

# ACCESS NEWSLETTER

Issue 62

July 2014

## **Somerset coastal access report approved**

The Secretary of State has approved Natural England's coastal access proposals for a stretch of the English coast between Brean Down and Minehead, Somerset.

A copy of the statutory notice made under section 52 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coastal-access-section-52-notice-for-brean-down-to-minehead>

## **Decision on the making of an Order for the Isle of Wight**

A Consultation on an Order for the Isle of Wight under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 was published on 11 December 2013. In the light of the consultation the Government has:

- decided to make an Order and lay the necessary Statutory Instrument before Parliament;
- agreed that Natural England should continue to prioritise its work on the current coastal stretches to deliver coastal access on 1,930 km of the English coast (about 40% of the total) over the years up to 2020/21; and
- agreed that Natural England should look at its forward plans for the remaining stretches of the English coast including the Isle of Wight in accordance with the prioritisation criteria set out in the Coastal Access Scheme.

A Summary of Responses to the consultation is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/coastal-access-isle-of-wight>

## **Dedication of National Nature Reserves**

Natural England's programme of National Nature Reserve (NNR) access dedication has reached its half-way point. Four batches of dedication proposals have now been approved on behalf of the Natural England Board, and the associated rights of open-air recreation on foot have already come into force for three of these batches – a total of 27 sites so far.

The programme closely involves local site staff and the 'responsible officers' whose job it is to protect the conservation interest of the land, so that proactive arrangements can be put in place to deal with any potential conflicts. Most of Natural England's NNRs are already accessible to the public, so dedication under section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 often represents a formalisation of the status quo.

Improved horse and cycle access is also considered at the same time, and so far this has delivered:

- 12 km of new or formalised linear access rights for horses and cycles, and
- 125 hectares of formalised area-wide access for horses

Landowners wishing to consider dedicating their own land should contact the Open Access Contact Centre at [Open.Access@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Open.Access@naturalengland.org.uk) for a free call-back offering further advice without commitment.

## **Local Access Forum newsletter "LAF News"**

Natural England has issued LAF News Issue 4 which is available on its website at [http://www.naturalengland.gov.uk/Images/laf-news-4\\_tcm6-37988.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.gov.uk/Images/laf-news-4_tcm6-37988.pdf).

The edition is dedicated to reports and articles relating to the conferences held in Bristol and Durham in February and March this year.

If you have any queries about the above, please email us at:  
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