

ACCESS NEWSLETTER

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Summary of Responses to the Consultation on Proposals to Improve Access to the English coast

The summary of responses to the *Consultation on Proposals to Improve Access to the English Coast* has now been published. The summary can be found on the Defra website at the following address:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/coast-access/index.htm>

The document summarises all the views expressed in response to the consultation and the accompanying partial Regulatory Impact Assessment. Defra would like to thank all those individuals and organisations who took the time to respond.

From analysis of the consultation responses the Government concluded that the overall weight of the responses supported Natural England's recommendation that new legislation was the best way forward for improving access to the coast. It has therefore been announced that the Government intends to legislate so that the public will have the right to walk around the English coast for the first time.

We are now developing the detail of the legislation and will be seeking to identify an appropriate opportunity to introduce coastal access legislation. Further work is being undertaken to look at some of the main areas of concern that came out of the consultation. These included issues of liability, costs, compensation, estuaries and higher rights.

For further information please telephone 0117 372 8449 or email our shared e-mail account: access@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Defra's Information Resource Centre will supply copies of consultation responses. If you would like to request a copy of any of the responses please telephone 020 7238 6575 or send an email to: defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk