

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000

NOTICE OF RELEVANT AUTHORITY DECISION FOLLOWING REVIEW OF DIRECTIONS RESTRICTING CROW ACCESS

Prepared by Natural England

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

Direction reference: 2006100112 & 2006110003

Land Parcel Name	Direction Reference	Details of restriction on original direction
The Downs, Compton Chamberlayne	2006100112	25 days per calendar year Total Exclusion To prevent disturbance to game on shoot days
The Downs, Compton Chamberlayne	2006110003	Dogs on leads 15 th October until 1 st February every year 01/02/2018 To prevent disturbance to game throughout the shooting season

Natural England has now decided how to proceed following its review of the above mentioned long-term direction to restrict CROW access rights on this land.

A second consultation has been held between 30th November 2017 and 15th December 2017 with statutory consultees and the general public. We received no feedback.

Outcome of the review:

Natural England's decision is to vary the directions 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. The shoot has merged with another and is 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 compared to the 25 days over 17 drives previously. Both partridge and pheasant are 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 shoot period has also been extended slightly from the 15th October to the 10th October.

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 10th October to 1st February, and every season for six years until 1st February 2024.

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 exclusion on shooting days is required to prevent undue disruption of the shoot. This is for up to 30 days a shoot season again for six years (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.

Summary of changes made to the existing directions:

Land Parcel Name:	Details of restriction on original direction:	New details of restriction
The Downs, Compton Chamberlayne	25 days per calendar year Total Exclusion To prevent disturbance to game on shoot days	30 days per shoot season. Total Exclusion To prevent disruption on shoot days
The Downs, Compton Chamberlayne	Dogs on leads 15 th October until 1 st February every year 01/02/2018 To prevent disturbance to game throughout the shooting season	Dogs on leads 10 th October until 1 st February every year 01/02/2024 To prevent disturbance to game throughout the shooting season

Details of the restriction will appear on the relevant map of access land on the Open Access website - 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.

Date review completed: 31st January 2018