



# Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

## 2000 CHAPTER 37

### PART I

#### ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

#### CHAPTER I

#### RIGHT OF ACCESS

##### *General*

## **2 Rights of public in relation to access land.**

- (1) Any person is entitled by virtue of this subsection to enter and remain on any access land for the purposes of open-air recreation, if and so long as—
- (a) he does so without breaking or damaging any wall, fence, hedge, stile or gate, and
  - (b) he observes the general restrictions in Schedule 2 and any other restrictions imposed in relation to the land under Chapter II.

(2) Subsection (1) has effect subject to subsections (3) and (4) and to the provisions of Chapter II.

(3) Subsection (1) does not entitle a person to enter or be on any land, or do anything on any land, in contravention of any [<sup>F1</sup>relevant statutory prohibition].

[<sup>F2</sup>(3A) In subsection (3) “relevant statutory prohibition” means—

- (a) in the case of land which is coastal margin, a prohibition contained in or having effect under any enactment, and
- (b) in any other case, a prohibition contained in or having effect under any enactment other than an enactment contained in a local or private Act.]

(4) If a person becomes a trespasser on any access land by failing to comply with—

---

**Changes to legislation:** *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Section 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

---

- (a) subsection (1)(a),
  - (b) the general restrictions in Schedule 2, or
  - (c) any other restrictions imposed in relation to the land under Chapter II,
- he may not, within 72 hours after leaving that land, exercise his right under subsection (1) to enter that land again or to enter other land in the same ownership.
- (5) In this section “owner”, in relation to any land which is subject to a farm business tenancy within the meaning of the <sup>M1</sup>Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995 or a tenancy to which the <sup>M2</sup>Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 applies, means the tenant under that tenancy, and “ownership” shall be construed accordingly.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 2(3) substituted (12.1.2010) by [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 \(c. 23\)](#), **ss. 303(3)(a), 324(2)(d)** (with s. 308)
- F2** [S. 2\(3A\)](#) inserted (12.1.2010) by [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 \(c. 23\)](#), **ss. 303(3)(b), 324(2)(d)** (with s. 308)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** [S. 2](#) restricted (temp.) (3.8.2023) by [The Hornsea Four Offshore Wind Farm Order 2023 \(S.I. 2023/800\)](#), **arts. 1, 11(2)(3), Sch. 4 Pt. 4** (with arts. 42, 43, Sch. 9)
- C2** [S. 2](#) restricted (temp.) (11.3.2024) by [The Net Zero Teesside Order 2024 \(S.I. 2024/174\)](#), **arts. 1, 13(9) (10), Sch. 6 Pt. 3 Table 6** (with arts. 42, 43, Sch. 12)
- C3** [S. 2\(1\)](#) excluded (1.7.2005) by [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 \(c. 15\)](#), **ss. 131(1)(a), 178(8)**; [S.I. 2005/1521](#), **art. 3(1)(n)**

#### Commencement Information

- I1** [S. 2](#) in force at 19.9.2004 or the end of a period of six months beginning with the day on which the land is dedicated for the purposes of Part I under s. 16, whichever is the later or the end of a period of six months beginning with the day on which the land is dedicated for the purposes of Part I under s. 16, whichever is the later by [S.I. 2004/2173](#), **art. 2(2)**
- I2** [S. 2](#) in force at 19.9.2004 for specified purposes for E. by [S.I. 2004/2173](#), **art. 2(1)(a)**
- I3** [S. 2](#) in force at 14.12.2004 or the end of a period of six months beginning with the day on which the land is dedicated for the purposes of Pt. I under s. 16, whichever is the later, for E. for specified purposes or the end of a period of six months beginning with the day on which the land is dedicated for the purposes of Pt. I under s. 16, whichever is the later, for E. for specified purposes by [S.I. 2004/3088](#), **art. 2(2)**
- I4** [S. 2](#) in force at 14.12.2004 for specified purposes for E. by [S.I. 2004/3088](#), **art. 2(1)**
- I5** [S. 2](#) in force at 28.5.2005 or the end of a period of six months beginning with the day on which the land is dedicated for the purposes of Pt. I under s. 16, whichever is the later, for E. for specified purposes or the end of a period of six months beginning with the day on which the land is dedicated for the purposes of Pt. I under s. 16, whichever is the later, for E. for specified purposes by [S.I. 2005/827](#), **art. 2(2)**
- I6** [S. 2](#) in force at 28.5.2005 for W. by [S.I. 2005/423](#), **art. 2(a)**
- I7** [S. 2](#) in force at 28.5.2005 for specified purposes for E. by [S.I. 2005/827](#), **art. 2(1)**
- I8** [S. 2](#) in force at 28.8.2005 or the end of a period of six months beginning with the day on which the land is dedicated for the purposes of Pt. I under s. 16, whichever is the later, for E. for specified purposes by [S.I. 2005/1901](#), **art. 2(2)**
- I9** [S. 2](#) in force at 28.8.2005 for specified purposes for E. by [S.I. 2005/1901](#), **art. 2(1)**
- I10** [S. 2](#) in force at 31.10.2005 or the end of a period of six months beginning with the day on which the land is dedicated for the purposes of Pt. I under s. 16, whichever is the later, for E. for specified purposes by [S.I. 2005/2752](#), **art. 2(2)**

---

**Changes to legislation:** *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Section 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

---

**I11** S. 2 in force at 31.10.2005 for specified purposes for E. by [S.I. 2005/2752](#), **art. 2(1)(a)**

---

**Marginal Citations**

**M1** 1995 c. 8.

**M2** 1986 c. 5.

**Changes to legislation:**

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Section 2 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 17 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

- Blanket amendment words substituted by [S.I. 2011/1043 art. 34](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 15(1)(e) and word inserted by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 179](#)
- s. 55A inserted by [2015 c. 20 s. 20](#)
- s. 56A inserted by [2015 c. 20 s. 21](#)
- s. 56B inserted by [2015 c. 20 s. 22\(1\)](#)