

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: Northumberland County Council
Relevant authority: Natural England
Local access forum: Northumberland Joint LAF
Direction reference: 2004120055

Land Parcel Name	Direction Reference	Details of restriction on original direction
Ros Hill Bank	2004120055	Public safety (no public access)

Natural England has now decided how to proceed following its review of the long-term direction to restrict open access rights on this land. We did not receive any comments.

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.

Chillingham Cattle are a breed of cattle that live in a large, enclosed park at Chillingham Castle in Northumberland, of which this site forms a small part.

The Chillingham herd are believed to be the only breed that have remained free from human interference or management and as such they are not domesticated and are wild animals.

The fact that the cattle look very much like other traditional breeds makes it more difficult for the public to realise how dangerous they are when encountered. Relevant Authority Guidance (RAG), criteria sets 9 and 10, consider the risks from bulls and other cattle kept on open access land and provide useful background information. However, this situation is unique and the RAG does not cover this highly unusual scenario.

As the cattle are likely to attack people if they are threatened or cornered and have been known to stampede if frightened, from contact with another animal or by human disturbance, access is only permitted to visitors who are accompanied by the warden, for which an admission charge is payable.

Following correspondence with the applicant, they confirmed that use of the land has not changed since the last review and the current excluded area of open access land is grazed by the wild cattle.

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 direction will have an end date of November 1st 2030.

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: 01/11/2024