

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000

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

Prepared by Natural England

Access authority: Lancashire County Council
Relevant authority: Natural England
Local access forum: Lancashire

Land Parcel Name	Direction Reference	Details of restriction on original direction
TRAX	2004120162	Danger to Public Safety 16/7/2010 to 31/7/2016

Natural England has now decided how to proceed following its review of the above mentioned direction to restrict CROW Access rights on this land. A second consultation has been held between 19th January and 13th February with statutory consultees and the general public. We received feedback from the Ramblers Association who commented that accepted some form of restriction is required and that if there was no change in land use and activities on the site the last review then a similar direction would be required.

Outcome of the review:

Natural England's decision is to vary the end date of the direction to allow the restriction to continue.

It is necessary to restrict CROW access to this extent to prevent danger to the public from motorsports taking place on the site.

Relevant Authority Guidance (Criteria set 21) assesses the need to restrict access for a variety of recreational activities. It indicates that whilst visitors exercising CROW access rights will usually take account of how other people are using access land, there are occasions when informal recreation will need to be separated from dangerous activities such as motor sports (particularly in woodland or environments where it is less easy to see vehicles etc. approaching).

The nature of the terrain on the TRAX site and the habitat which creates poor sight lines, and also the type of sport that occurs (karting, motocross, scrambling) mean a restriction is necessary in this instance.

There is also potential for walkers to cause disruption to the activities, with riders having to stop and take additional precautions if visitors are seen within the racing area.

Additional routes through the site were considered but were impractical due to fencing and security gates.

An exclusion from the areas where motorsport activity is permitted is the lowest level of restriction required.

Natural England's policy for long term directions is that they should not be given for a period of more than 6 years. Therefore the original direction will be varied to have an end date of 13/2/2021.

Summary of changes made to the existing directions:

Land Parcel Name:	Details of restriction on original direction:	New details of restriction
Trax	Danger to Public Safety 16/7/2010 to 31/7/2016	Danger to Public Safety 13/2/15 to 13/02/2021

Details of the restriction will appear on the relevant map of access land on the Open Access website - www.naturalengland.org.uk/openaccess.

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.planning-inspectorate.gov.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: 13/02/15