

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000

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

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Access Authority: Norfolk County Council
Relevant Authority: Natural England
Local Access Forum: Norfolk LAF

Land Parcel Name	Direction Reference	Details of restriction on original direction
Woodhill Caravan Park	2014107432	Direction given under Section 24 of the CROW Act for the purpose of land management, restricting dogs to leads on the Norfolk Coast Path all year round from 11 December 2014 until 11 December 2020, to replicate existing caravan park policy to keep dogs on leads whilst on site.

Natural England has now decided how to proceed following its review of the long-term direction restricting coastal access rights in association with the Norfolk Coast Path on this land.

Woodhill Caravan Park has an established policy of restricting accompanied dogs to leads whilst on site. To replicate this management with the introduction of new coastal access rights on 11 December 2014, a direction was given to restrict dogs to leads on the Norfolk Coast Path within the caravan park all year round.

Natural England published a consultation summary report on 11 August 2019 reviewing dogs on lead restrictions on 5 caravan sites on the Norfolk Coast Path, including Woodhill Caravan Park, inviting comments to be submitted by 11 September 2019.

In response to the consultation summary, the Kennel Club raised general queries about the period of the dogs on lead restriction on all the caravan sites, the extent of the restricted area at Woodhill Caravan Park, and the signage used to communicate restrictions. We clarified that the period of the restriction was given for clarity and cohesion with similar restrictions on nearby caravan sites, and agreed in principle that the trail officer would adjust the signage to clarify when visitors were leaving the dogs on lead restricted area.

Woodhill Caravan Park advised us in September 2019 that due to coastal erosion, the layout of the park would be changing, which may have an impact on the area currently used for dog exercise, and that there would be a review of their policy for

limited off lead dog access on the site, so we agreed to wait for that to be concluded before making any change to the existing restriction to keep dogs on leads. This was delayed further by awaiting a decision on a planning application with the local authority to make some changes to the site, which was expected during the summer of 2020.

In November 2020, we advised Woodhill Caravan Park that the existing dogs on lead restriction would expire on 11 December 2020, and suggested that signage could be used informally to manage people with dogs on the trail. Natural England remains open to considering a formal restriction to keep dogs on leads on the coast path here if that is necessary in the future.