



CONSULTATION OUTCOME REPORT
COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY (CROW) ACT 2000
PROPOSAL FOR A LONG-TERM DIRECTION RESTRICTING ACCESS
APRIL 2025

Land Parcel Name:	Direction Ref.
Silence & Old Grove Mines, Great Hucklow & Foolow	2018088745

1) Introduction

The Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) has completed its consultation on the proposal for a long-term direction to restrict CROW access on this land. The consultation was held between 14 February and 28 March 2025.

The following consultation comments were received:

Peak District Local Access Forum –

Recognises the significant public safety issues arising from the ongoing collapse of the land in and around the Silence and Old Grove Mines site. Based on the information received, agree with PDNPA that the continued temporary restriction of CRoW access to the extent identified in the consultation documents is necessary on public safety grounds.

Has discussed the issues and challenges associated with this site for several years, since the first application for closure of CRoW Access Land in 2018. Pleased that a geotechnical report has been completed and reinstatement works are now being considered. Understand that any work will take time to agree and to implement, and therefore support the proposal for an extension of up to two years, until 30th April 2027, or until the completion of remediation in connection with geotechnical investigations have been carried out to the satisfaction of the Authority.

Wishes to see this area re-opened to the public as soon as possible, and ask that PDNPA continues to keep pressure on all parties to remediate and to reinstate access as soon as possible, and continues to keep us informed of progress with the works.

Finally, while recognise that Public Rights of Way are not covered by this direction, note that, as a result of the same public safety concerns, the Public Rights of Way running through the site – an east-west restricted byway made up of Grindlow RB6 and Foolow RB10, and north-south footpath Foolow FP9a – also remain closed. In addition, the minor road running along the northern boundary of the site is suffering slippage, and has been closed several times in recent years for repairs. As a result, east-west access, for horse riders and cyclists in particular, is often effectively closed through this area, affecting some well-used circuits. Alternatives for walkers travelling east-west or north-south require use of minor roads which themselves may be unsafe due to sometimes fast-moving traffic. Ask the PDNPA and DCC to consider the impact of these PROW closures and explore alternative routes through the area for non-car users.

Great Hucklow Parish Council - unanimously agreed with the proposed extension.

Foolow Parish Meeting – Given the unstable nature of the ground in the area and the ongoing changes that regularly occur, fully support the need to extend the restriction on access. It is not safe.

2) Outcome

The PDNPA, as Mineral Planning Authority, commissioned geotechnical investigations into the instability at this site and approved an application to reinstate areas of surface instability. In June 2024, treatment of the voids commenced. Within 2 years, it is considered that works might have sufficiently progressed for the assessment of opportunities for some continuing public access, with due regard to monitoring and identification and remediation of any continuing instability. Pending this, it is necessary to protect the safety of the public by continuing the closure across the land affected.

Having regard to the instability at the site and nature and character of the land, PDNPA is satisfied that a restriction of CRoW access to the extent identified is necessary on public safety grounds. Taking account of the timescales for implementing the scheme of remediation, an extension of the direction of up to two years will safeguard the public pending the rectification and review of the instability and for its monitoring.

This direction shall cease to have effect on 30 April 2027 or, if earlier, the date on which PDNPA as Mineral Planning Authority approves completion of the necessary remediation having regard to the outcome of the geotechnical investigations undertaken by the PDNPA as the Mineral Planning Authority and an associated monitoring period. In the event of the instability being more extensive or requiring more extensive remediation or monitoring, the direction shall be further reviewed.

3) Summary of Restriction

Land Parcel Name:	Dates of Restriction	Reason for Exclusion
Silence & Old Grove Mines, Great Hucklow	30 April 2027	Public Safety

Details of the restriction will appear at www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk.