

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000

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

Prepared by Natural England

Access authority: Hampshire County Council
Relevant authority: Natural England
Local access forum: Hampshire Countryside Access Forum
Direction reference: 2009030024

Land Parcel Name	Direction Reference	Details of restriction on original direction
Sandy Point Local Nature Reserve	2009030024	Access is Excluded at all times until 30 th December 2026

Natural England has now decided how to proceed following its review of the above-mentioned long-term direction to restrict open rights on this land. A consultation has been held between 22/01/2025 and 28/02/2025 with statutory consultees and the general public. We received no 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

Sandy Point is considered to be one of the most important beach, dune and dune-heath complex in Hampshire. These habitats are vulnerable to trampling and evidence of its impacts can be seen within the immediate area outside of Sandy Point LNR. Any increase in access levels to the site is likely to have a negative effect upon these habitats. The site also has a diverse community of lichen species present which are also likely to be negatively affected by an increase in visitor pressure.

Any easing of access restrictions will increase the level of disturbance to bird species that are present on the site. Species such as the Dartford Warbler who breed on the site are particularly vulnerable to disturbance from people and dogs.

Currently access to the site is controlled by permit only although guided walks are available to the public every month. The site covers 17.5 ha and is particularly vulnerable to increased trampling due to the presence of several fragile habitats. The restrictions in public access are likely to have ensured that this site maintains its high ecological value.

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 **30th December 2031**.

Summary of changes made to the existing directions:

Land Parcel Name:	Details of restriction on original direction:	New details of restriction
Sandy Point Local Nature Reserve	Access is Excluded at all times until 1 st November 2026	Access is Excluded at all times until 30th December 2031

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: 5th March 2025