

The England Coast Path

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What are we going to cover?

- National context
- Background and legislation
- Coastal access rights in detail
- Coastal access on the Lincolnshire coast

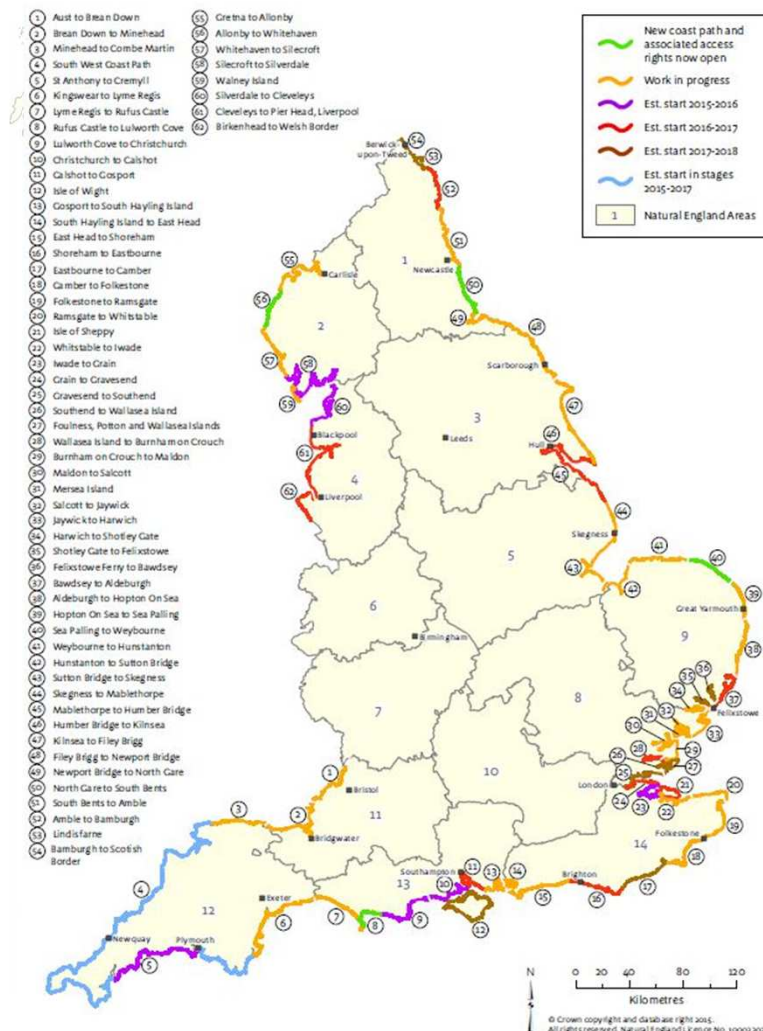


***“I’m pleased to announce today that the government
will be putting the funding in place to ensure
the path is completed by 2020.”***

