

ACCESS NEWSLETTER

Issue 70

September 2015

Three more coastal access reports approved

Last year Natural England submitted to the Secretary of State coastal access reports with proposals for three stretches of the coast:

- on 19 September 2014 a report for the 29 mile (47 km) stretch of the coast between Camber and Folkestone, Kent;
- on 29 September 2014 a report for the 21 mile (34 km) stretch of the coast between Hopton-on-Sea and Sea Palling, Norfolk; and
- on 15 October 2014 a report for the 32 mile (51 km) stretch of the coast between Whitehaven and Silecroft, Cumbria.

The Secretary of State has decided to approve Natural England's proposals in each of these reports. The Secretary of State's decisions are outlined in the notices published under section 52 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. The notices for the stretches in [Kent](#), [Norfolk](#) and [Cumbria](#) are available on gov.uk.

Somerset coastal access report variation

On 24 September 2015 Natural England published a report proposing a variation to two sections of the approved coastal route in Somerset at Dunball Wharf and St Audries Bay. The report has been published on gov.uk website and is available [here](#).

Objections and representations should be received by Natural England no later than **17.00pm on Thursday 19 November 2015**.

All objections and representations will be considered before the Secretary of State makes a final decision about the proposed variations.

Local Access Forum newsletter – Issue 7

Natural England has published Issue 7 of LAF news which contains articles about:

- the Deregulation Act 2015;
- the British Horse Society/Natural England bridle-gate trial;
- Network Rail level crossings programme ;
- pointers on liaising with Local Enterprise Partnerships ; and
- LAF's successful campaign to improve walkers and riders' safety on a busy trunk road.

The newsletter is available [here](#).

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

Transfer of rights of way case work functions from Government Office North East to the Planning Inspectorate

Following the decision by the Government to abolish all of the regional Government Offices, all rights of way casework currently carried out by the National Rights of Way Casework Team in the Government Office North East (GONE) will transfer to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol.

Therefore from **1 February 2011** any new appeals and new requests for directions under Schedule 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 should be referred to the Planning Inspectorate. In addition, orders under sections 247, 251 and 261 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 will also now be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate from that date.

For Schedule 14 appeal cases, the Planning Inspectorate will be issuing inspector's decisions on behalf of the Secretary of State; previously inspector's reports were issued alongside a decision letter.

Any existing casework currently with GONE still outstanding on 1 February will transfer from them to the Planning Inspectorate and all interested parties will be notified of the transfer.

The Planning Inspectorate will not become fully operational until 4 April 2011. However, new cases submitted will be duly received and acknowledged, and existing cases may have an inspector's decision issued before that time if completed.

It should be noted that the transfer of this work relates to rights of way functions only (i.e. matters for the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and that the handling of National Transport casework is a matter for the Department for Transport (DfT). Information on transport casework handled by DfT can be found at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/casework

