

## **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:** 2015037628  
**Name of site/land parcel:** Cooplaw  
**Grid reference:** NT722029  
**Access authority:** Forestry Commission  
**Local access forum:** NE England  
**Consultation began:** 17/04/2015  
**Consultation ended:** 15/05/2015

**Date of direction notice:** 20/05/2015

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 to give a direction restricting CROW access as originally proposed.

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

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.

#### Notes

- Consultation response from The Ramblers:

"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 Cooplaw.

Given the use of machinery, the level of felling, as well as the relevant health and safety legislation, combined with the need for trapping and translocation work for great crested newts 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.”