Nick Clegg, DPM, 3rd September 2014



The ECP Delivery model



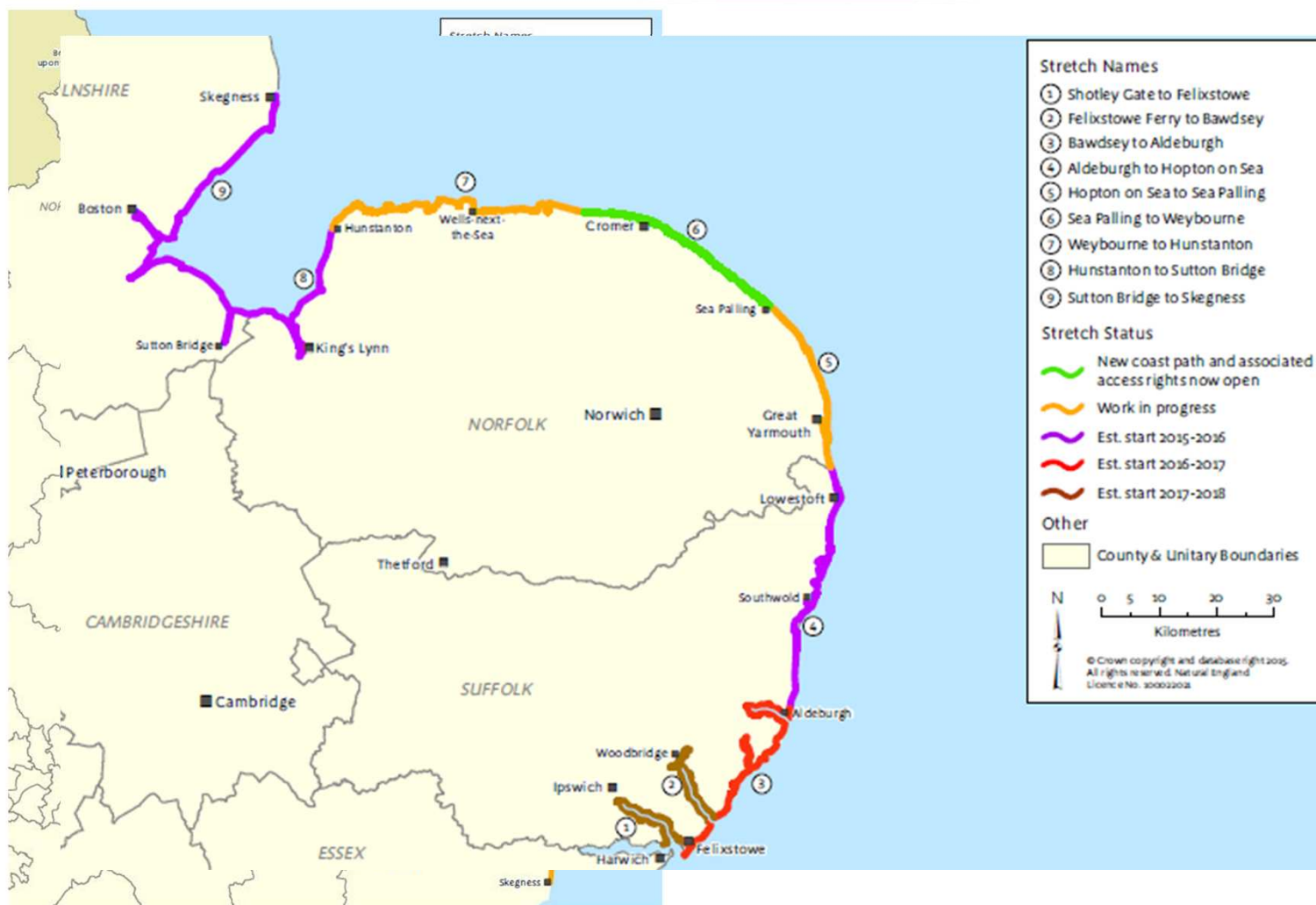
An expanded team:

- 8 area-based 'Hubs'
- Small national team

Target to deliver:

- 65 stretches over 5 years

North East and East hubs



Our advice to Government in 2007



- Postcode lottery of rights at present and of management standards
- Huge variety of different coastal situations
- That user certainty and confidence is key
- Arrangements must be future-proof and flexible
- A need for national momentum, local involvement...



Based on this we concluded that...



- Existing legal mechanisms can't address all this
- Need to combine their best features in a new customised law for coast
- Secure and consistent coastal access corridor
- Mix of old and new path + 'spreading room'
- Statutory methodology
- New powers of path rollback and realignment



Relevant legislation



Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

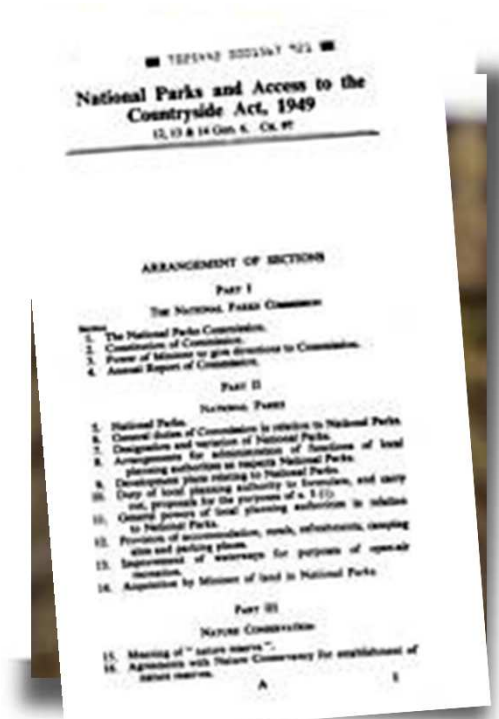
- Sets the core duties for Natural England working with Access Authorities to improve public access to and enjoyment of the English coastline
- Aim to create a clear and consistent walking route and associated coastal margin
- Customises the acts below for use on the coast:

■ Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Provides the access rights and control regime

■ National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949

Provides the path alignment powers and the extra new powers



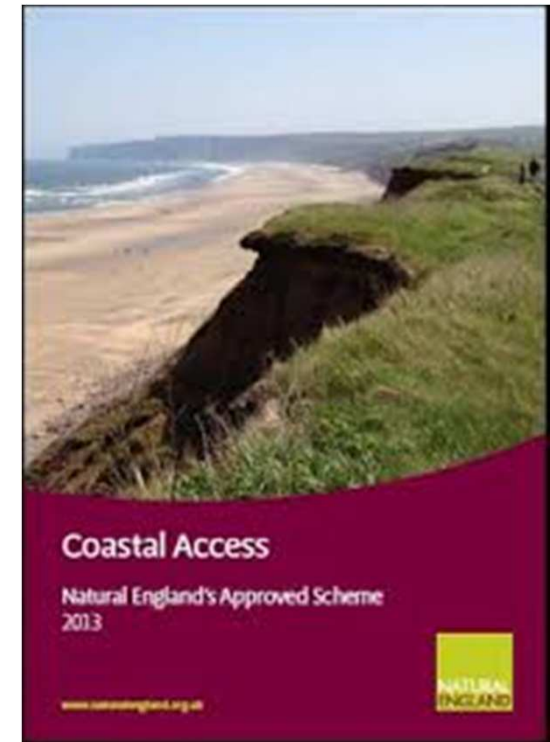
Coastal Access Duty



“**Walking** route for whole English coast - the England Coast Path (ECP) and associated coastal “**margin**” accessible on foot.

Coastal Access: Approved Scheme 2013

- Statutory guidance we follow.
- Key criteria and features:
 - Safety, convenience of path
 - Path near to coast and views of the sea
 - Continuity – minimum interruption
 - Use of existing walked lines
 - Aim to strike a fair balance between public and private interests
 - Uniquely low occupiers’ liability



Key terms and features



- The trail
- The coastal margin (or the margin)
- Excepted land
- Spreading room
- Roll-back
- National rules and local management arrangements



The trail



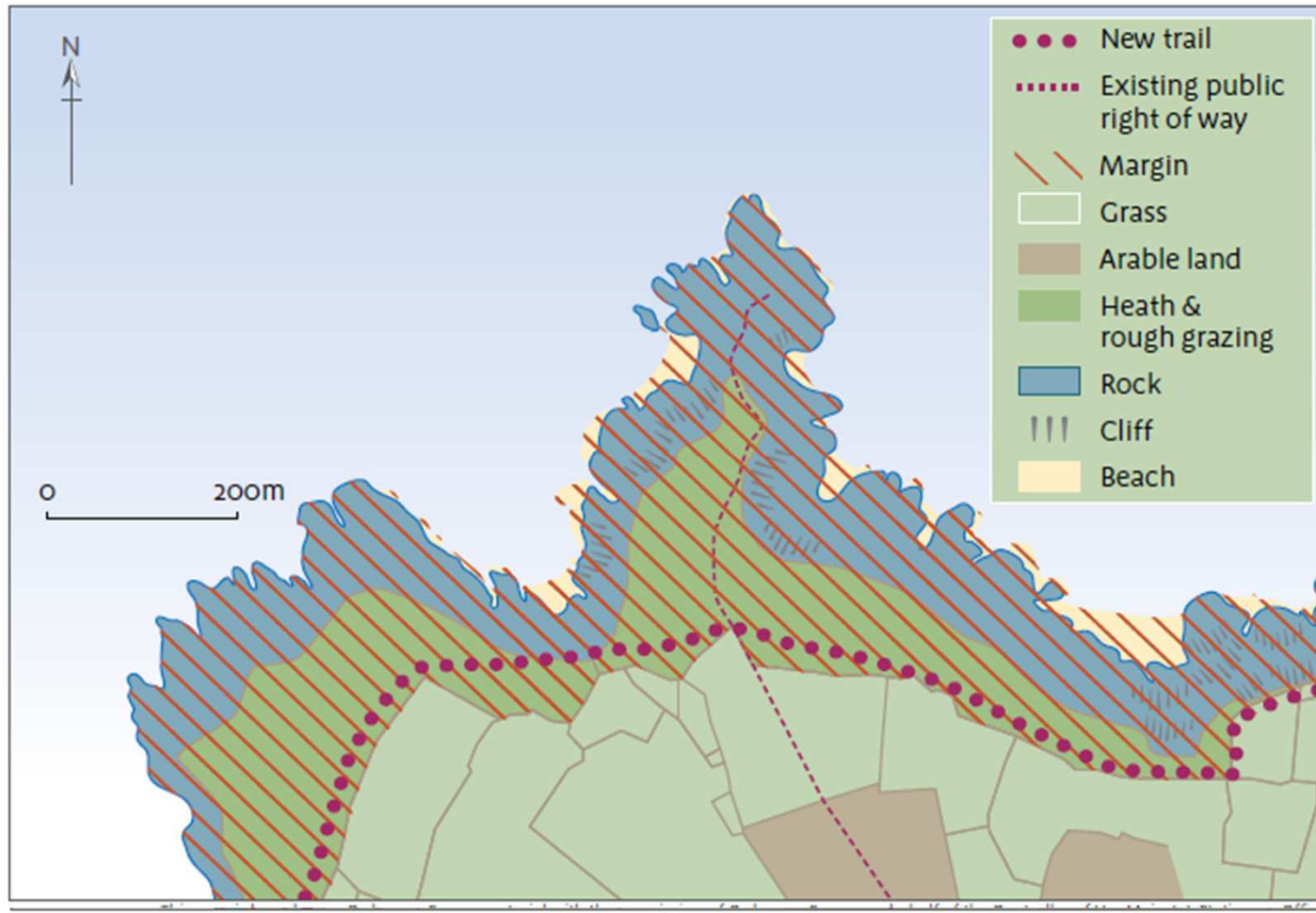
- Path that the route follows
- Usually will follow an existing walked line on the ground
- Approval by Secretary of State of route proposals in stretch reports
 - Creation on new public rights that are not currently PRow
 - National trail status
 - Land 2m either side of the route (4m wide)
- Open-air recreation on foot
- Higher access rights retained where they already exist

The coastal margin



- Corridor of coastal land incorporating the trail
- Includes land seaward of the trail
- Can include specific land types landward of the trail
- Discretionary power to extend landward boundary
- Existing rights (public rights of way; Section 15 land); and new rights (“coastal access rights”)
- Includes land that is not accessible: ‘excepted land’ and land ‘excluded’ by direction

Landward and seaward margins



Excepted Land



Categories of land which are **excepted** from the coastal access rights under Schedule 1 of CROW include, e.g.:

- Land covered by buildings or the curtilage of such land
- Parks and gardens
- Highways including PRow

Excepted, with provision for an access strip:

- Ploughed, sown or planted land (within previous 12 months)
- Golf courses
- Regulated caravan or camping sites
- Land which is, or forms part of, a burial ground

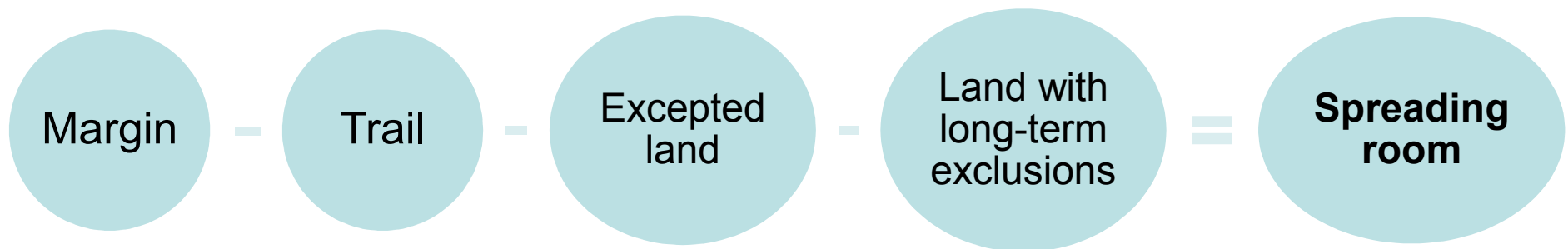
Spreading room



Any land within the margin, other than the trail itself, which has public access rights

It includes;

- Land with coastal access rights (unless subject to long-term exclusions)
- Section 15 land



Roll back of the trail



- Allows the path to be moved as the coast changes
- Potential roll back identified through Shoreline Management Plans
- Future-proofs the ECP

These changes may result due to;

- Erosion of the coast or breach of coastal defences
- Strategy of managed realignment/non-intervention

National restrictions



- Vehicles (other than mobility vehicles)
- Horses and cycles (hence rights only on foot)*
- Camping, lighting fires
- Dogs
 - New national requirement for dogs to be ‘under effective control’
 - No national requirement for dogs on short leads from 1st March to 31st July, but must be on leads “in the vicinity of livestock”

Local restrictions and exclusions



For the purposes of:

- Land management
- Fire prevention
- Nature conservation
- Heritage
- National defence
- Public safety, e.g. saltmarsh or flats

Provisions to enable continuity:

- Alternative routes
- Temporary routes

Affect on existing access rights



Coastal access rights apply to:

Land without any existing public access rights

CROW land in coastal margin
(instead of current rights)

Land with existing permissive access rights
(which may continue in parallel)

Coastal rights don't apply to:

Public rights of way
(treated as excepted land,
for as long as they exist)

Section 15 land on coast,
e.g. urban commons
(we can still manage paths there)

Core principle: CROW restrictions may only affect the new rights

In summary



- The **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009**, establishes the new **coastal access duty** - to establish a **long-distance walking route** around the English coast, and to identify land beside it, the **coastal margin**, which should be accessible to the public on foot
- Natural England follows statutory guidance, the **Coastal Access Scheme**, when discharging the coastal access duty
- The approach aims to balance private and public interests together with nature conservation

Any
questions?



The England Coast Path

Sutton Bridge to Mablethorpe

Emily Ledder & Roger Gerry, Natural England

Sutton Bridge to Skegness



Key facts;

Length: 92 km

Start point: Sutton Bridge

End point: Skegness Pier

Contacts;

Roger Gerry

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Sutton Bridge to Skegness



- About 10km without existing RoW adjacent to the coast
- Mostly saltmarsh designated as SSSI/SAC/SPA/Ramsar to seaward side
- Long section with few existing facilities except in Boston & Skegness

Skegness to Mablethorpe



Key facts;

Length: 27 km

Start point: Skegness Pier

End point: North End car park

Contacts;

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Skegness to Mablethorpe



- About 9 km without existing RoW
- Long sections of promenade
- Provide link between Chapel Point and Huttoft Car Terrace, and Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park

Benefits and opportunities



- **Legally secure continuous route** – currently limited public rights of way in Lincolnshire
- Designated as a **National Trail (NT)** - clearly way-marked route managed to NT standards
- Access to **spreading room seaward of trail** to allow people to enjoy the area for resting, picnicking and other recreational activities
- **Linkages to existing attractions** - Lincolnshire Coastal Country Park and LWT Gibraltar Point
- **Access to quieter areas** of the coast and links between coastal towns
- **Support local businesses** who provide services for visitors and walkers
- **Improve health and wellbeing** of local community and visitors

The process and engagement



- 1 Prepare**
 - Talk to local stakeholders and interest groups to identify main issues and opportunities
 - Write to all potentially affected landowners/interests
- 2 Develop**
 - Work with Access Authority to define a route in consultation with owners /occupiers
- 3 Propose**
 - Finalise proposals/maps in consultation with owners, stakeholders and Access Authority
 - Publish report to SoS
 - Invite objections and representations
- 4 Determine**
 - Adjudication of objections received
 - SoS decision to approve with or without modification
- 5 Open**
 - Establishment works
 - Approved map published and route opened

Progress so far

Stage 1 Prepare - ongoing

- Meeting stakeholders
- Stretch familiarisation
- Gathering land ownership data
- Contact letters to landowners
- Drop-in sessions
 - 10 Nov Fosdyke (3-6pm)
 - 12 Nov Friskney (10.30-1.30pm)
 - 14 Nov Long Sutton (10-1 pm)
 - 15 Dec Anderby (3-7 pm)
 - 16 Dec Skegness (10-3pm)



Next steps



Stage 2 Develop – start early 2016

- Work closely with LAA
- Investigate alignment options by “walking the course”
- ‘Strike the balance’
- Undertake sensitive feature assessments

Stage 3 Propose – late 2016

Stage 4 Determine – mid 2017

Stage 5 Open – 2018

Any further questions?

www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-improving-public-access-to-the-coast



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