

The England Coast Path

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What We Are Going To Cover

- National context
- Relevant legislation
- Coastal access rights in detail
- The process & timescales

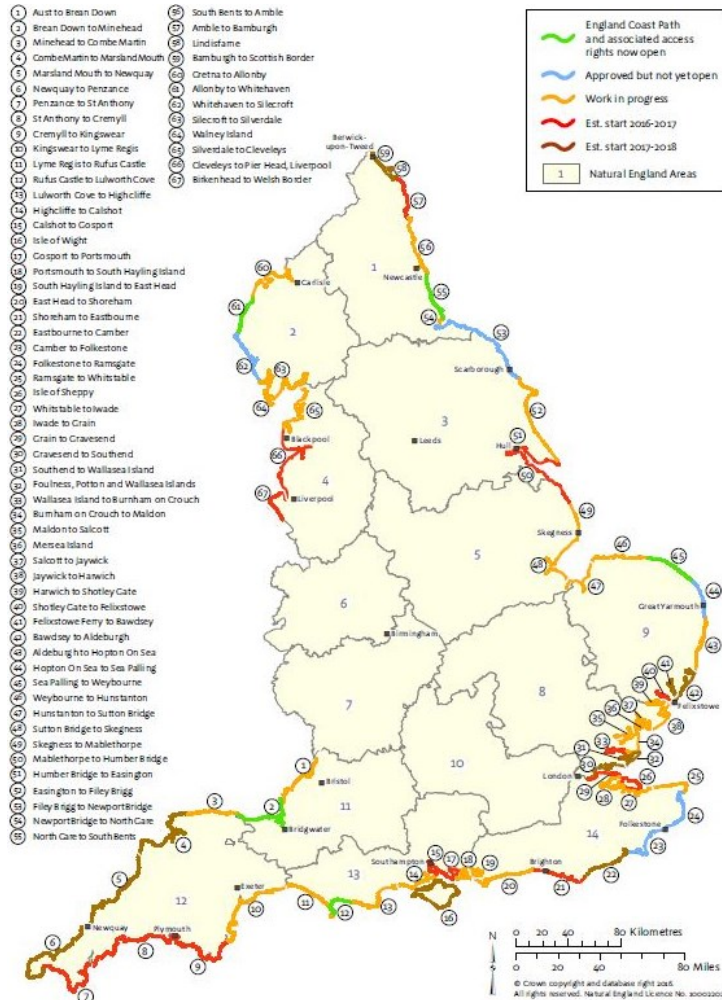


“I’m pleased to announce today that the government will be putting the funding in place to ensure the path is completed by 2020.”

Nick Clegg, DPM, 3rd September 2014



The ECP Delivery Model



An expanded team:

- 8 area-based 'Hubs'
- Small national team

Target to deliver:

- 65 stretches over 5 years

0 20 40 80 Kilometres
0 20 40 80 Miles
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North East Hub



Open:

- North Gare to South Bents

Approved:

- Filey Brigg to Newport Bridge

Work in progress:

- Skegness to Mablethorpe
- Easington to Filey Brigg
- Newport Bridge to North Gare
- South Bents to Amble

To start:

- Mablethorpe to Humber Bridge
- Humber Bridge to Easington
- Amble to Bamburgh
- Bamburgh to Scottish Borders
- Lindisfarne

Relevant Legislation



Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

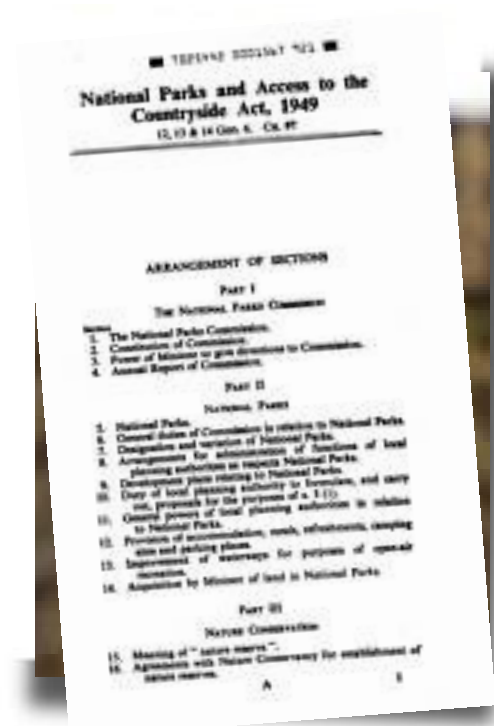
- Sets the core duties for Natural England working with Access Authorities to improve public access to and enjoyment of the English coastline
- Aim to create a clear and consistent walking route and associated coastal margin
- Customises the acts below for use on the coast:

■ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Provides the access rights and control regime

■ National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949

Provides the path alignment powers and the extra new powers



Coastal Access Duty



“**Walking** route for whole English coast - the England Coast Path (ECP) and associated coastal “margin” accessible on foot.

