

ACCESS NEWSLETTER

Issue 44

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Coastal Access – New consultation launched!

Consultation on regulations on procedures for making representations and objections to coastal access proposals made in a report by Natural England

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 received Royal Assent on 12 November 2009. Part 9 of the Act sets out the Government's proposals for improving access to the English coast.

Schedule 19 to the Act introduces a new Schedule 1A into the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Schedule 1A enables a number of regulations to be made about the process by which people may make representations or objections about Natural England's coastal access proposals. Objections made by a person with a relevant interest in affected land may be referred to an "appointed person" for consideration.

Yesterday we launched a public consultation seeking your views on our proposals for the regulations. You can read a copy of the consultation document at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/coastal-access2010/index.htm>.

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 team, 1/01 Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6EB.

The final date for receipt of responses is **Monday 14 June 2010**.

The Access to the Countryside (Coastal Margin) (England) Order 2010

Part 9 of the MCA Act includes provision for an Order to be made to make changes to the existing provisions in the CROW Act 2000 as they apply to coastal land (the existing provisions will remain in place for other access land). Following a public consultation on the proposed content of the Order (see Access newsletter issue 41), The Access to the Countryside (Coastal Margin) (England) Order 2010 was laid before Parliament on 20 January 2010. Following debate in the House of Lords on 9 February and in the House of Commons on 23 February, the Order was approved by both Houses on 24 February. It will come into force on 6 April 2010.

- A copy of the Order and an explanatory memorandum can be viewed at:
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si201005>

South Downs National Park update

The Order confirming the South Downs as a National Park comes into force on 31 March 2010. From this date, the National Park will be in existence and both the East Hampshire and Sussex Downs Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be revoked.

The Order to establish the National Park Authority is currently before Parliament and is due to come into force on 24 March. This will enable the National Park Authority to be established from 1 April 2010 (it will take on its full functions a year later, on 1 April 2011).

- A copy of the establishment Order can be viewed at:
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/pdf/uksi_20100497_en.pdf

English National Parks and the Broads UK Government Vision and Circular 2010

We held a public consultation seeking views on proposals for a new National Park Circular and Vision between 13 November 2009 and 5 February 2010. Respondents provided many helpful comments and we amended the draft Circular and Vision as a result.

The English National Parks and the Broads UK Government Vision and Circular 2010 was published on 18 March and can be viewed at: <http://defra.gov.uk/rural/national-parks/index.htm>

A summary of responses, outlining the main points raised by respondents to the consultation, together with the Government's response to them and an explanation of changes made to the draft Circular and Vision can be viewed at:
<http://defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/nationalpark/index.htm>