

Access to the English Coast

NATURAL
ENGLAND



Coastal Access



- Staffing
- Brief background to the Coastal Access Programme
- Changes to Delivery model since 2009
- Principles of stretch selection
- The Implementation Process
- How the route is Aligned
- Update on work in Norfolk

- We have established one Natural England team to deliver coastal access comprising;
 - 5 delivery teams
 - A small central enabling team
- Each delivery team comprises 3 roles
 - Senior Adviser (Sally Fishwick)
 - Lead Adviser (Diana Curtis)
 - Adviser (Jonathan Clarke)

Background



- The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 which enables Coastal Access received Royal Assent on 12th November 2009.
- The Coastal Access Scheme which outlines how it will be delivered received SoS approval in March 2010. Currently under review.
- Implementation has begun on the Weymouth stretch, this was completed for the Olympics in 2012.
- There is currently 1 completed stretch 10 and underway, including 2 in Norfolk.

New Coastal Access Delivery Model



- The delivery model has evolved with a change of Government, the economic climate and in light of delivery.
- Ambition is to deliver the new right of public access over 40% of the coast within 10 years.

We hope start work on c 150 km of CA each year.

Activity will be tailored to available resources

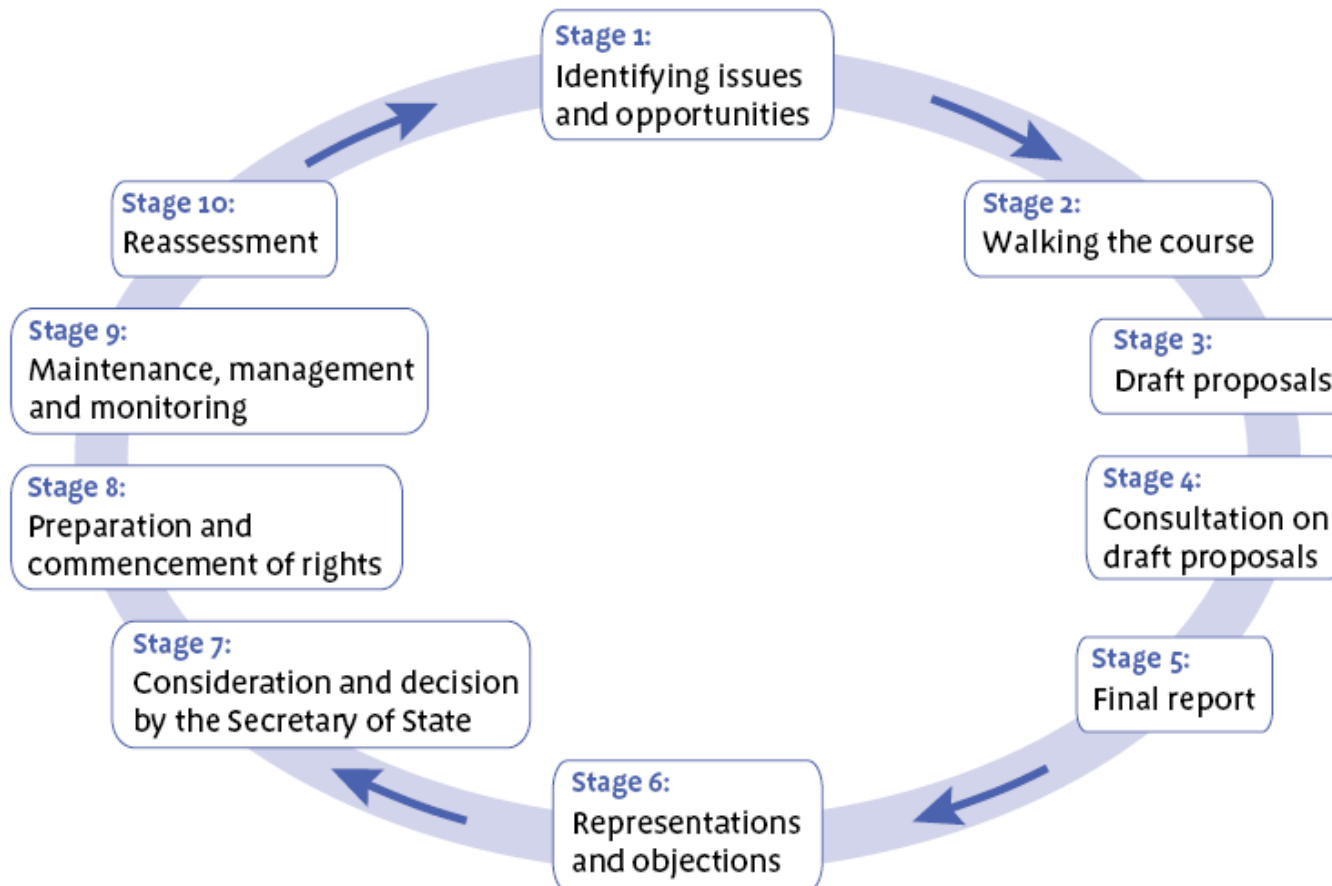
- Landward spreading room will only be designated where the landowner offers it voluntarily.
- We will not create “dual paths” we will propose to adopt existing walked routes where suitable.

The Principles of Stretch Selection



- New stretches will be next to stretches already commenced or completed.
- Having started an Access Authority's area, we should normally finish it.
- End points will be easy to describe, recognised on the ground and straightforward to reach.
- We will avoid bisecting Natura 2000 sites.
- Estuaries may form part of more than 1 stretch but decisions about crossing point will be made with delivery of first stretch, based on an overview of the whole estuary.

Implementation process



Implementation Process



- It takes roughly 3 years for each stretch to be delivered
- Delivery is undertaken in partnership with the local access authority
- The implementation process is strongly consultative
 - Key stakeholders invited to identify opportunities and issues at outset
 - Specialists consulted on designated land
 - Walk The Course with owner/occupier
 - 12 week consultation at draft stage
 - 8 week consultation at final report stage
- Independent inspector considers representations and objections
- The Secretary of State makes the final decision

Alignment



- Done in consultation with owners and occupiers and informed by initial assessments of designated sites.
- The pros and cons of all alignment options are considered.
- Trail may adopt an existing PRow, a permissive or de-facto walked line or we might create a fresh 'line' - giving people the right of coastal access.
- The trail defines the seaward spreading room.
- We consider inland spreading room where offered voluntarily.
- Certain land uses are “excepted” from coastal access rights or only allow rights on an access strip across them.

Example Alignment



Principles of Alignment cont'd



- The route we propose must be;
- Safe ,direct and pleasant to walk.
- Ideally it will adhere to periphery of coast & provide sea views.
- Interruptions to the route will be minimised.
- Alignment will protect the coastal environment.
- The route will be responsive to coastal change.

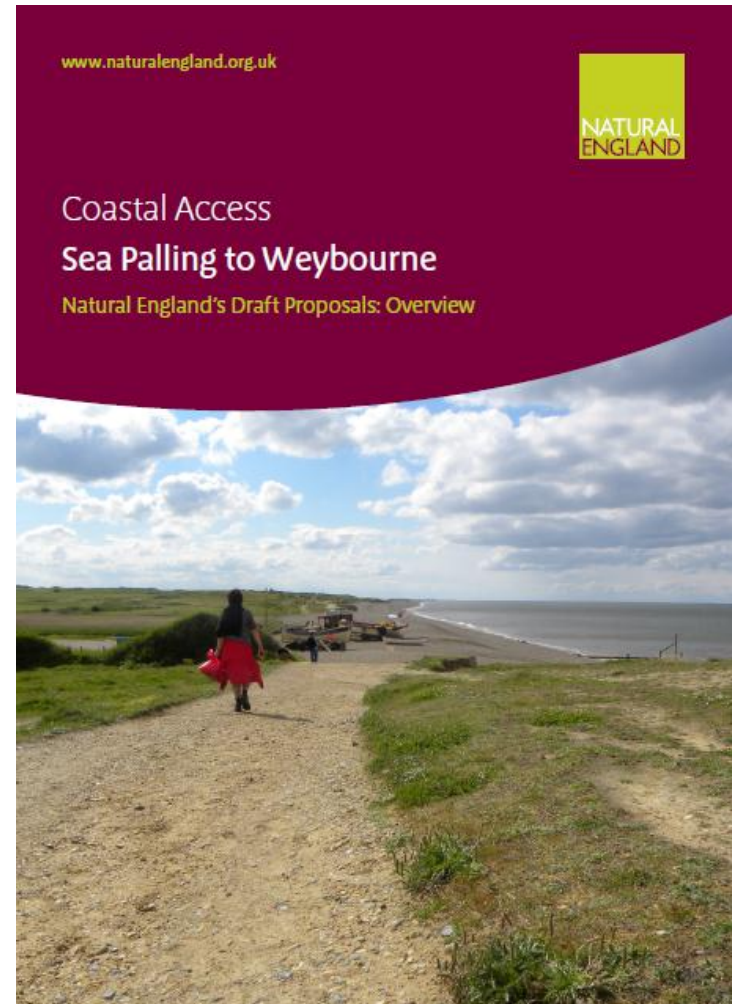
Stretch 1: Sea Palling to Weybourne



Progress to date



- Draft proposals, published on Monday 15th October
- Notified: affected landowners, statutory consultees and interest groups, and advertised in North Norfolk News
- Inviting comments by **5pm Friday 11th January 2013**



Stretch 2: Hopton-on-Sea to Sea Palling



- Gathering landownership details.
- Identifying issues and opportunities.
- Assessing designated sites.
- Starting Walking the Course with Landowners January 2013.

Future stretches



- We aim to complete coastal access in Norfolk before moving on.
- 2 stretches are underway and there are 2 more stretches to undertake.
- Decisions about future stretches will be informed by stakeholders and taken in the light of available resources.
- LAFs are encouraged to clarify their aspirations for coastal access, identifying both issues and opportunities to feed into the process.

Questions & Discussion

