

England Coast Path

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- How we got here
- Plans to complete
- Benefits emerging



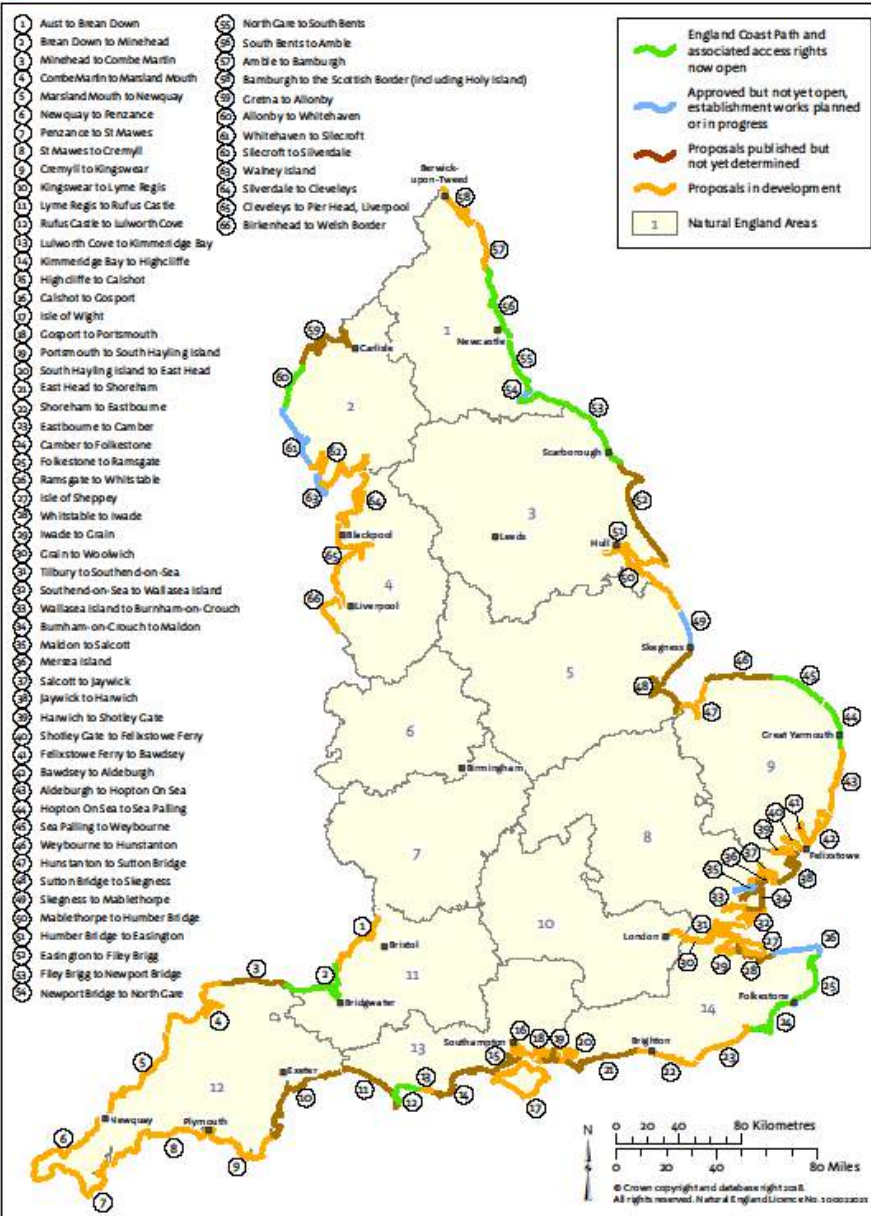
So what is the England Coast Path?

- The **Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009**, (Part 9) establishes the *coastal access duty* - to create 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.
- In discharging this duty we follow statutory guidance – the **Coastal Access Scheme**.
- This sets out an approach, which includes a statutory objections process, ensures that a balance is struck between the interests of those who own the land and the public in having new access rights over the land.
- It also enables us to respond to **coastal change** (*'roll back'*) and ensures protection of the **natural environment**.

A flock of approximately 15 birds, likely terns, is captured in flight against a hazy, golden sky. The birds are silhouetted against the light, showing their wings and long necks. Below them, the dark, choppy waves of the ocean are visible. In the far distance, a city skyline with several tall buildings is visible through the haze. The overall scene is serene and suggests a coastal or urban environment.

