

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000:

NOTICE OF RELEVANT AUTHORITY DECISION FOLLOWING CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSED LONG-TERM RESTRICTION OF CROW ACCESS

Prepared by Forestry Commission

Case reference number: 2014107435
Name of site/land parcel: Wark Forest – Gair Sike
Grid reference: NY 621 806
Access authority: Forestry Commission
Local access forum: NE England
Consultation began: 18 November 2014
Consultation ended: 16 December 2014

Date of direction notice: 17 December 2014

The Forestry Commission has now decided how to proceed following its consultation about a proposed direction to restrict CROW access on this land. The relevant authority's decision is:

(1) to give a direction restricting CROW access in the way it originally proposed

This is because it is necessary to restrict CROW access to this extent to prevent danger to the public.

A copy of the direction is enclosed for your information. Details of the restriction will appear on the relevant map of access land on the Open Access website at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/openaccess>.

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 are obliged to review it within five years of the date of issue.

Justification for direction

- Official closure of CROW land is needed to exclude the public for safety reasons as timber harvesting operations are extremely hazardous.
- Please note comments from Ramblers Association: The Ramblers would like to make the following formal comments on the application for an outline direction to exclude the on the grounds of public safety due to timber harvesting operations for land at Wark Forest - Gair Sike

Given the use of machinery, the level of felling, as well as the relevant health and safety legislation, the Ramblers' Association agrees that this is the lowest level of restriction necessary and in line with the relevant authority guidance.

We request that all signs and notices on the site or at suitable locations near the site clearly state the reason and duration of the restriction and any public rights of way effected remain open at all times.