

ACCESS NEWSLETTER

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Access open on coastal stretches in Cumbria and Durham, Hartlepool and Sunderland

The new right of coastal access was opened on a stretch of the coast between Allonby and Whitehaven, Cumbria and between North Gare and South Bents (Durham, Hartlepool and Sunderland) on Friday 11 April 2014. Two Orders were made to bring the rights into force:

- Access to the Countryside (Coastal Margin) (Cumbria) Order 2014 No. 851 is available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2014/851>
- Access to the Countryside (Coastal Margin) (Durham, Hartlepool and Sunderland) Order 2014 No. 846 is available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2014/846>

Norfolk coastal access report approved

The Secretary of State has approved Natural England's coastal access proposals for a stretch of the English coast between Sea Palling and Weybourne, Norfolk. A copy of the statutory notice made under section 52 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coastal-access-section-52-notice-for-sea-palling-to-weybourne>

Progress on the Deregulation Bill

The rights of way reform package in the Deregulation Bill has now completed its Committee Stage in the House of Commons. The Bill now moves on to Report Stage Third Reading before going on to the House of Lords.

Information on the Bill and the amendments made to it during its passage through the House of Commons is available on the Parliament website at: <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/deregulation.html>

Local Access Forum Annual Report 2012 - 2013

Natural England has published its national Local Access Forum annual report (April 2012 - March 2013) compiled from the annual reports which it has received from the 85 local access forums (“forums”) in England. The annual report (and last year’s report) is available at:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5396568156930048?category=211280>

Natural England has commented:

“In comparing this report with last year’s first annual report the quantity and breadth of activities has increased with a number of forums reporting that they had initiated or contributed to the engagement of volunteers to undertake path maintenance and improvement work. The report makes a number of references to forums being directly involved in the delivery of an improved network - whether that be by contributing advice to a Paths for Communities scheme or practical initiatives to waymark routes or remove stiles. The report includes several references to forums working with Local Nature Partnerships, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Health Boards. All of these achievements are within the context of leaner times which suggests that forums are delivering good value to local authorities by finding new ways to deliver better access such as through volunteer workforces and by applying for external funds”

The report also notes that many forums have raised issues about feeling poorly supported by their local authorities who have less money to fund both the running of forums as well as smaller budgets to manage and improve access.

Defra Minister Dan Rogerson has responded to the report by writing to the forums thanking them for all their many achievements and looking forward to their continued achievements in the future.

There is more information on local access forums on Natural England’s website at: <http://www.naturalengland.gov.uk/ourwork/access/laf/>

If you have any queries about any of the above, please email us at:
coast.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk