

English Coast Path Update

Section 1 – Sutton Bridge to Skegness

Currently is in the "report published" stage and open for consultation – To date I am aware that two objections to the route alignment have been made which will mean that the matter will need to be determined by the Secretary of State (through the Planning Inspectorate) to assess whether a "fair balance" has been struck. The impression given by Natural England was that the objections were unlikely to displace the currently proposed route alignment.

Once confirmed the County Council will undertake establishment works and signage. This will include works to clear sea buckthorn, install necessary gates and erect waymarks and signposts. The major piece of establishment work is the refurbishment of the existing Internal Drainage Board bridge at Gibraltar Point. This can only be done at certain times of the year due to the sensitivity of the site and its protected status. The route is planned to be available in early 2019.

Section 2 – Skegness to Mablethorpe

This short section of the route is in its establishment phase and some signage and works have already been completed. It was hoped that the route would be open by early summer but major construction works to build a link between to separate sections of promenade in Chapel St Leonards has been delayed. Unfortunately the works to the new North Sea Observatory were hampered by the recent easterly weather events and its opening is now delayed to early summer and as a consequence the car park for it will only have just re-opened and it would not be sensible to close half of it again for the promenade works during the summer tourist season. Works will commence in early September with a view to a path launch in mid-late Autumn.

Section 3 – Mablethorpe to Humber Bridge

For the LCC section route selection is progressing well with the owners of land now contacted. The key issue that requires to be resolved is the alignment of the route around Donna Nook to ensure that environmental concerns (regarding the seals) and MoD concerns for the bombing range are properly addressed and accounted for. It is expected that the report will be published later this year with a proposed launch date in 2019.

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