

Walking on Open Access Land

Following the introduction of the CRoW Act the Yorkshire Dales National Park now contains over 100,000 hectares of open access land, covering 62% of the park. This land is available for such activities as walking, climbing, and running; however, cycling, horse-riding, and the use of motor-vehicles are not allowed. This land represents an excellent opportunity to practice your navigation skills and to explore areas of the park that were previously 'out of bounds'.

Walking on open-access land can be challenging and dangerous, as you will often be a long way from recognised paths or even obvious landmarks. Stiles and gates may also be few and far between. As a large percentage of the access land is open moorland, good navigation skills and suitable clothing are required.

Can I take my dog?

Dogs are allowed on large areas of open access land within the park, however, they must be kept under close control and from 1 March to 31 July they must be kept on a lead to prevent disturbance to breeding birds and animals. In some areas, such as grouse moors, there are long-term restrictions in place meaning dogs are not allowed. To check for dog restrictions go to the [Natural England](#) website.

Is this land open all year?

Restrictions may be placed upon open access at any time of year for purposes such as preventing disturbance to breeding birds, land management or fire prevention. These restrictions may be enforced at short notice, so please check before you walk. For long term restrictions and closures, see our [Closures and restrictions](#) page. Otherwise, see the [Natural England Restrictions site](#) - it is updated daily and shows all types of restrictions.

Where can I walk?

Open Access land is marked by this symbol:



Occasionally other notices will appear on site to notify the public of restrictions or closures. Information on where you can walk can be found in:

The latest editions of 1:25000 Ordnance Survey maps show open access land.

The [Natural England](#) website shows open access land around the whole country, as well as any current restrictions.