works on the ground through banksman and small-scale operations.

However, they would still like to continue with the option to close the route in the future under this direction, as there may be a need for a larger scale beach replenishment operation in the future, which couldn't be managed without restrictions for public safety. They said they also have structural maintenance works planned this year to the promenade which could result in the need for localised closures of areas whilst work is carried out.

Therefore Natural England agrees that the direction should continue unchanged. 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 16/09/2028.

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 September 2022