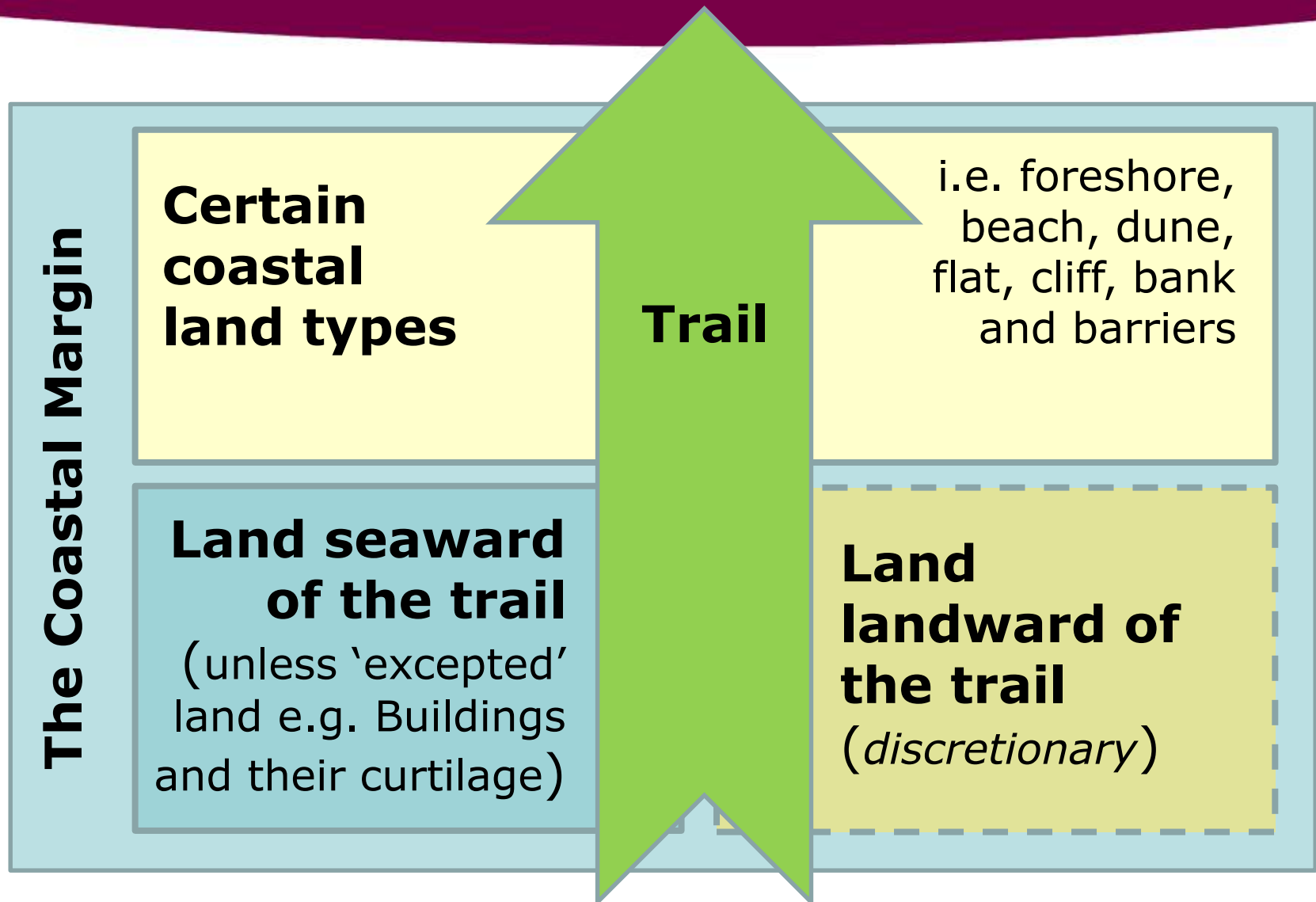
“I’m pleased to announce today that the government will be putting the funding in place to ensure the path is completed by 2020.”

DPM 3rd September 2014



We are all working to a detailed Programme Plan signed off by Defra and Cabinet Office which sets out the delivery of some 66 stretches over five years to meet the 2020 target.

The nature of the coastal access rights



The nature of the coastal access rights - excepted land



Excepted in full

- buildings, their curtilage, parks and gardens;
- land used for the purposes of a railway, racecourse or aerodrome;
- land used for statutory undertaking, although not flood defences;
- school playing field or associated land;
- land in use for mineral extraction;
- MOD land subject to byelaw; and
- land which is, or forms part of, a highway.

Excepted, but legislation allows for a route (only) to be proposed:

- arable land;
- golf course;
- a regulated caravan or camping site; and
- burial grounds.

The nature of the coastal access rights - balancing public & private interests



Public interest

- Proximity of the trail to the sea
- Views of the sea from the trail
- Safety and convenience
- Continuity of the trail

Private interest

- Operational needs
- Income
- Privacy
- Changes of use

- Enjoyment and protection of the natural environment
- Responsiveness to coastal change – ‘*roll back*’

The 5 stages of delivery



- **Prepare**
 - Sensitivities, extent of existing access, Key locations
- **Develop**
 - Contact with owners, Meetings, ‘Walk the course’
- **Propose**
 - Publish our report,
- **Determine**
 - receive any objections, SoS approves in the light of any objections
- **Open**
 - Establishment and launch.

Making it happen



Eastern Daily Press

To date that's

858 report maps

5,738 route sections

69,028 titles

While the going can be a little tricky..



**1,098 miles (31 stretches) have been
submitted to government;
488 miles (16 stretches) have been
approved;
358 miles (10 stretches) completed**

What are the Benefits?



To date we have used data generated from

- MENE
- Welsh Coast Path
- South West Coast Path

During 2017/18 we carried out the first baseline study of a National Trail

- Visitor survey (>2000 @ 32 locations)
- Automatic people counters
- Secondary data sources (MENE, day visitor survey etc)

What are the Benefits?



Characteristics of people and their visits, to English coastal paths, in 2017:

- 29 million leisure walking trips
- An additional £335 M spent in communities within 10 miles of path
- £83 – the value to a person going for a walk on an English coastal path (£2.4 billion nationally)
- 11 fewer deaths (valued at £17m)

We need to repeat the study after the path is complete to assess the impact of ECP on delivering economic, health and social benefits

Questions?