Coastal Access: Approved Scheme 2013

Statutory guidance we follow

- Key criteria and features:
 - Safety, convenience of path
 - Path near to coast and views of the sea
 - Continuity – minimum interruption
 - Use of existing walked lines
 - Aim to strike a fair balance between public and private interests
 - Uniquely low occupiers’ liability



Key Terms and Features



- The trail
- The coastal margin (or the margin)
- Excepted land
- Spreading room
- Roll-back
- National rules and local management arrangements



The Trail



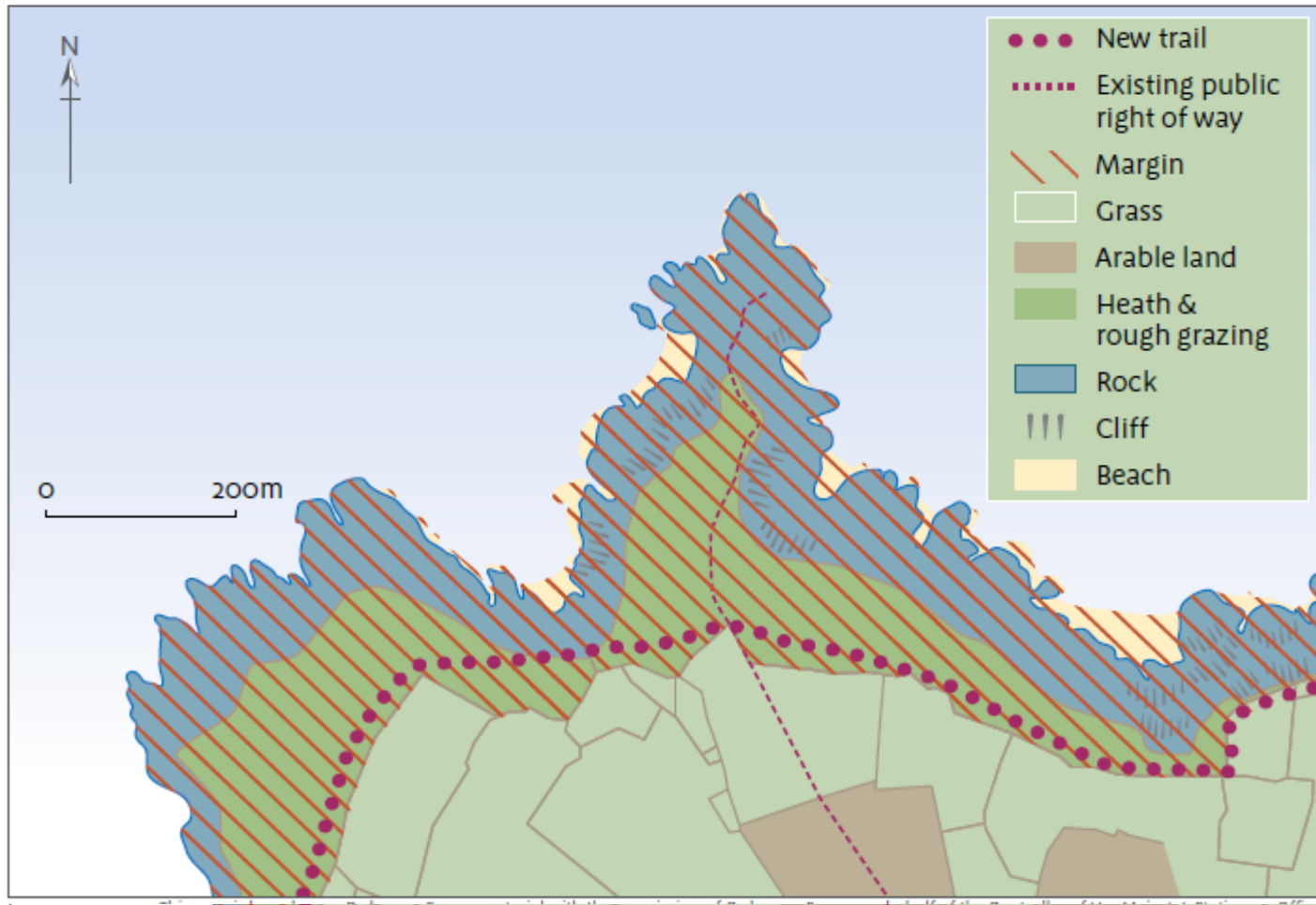
- Path that the route follows
- Usually will follow an existing walked line on the ground
- Approval by Secretary of State of route proposals in stretch reports
 - Creation on new public rights that are not currently PRow
 - National trail status
 - Land 2m either side of the route (4m wide)
- Open-air recreation on foot
- Higher access rights retained where they already exist

