

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: Bolton District Council

Relevant authority: Natural England

Local access forum: Greater Manchester

Land Parcel Name:	Open Access or England Coast Path	Direction Refs.	Dates of restriction on existing directions:	Reason for Exclusion
Wilton 3 Quarry	Open access	2016048135 & 2016068185	08 th Sep 2016 to 7 th Sep 2022	CROW Act sections 24 land management and 25 public safety
Robin Hood Quarry	Open Access	2017028331 & 2017038361	19 th June 2017 to 18 th June 2023	CROW Act sections 24 land management and 25 public safety

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 May and 03rd June with statutory consultees and the public. We received feedback from several consultees namely,

Bolton ramblers, Bolton council's rights of way liaison group and Bolton rifle and pistol club.

In summary the feedback was as follows:

Both Bolton council's rights of way liaison group and the rifle and pistol club were content for the direction to continue without modification.

Bolton Ramblers did not suggest any changes to the direction itself but did point out a few associated issues related to the failure to raise red flags when the closure is in effect for the outline directions, inadequate / missing signs and the lack of information about alternative options.

Whilst these issues do not directly impact on the nature of the direction, we will raise them with the gun club.

Bolton Gun Club confirm that there is no change to the use of the site.

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.

It continues to be necessary to restrict CROW access as per the terms of these directions to prevent danger to the public and to avoid disruption to the established patterns of shooting on the land.

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 original directions will all be extended to an end date of 7th September 2027.

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.