

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000

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

Prepared by Natural England

Access authority: Cumbria, Durham and Northumbria County Councils
 Relevant authority: Natural England
 Local access forum: Cumbria, Durham and Northumberland

Land Parcel Name:	Direction Ref.	Dates of restriction/exclusion on existing direction:	Reason for restricting/excluding access	Restriction Type
Cumbria				
Flinty Fell	2021079445*	22/04/15 - 31/08/21	Sensitive wildlife s26	No dogs October 1st to March 31st each year
Red Carle Allotment	2021079446*	22/04/15 - 31/08/21	Sensitive wildlife s26	No dogs October 1st to March 31st each year
Rotherhope North & South	2021079447*	22/04/15 - 31/08/21	Sensitive wildlife s26	No dogs October 1st to March 31st each year
Durham				
Atkinsons Peat Allotment	2021059430*	22/04/15 - 31/03/21	Sensitive wildlife s26	Total exclusion 1 Oct - 31 March each year
West Allotment Langdon	2021079448*	22/04/15 - 31/05/21	Sensitive wildlife s26	Total exclusion 1 Oct - 31 March each year
Widdybank Fell	2005090267	22/11/05 - 30/06/65	Sugar Limestone & Sensitive wildlife s26	Total exclusion all year
Teesdale Allotments	2010075582	22/04/15 - 31/08/21	Sensitive wildlife s26	Dogs to leads 1 Aug - 31 Aug each year
Teesdale Allotments	2021059431*	22/04/15 - 31/08/21	Sensitive wildlife s26	Total exclusion 1 Oct - 31 March each year
The Allotments	2021059432*	22/04/15 - 31/03/21	Sensitive wildlife s26	Keep to marked routes 31 Oct - 31 March each year
Hole Head & Guy's Moss	2005090326	01/07/15 - 30/06/65	Sugar Limestone & Sensitive wildlife s26	Total exclusion all year
Northumberland				
North of Coanwood Common	2008100116	22/04/15 - 31/08/21	Sensitive wildlife s26	Dogs to leads 1 Aug - 31 Aug each year

*Direction reference number changed for administrative reasons.

Natural England has now decided how to proceed following its review of the long-term directions to restrict open access rights on this land. A consultation was held between 07th and 30th July with statutory consultees. We received responses from several consultees including; The British Association for Shooting and Conservation, County Durham Local Access Forum and Natural England's own responsible officers.

All feedback received was in support of the directions continuing.

In addition, Natural England's responsible officers made the following observations,

'although the numbers of black grouse have increased, they are still vulnerable to poor breeding years which can severely impact the population. Their breeding range is still so restricted I feel that the restrictions are likely to be justified for some time'

and;

'black grouse remain present in all 3 areas, albeit the population is still highly volatile. There seems to be no indication that black grouse can break out of the 'boom and bust' cycle that prevents numbers getting to a point where a wider colonisation of suitable sites occurs- for example a permanent westward expansion into the Howgills, or recolonisation into the east side of the Lake District. Hence, on that basis I would approve on-going restrictions for winter dog access on these sites, as any help the population gets is welcome!'

Outcome of the review:

Natural England's decision is to leave the original directions unchanged in the way they were originally proposed and extend the end dates for a further six years.

There is still an ongoing need to provide protection to the Black Grouse population from disturbance for the foreseeable future.

Further to that, the monitoring programme commissioned by Natural England and being conducted by the Game and Conservation Wildlife Trust which concludes in Spring 2022 will provide more substantial data relating the Black Grouse population trends in the locations covered by the directions.

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 directions will be extended until 31st August 2027. With respect to directions at Widdybank Fell and Hole Head & Guy's Moss, the end date will remain 30th June 2065.

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.