

## 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:** Wiltshire Council  
**Relevant Authority:** Natural England  
**Local Access Forum:** Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum

**Direction reference:** 2006100112 and 2006110003

Land Parcel Name	Direction Reference	Details of restriction on original direction
The Downs, Compton Chamberlayne	2006100112	2006100112- 30 days per calendar year Total Exclusion
The Downs, Compton Chamberlayne	2006110003	2006110003 – dogs on leads 10 <sup>th</sup> October until 1 <sup>st</sup> February every year until 01/02/2024

Natural England has now decided how to proceed following its review of the long-term direction to restrict open access rights on this land. A consultation was held between 12 September 2022 and 7 October 2022 with statutory consultees and the general public. We did not receive any comments.

#### **Outcome of the review:**

Natural England's decision is to leave the directions unchanged and extend them for a further six years.

There are currently two restrictions in place at this site:-

- 2006100112, an outline exclusion to prevent disruption to the shoot on shoot days, and
- 2006110003 to restrict dogs to leads to prevent disturbance to game throughout the shooting season.

These have been in place since 2006, and the workings of the shoot have changed little since then. Prior to the last review in 2018 the shoot had merged with another and was now called the Hurdcott/ Compton Chamberlayne Shoot, and overall this now covers around 4000 acres. There are now around 30 shoot days over 35 drives with both partridge and pheasant being shot, and the area covered by this direction

is a parcel of open access land of 30 acres. Of the 35 drives 3 now utilise this open access land, and they are all signature drives so used regularly.

The agent for the estate informed Natural England that since 2018 the use of the land has remained unchanged, however there has been a programme of scrub clearance and cattle grazing. Recently there have been less birds released due to a shortage of birds available from the continent, however as these are signature drives they are being used as much as previously.

When determining a lowland game shoot application Natural England investigates the following areas to see if it is necessary to do anything:

- 1) Land Management: Released Game Bird Management during the Pre-shoot Season: Disturbance to the quarry
- 2) Land Management: Disturbance to the quarry during shoot season
- 3) Public Safety: Danger to the public during the shoot season
- 4) Land Management: Disruption to the shoot during the shoot season

1) Disturbance pre-shoot season

At this site the release pens are not located on the open access land so the risk of disturbance during this period from public access is minimal therefore no restriction during the pre-shoot season is deemed necessary.

2) Disturbance during the shoot season

Disturbance by dogs off the lead is much greater than for dogs on leads or walkers alone and could have a significant effect on the shoot, so although the shooting is not overly intensive (30 shooting days over a 17 week period), as there is poor game cover on the downland a restriction is again proposed under Case 2006110003 to restrict dogs to leads throughout the season, i.e. from 10<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> February, and every season for six years until 1<sup>st</sup> February 2029.

3) Public Safety

In this case lines of site are not obstructed so no restriction is necessary for public safety.

4) Disruption to the Shoot

Levels of use at the site were predicted to be negligible or very low on shooting days, however, the impact of disturbance or disruption if it did happen is still considered to be significant on shooting days. Access management is in place at the west end close to the bridleway, but not at the east where there is adjacent access land. Management at this point is possible, but would be an additional burden for the landowner. Therefore an outline exclusion on shooting days is still required to prevent undue disruption of the shoot. This is for up to 30 days a shoot season again from 10<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> February, and every season for six years until 1<sup>st</sup> February 2029 (to be reviewed after four and a half), under case 2006100112.

The shoot normally knows all their dates in advance of the season and can notify the Open Access Contact Centre (OACC) in advance, combining the dates with their 28 s22 CROW discretionary days. This normally results in the land being closed on all

shoot days and the discretionary days being used to close the land on the day before the shoot.

The OACC then provide a combined site notice with all the dates that will be displayed at the main access points. It was again noted that the shoot sent in their shooting dates at the start of each shoot season every year since the last review in 2018.

Details of the restriction will appear on the relevant map of access land on the Open Access website - [www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk).

You should note that the applicant has the right to appeal within six weeks against our decision not to act in accordance with the application originally submitted to us. Only the applicant can appeal against this decision. Details of any appeal will appear on the Planning Inspectorate's website at [www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/countryside/countryside](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/countryside/countryside).

Date review completed: 31/01/2023