

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000

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

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Access Authority: Lincolnshire County Council
Relevant Authority: Natural England
Local Access Forum: South Lincolnshire LAF

Land Parcel Name	Direction Reference	Details of restriction on original direction
Woodnook Valley, Lincolnshire	2005090101	Outline direction given under Section 24 of the CROW Act to prevent disruption to formal driven shoots, excluding access for up to 12 days each year during the pheasant and partridge shooting season, between 1 September and 31 January each year until 31 January 2021.

Natural England has now decided how to proceed following its review of the above mentioned long-term direction to restrict open access rights on this land. A consultation has been held between 9 October and 18 November 2019 with statutory consultees and the general public.

Lincolnshire County Council confirmed no objection to the extension of the access restrictions at Woodnook Valley. No other comments were received.

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.

The outline direction allows up to 12 days per year, in the pheasant and partridge shooting season, to exclude the public from the land on shoot days. The restriction is necessary to prevent disruption to formal driven shoots, under section 24 of CROW, both to avoid disturbance to game birds, and because it is not practical to manage the passage of visitors effectively through the area while the shoot takes place.

The outline direction has consistently been called off by the applicant each year, using the maximum number of days allowed each shooting season since the direction was given in 2005.

The applicant and the game keeper both advised that the circumstances remain the same since the last review, that the exclusion works well for them, and that the 12 days sufficiently cover the days that they shoot each season. No changes in the management of the land and the shoot are anticipated, and they would like the restriction to continue as it does now.

As the circumstances are unchanged since the last review, and no objection has been raised by any other parties, Natural England has decided to extend the existing direction to 31 January 2026.

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: 3 December 2019