The Coastal Margin



- Corridor of coastal land incorporating the trail
- Includes land seaward of the trail
- Can include specific land types landward of the trail
- Discretionary power to extend landward boundary
- Existing rights (public rights of way; Section 15 land); and new rights (“coastal access rights”)
- Includes land that is not accessible: ‘excepted land’ and land ‘excluded’ by direction

Landward and Seaward Margins



Excepted Land



Categories of land which are **excepted** from the coastal access rights under Schedule 1 of CROW include, eg:

- Land covered by buildings or the curtilage of such land
- Parks and gardens
- Port facilities, oil terminals, industrial facilities
- Military firing ranges

Excepted, with provision for an access strip:

- Ploughed, sown or planted land (within previous 12 months)
- Golf courses
- Regulated caravan or camping sites
- Land which is, or forms part of, a burial ground

Spreading Room



Any land within the margin, other than the trail itself, which has public access rights

It includes;

- Land with coastal access rights (unless subject to long-term exclusions)
- Section 15 land

Margin

-

Trail

-

Excepted
land

-

Land with
long-term
exclusions

=

**Spreading
room**

Roll Back



- Allows the path to be moved as the coast changes
- Potential roll back identified through Shoreline Management Plans
- Future-proofs the ECP

These changes may result due to;

- Erosion of the coast or breach of coastal defences
- Strategy of managed realignment/non-intervention



**Any
questions?**

National Restrictions



- No vehicles (other than mobility vehicles)
- No horses and cycles (hence rights only on foot)*
- No camping, lighting fires
- Dogs
 - New national requirement for dogs to be ‘under effective control’
 - No national requirement for dogs on short leads from 1st March to 31st July, but must be on leads “in the vicinity of livestock”

Local Management



For the purposes of:

- Land management, fire prevention, nature conservation, heritage, national defence, public safety (eg. saltmarsh or flats)

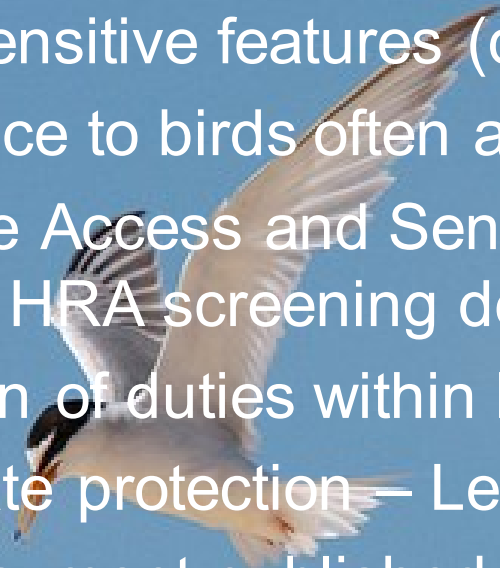
Provisions to enable continuity:

- Alignment solutions: Alternative routes, temporary routes (seasonal)
- Informal management techniques:
- Local restrictions and exclusions: permanent, seasonal, area based

Approach to Nature Conservation



- Identify sensitive features (designated/non-designated)
- Disturbance to birds often a principle concern
- Undertake Access and Sensitive Features Appraisal (ASFA) = HRA screening decision (LSE)
- Separation of duties within NE
- Appropriate protection – Least restrictive option
- ASFA document published alongside coastal access report to Secretary of State



The Process and Engagement



1 Prepare (Autumn 2016)

- Talk to local stakeholders and interest groups to identify main issues and opportunities
- Write to all potentially affected landowners/interests

2 Develop

- Work with Access Authority to define a route in consultation with owners /occupiers

3 Propose

- Finalise proposals/maps in consultation with owners, stakeholders and Access Authority
- Publish report to SoS
- Invite objections and representations

4 Determine

- Adjudication of objections received
- SoS decision to approve with or without modification

5 Open

- Establishment works
- Approved map published and route opened

In Summary



- The **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009**, establishes the new **coastal access duty** - to establish a **long-distance walking route** around the English coast, and to identify land beside it, the **coastal margin**, which should be accessible to the public on foot
- Natural England follows statutory guidance, the **Coastal Access Scheme**, when discharging the coastal access duty
- The approach aims to **balance private and public interests** together **with nature conservation**
- Work to start on The Humber autumn 2016

**Any
further
questions?**



www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-improving-public-access-to-the-coast