

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

# ACCESS NEWSLETTER

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## Royal Assent to the Deregulation Act 2015

On 26 March 2015 the rights of way provisions in the Deregulation Act 2015 received Royal Assent. A copy of the Act is [available](#).

This legislation is the first stage of a package of rights of way reforms, which aims to simplify and streamline the processes for recording and making changes to the public rights of way network. The rest of the reforms will now follow, taking the form of implementing regulations and guidance.

In order to maintain the balance of interests between the various stakeholders, all the elements of the reforms package will be brought into force on a common commencement date, rather than being introduced piecemeal.

### Background

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 introduced a cut-off date, whereby in 2026 all public rights of way already in existence in 1949 but not recorded on the definitive map would be extinguished. The intention was that this would both remove uncertainty for landowners, and provide an incentive to complete the definitive map. Defra recognised that the completion of the definitive map by 2026 under current arrangements was not feasible and that, if the definitive map was to be completed by 2026, a new approach was needed. Defra endorsed Natural England's proposal to work to develop a consensus among stakeholders about the best way forward, through an independently-chaired Stakeholder Working Group.

The Group met over a period of 18 months and reported in March 2010, with a package of 32 proposals to improve the current procedures for recording public rights of way.

The Government agreed to take forward most of the proposals, but also set out improvements in two key areas not within scope of the Working Group's terms of reference. These were: whether similar improvements should be applied to the legislative procedures for extinguishing, diverting and creating rights of way; and looking at how it could be made easier for landowners to progress proposals for the diversion or extinguishment of rights of way crossing their land (the landowners' 'right to apply').

## **Kent coastal access report – Ramsgate to Folkestone - approved**

On 23 March 2015 the Secretary of State announced that she had approved Natural England's coastal access proposals for the 37 mile (59km) stretch of the English coast between Ramsgate and Folkestone, Kent.

A copy of the statutory [notice](#) made under section 52 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 is available.

## **Kent coastal access report - Ramsgate to Whitstable - published**

On 25 March 2015 Natural England submitted its report and proposals to the Secretary of State for coastal access for the 25 mile (40km) stretch of the coast between Ramsgate and Whitstable, Kent.

Natural England has published the report along with information about how to make an objection or representation about the report. This is available on the gov.uk website at [report](#).

Objections and representations to the proposals must be received by Natural England not later than **5pm on 20 May 2015**.

## **North Yorkshire coastal access report - Filey Brigg to Newport Bridge - published**

On 26 March 2015 Natural England submitted its report and proposals to the Secretary of State for coastal access for the 70 mile (110km) stretch of the coast between Filey Brigg and Newport Bridge.

Natural England has published the report along with information about how to make an objection or representation about the report. This is available on the gov.uk website at [report](#).

Objections and representations to the proposals must be received by Natural England not later than **5pm on 21 May 2015**.

If you have any queries about the above, please email us at:  
[coast.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:coast.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk)