

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills - Executive Director for Environment & Economy**

Report to:	<b>Mid Lincolnshire Local Access Forum</b>
Date:	<b>18 July 2017</b>
Subject:	<b>English Coastal Path Update</b>

**Summary:** To provide an update on the development of the English Coastal Footpath.

**Recommendation(s):** That the report be noted.

## **1. Background**

Sutton Bridge to Skegness – Natural England continue to work with affected occupiers to secure a route. The key issues here remain the provision of access from Frampton to Gibraltar Point and also the need to cross the Steeping River at Gibraltar Point. Currently, the likely solution is to utilise the existing Internal Drainage Board bridge. However, this causes problems for conservation and for the Environment Agency. The natural route to the bridge will cause wildfowl disturbance across an area under national and European protection and will also traverse across an area subject to occasional flooding. It is expected that the report for this section will be prepared for early 2018.

Skegness to Mablethorpe – This short section has already been through the report process which received 14 representations. It is, therefore, now being submitted to the Secretary of State for ratification. It is considered highly likely that it will be approved without further inquiry. The key issue on this stretch was the alignment of the route along the beach as opposed to the path constructed by the Environment Agency as part of the rock armour sea defence which is now under the ownership and land parcel of North Shore Golf Course. The rationale for this route selection was that the golf course demonstrated that there was a safety aspect to walking the rock armour pathway which was diminished by walking in the beach. Natural England, as part of the official scheme guidance has to balance both the needs of the user and those of business interests and in this case determined that a short stretch of route on the beach was acceptable in the circumstances.

Mablethorpe to Humber Bridge – Natural England have begun work on assessing this stretch and have undertaken a brief paper based walk through as well as some site visits. The issues they are seeking to review are predominantly where to align the route at Donna Nook given the extensive seal population at specific times of the year and how to join access through Grimsby and Immingham.

## **2. Consultation**

### **a) Scrutiny Comments**

N/A

### **b) Executive Councillor Comments**

N/A

### **c) Local Member Comments**

N/A

### **d) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

N/A

## **3. Background papers**

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

More detailed information about Natural England's progress with the English Coastal Footpath can be obtained from their website. Progress reports have been submitted to previous meetings of the Forum and are available for viewing from Democratic Services, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln (email [steve.blagg@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:steve.blagg@lincolnshire.gov.uk) or Tel No. (01522) 553788

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