

Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000:

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

Prepared by Natural England

Case reference number: 2015027550
Name of site/land parcel: Pevensey Levels NNR
Grid reference: TQ669057
Access authority East Sussex
Local access forum : East Sussex
Consultation began: 1st December 2015
Consultation ended : 8th January 2016

Date of direction notice: 7th February 2016

Natural England has now decided how to proceed following its consultation about its proposal to exclude dogs all year round under section 26 of CROW on this land. The relevant authority's decision is.

- To give a direction restricting CROW access in the way it was originally proposed.

It is necessary to restrict CROW access to this extent to as dogs have always been excluded from the whole site due mainly to the sensitivity of overwintering and breeding birds but also because of potential disturbance to the fauna and flora of the ditch system. An Access and Sensitive Features Appraisal (ASFA) was carried out to establish the likely effect of introducing open access onto the site. The conclusion of the assessment was that the predicted low levels of access on foot would not cause a likely significant effect but that the introduction of dogs to the site would.

A 'dogs on lead' restriction and seasonal exclusions were also considered. However, these options do not replicate the existing management and do not provide the level of mitigation required by the ASFA. Therefore the decision is to introduce a year-round dog exclusion that maintains the current management arrangements.

Responses to the consultation have been received from East Sussex County Council and the Ramblers, both of whom support the proposal to exclude dogs.

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