

ACCESS NEWSLETTER

Issue 49

1 April 2011

Coastal Access – New consultation launched!

Consultation on proposed regulations for appeals against works notices, exclusions or restrictions of access and dedication of land

Part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access (MCA) Act 2009 provides the framework for establishing a new public right of access to the English coast. It will achieve this through the creation of a continuous long-distance walking route along the length of the English coast, together with associated areas of wider coastal land (“spreading room”), which will be accessible for the purposes of open-air recreation.

Today (1 April 2011) we launched a public consultation seeking your views on our proposals for a number of pieces of secondary legislation that are needed to facilitate implementation of the new access right. There are:

- Regulations for appeals under paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 20 to the MCA Act 2009 against notices given under paragraph 3(3) of that Schedule, and “means of access” appeals under section 38 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000;
- Regulations for the making of exclusions or restrictions of access on coastal land; and
- Regulations which will allow a landowner or long leaseholder to be able to dedicate land on or adjacent to the coastal margin as coastal margin under section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

You can read and download a copy of our consultation document at:

www.defra.gov.uk/consult/coastal-access-1104/

We have prepared a response template which you may find helpful for submitting your comments, but responses in any format are welcome. Responses should be sent by **email** to: coast.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk or by **post** to: Coastal Access, 109 Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EB.

The final date for receipt of responses is **Friday 24 June 2011**.

Natural England publishes its Weymouth Bay report

On 22 March 2011 Natural England published and submitted to the Secretary of State its coastal access report for Weymouth Bay, Dorset. The report sets out Natural England’s proposals under the MCA Act 2009 for improving public access along a 30km stretch of English coast between Portland and Lulworth. The publication of the report follows Natural

England's public consultation on its draft Weymouth Bay proposals which closed on 10 January 2011. A number of changes were made as a result of responses to the consultation and included in the final proposals.

Copies of Natural England's report can be viewed and downloaded from its website at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/places/coastalaccess/default.aspx>. The report can also be viewed at certain local authority offices, libraries and tourist information centres in the Weymouth area (please see Natural England's website for more details).

Any representations and objections must be received by Natural England no later than midnight on **Tuesday 17 May 2011** and must be made on the correct forms supplied by Natural England. These are available on its website, from the locations described above or can also be requested from Natural England's office at:

Enquiries - Weymouth Bay

Natural England

Temple Quay House

2 The Square

Bristol BS1 6EB

Telephone: 0300 060 2067

Email: weymouthcoastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk

Our aim is to have the new Weymouth Bay route in place in time for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games – where it will provide greater access for people to watch the sailing events to be held in the Weymouth Bay area.

Natural England announces next coastal stretches

Natural England has confirmed that, following detailed discussions with the access authorities involved, the start and end points of the next 5 stretches of English coast will be:

- Cumbria – Whitehaven to Allonby
- Hartlepool/Durham/Sunderland – South Bents (north of Sunderland) to Seaton Carew (south of Hartlepool)
- Norfolk – Weybourne (west of Sheringham) to Sea Palling (east of Happisburgh)
- Kent – Ramsgate to Folkestone
- Somerset – Minehead to Brean Down (near Weston-Super-Mare)

Work will start formally on these stretches in Spring 2011, once Natural England has finalised agreements with each of the relevant access authorities. Please check Natural England's website for the latest information about its activity around the English coast:

www.naturalengland.org.uk/coastalaccess

If you have any queries about the above, please email us at:

coastal.access@defra.gsi.gov.uk

