

ACCESS NEWSLETTER

Issue 41

September 2009

Marine and Coastal Access Bill

Publication of consultation on amendments to CROW for coastal land

On 8 September 2009 Defra published a public consultation on proposals to amend the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 as it will apply to coastal access land.

The new right of access to the coast provided for in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill includes provision for an Order to be made to amend the CROW Act for coastal land. The amendments we are proposing in the consultation will ensure that coastal land is included within the CROW Act's description of land to which the public has a right of access for the purposes of open-air recreation. A number of other amendments are also proposed, including:

- Changes to the provisions for restrictions and exclusions
- Changes to the categories of excepted land in Schedule 1
- Changes to the general restrictions in Schedule 2

You can read a copy of the consultation at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/coastal-access/index.htm> . We have also prepared a response template that you may find helpful in submitting your comments.

Responses should be sent by email to: coast.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk or by post to: Coastal Access team, 1/01 Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EB.

The final date for receipt of responses is **Tuesday 1 December 2009**.

If you have any queries on the above, please write to: coast.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Reminder of closing date:
Consultation on the membership of the future South Downs National Park Authority

This consultation (which was published on 16 July 2009) seeks your views on the membership of the future South Downs National Park Authority.

Defra proposes that the overall size of the Authority should be between 29 and 37 members. It also proposes that (depending on the overall size) there should be from 15 to 19 local authority members; from 8 to 10 national members; and from 6 to 8 parish members.

The full consultation paper can be found on the Defra website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/south-downs-membership/consultation-document.pdf .

Comments are invited by **Friday 9 October 2009**.

The application process for the Secretary of State appointed members to the South Downs National Park Authority commenced on 1 September. These appointments are, of course, subject to the outcome of the consultation and subsequent parliamentary approval.

For further information about these vacancies, please refer to: www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/protected-areas/national-parks/about-npa.htm