

# ACCESS NEWSLETTER

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## Update On Marine And Coastal Access Bill

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill was introduced to the House of Commons on 9 June, having completed its passage through the House of Lords with Third Reading on 8 June. The second reading debate in the Commons took place on 23 June and it will now be debated in Committee. The Bill is expected to receive Royal Assent in the Autumn.

A number of amendments were made to the Bill during its passage through the Lords including amendments to Part 9 on coastal access. The main changes to the coastal access provisions were to clarify the intended role for local authorities in implementation; and to provide for a review by an appointed person of objections made on Natural England's proposals.

More detail on coastal access, including on these and other changes made to the Bill, can be found at

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/access/access-coast.htm>

Further information on the Bill overall can be found on the Defra website at

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/legislation/index.htm>

A revised version of the Bill as amended by the House of Lords and the explanatory notes has been published and can be found at <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/marineandcoastalaccess.html>

If you have any queries please write to [coastal.access@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:coastal.access@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## Recent Updates To LAF Guidance

Huw Irranca-Davies recently wrote to all local highway authority Chief Executives, and all Local Access Forums, to highlight the importance of the work the Forums carry out. In the letter he acknowledged the hard work that people have done as members of Forums.

He also highlighted the need for bodies receiving advice from Forums to be aware of the value of their advice and set out how the role of Forums may develop in the future. This letter, along with further information and Guidance issued by the Secretary of State about the role and work of Forums, is available at [www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/access/crow/local-access-forums.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/access/crow/local-access-forums.htm).

This Guidance has recently been updated to reflect a few technical changes and recent developments; Defra has written to all Forums to notify them of the modifications. As this was not a comprehensive review of the Guidance, hard copies have not been reissued. However, the letter ([www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/pdf/access/crow/20090528laf-guideletter.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/pdf/access/crow/20090528laf-guideletter.pdf)) shows at a glance, what changes have been made and can be inserted into existing hard copies of the Guidance to ensure readers are aware of the amendments.