

**From:** Coastal Access Consultation (NE)  
[<mailto:CoastalAccessConsultation@naturalengland.org.uk>]  
**Sent:** 13 November 2009 14:28  
**Subject:** Natural England's Coastal Access Scheme: Consultation Version

## **Natural England's Coastal Access Scheme: Consultation Version**

I am writing to invite views on Natural England's proposed Coastal Access Scheme – our methodology for implementing improved access to the English coast under Part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The Act gives us a duty to establish a walking trail around the whole open coast, together with public access to a wider margin of land on foot for outdoor recreation. As the Act requires, the proposed Scheme sets out our approach to discharging this duty.

You may recall that we published two previous versions of the Scheme last year, to inform the pre-legislative scrutiny process and the passage of the Bill through Parliament. The Outline Scheme was published in April 2008, and the Draft Scheme in December 2008. This much fuller Consultation Version builds on the material they contained. The main changes since the Draft Scheme are summarised at the start of each chapter.

Our website at [www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/position/consultations/](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/position/consultations/) has the documents you need:

- Coastal Access - Natural England's Scheme: Consultation Version
- An online response form that you can use to comment on the Scheme.

The response form has been designed to make it easy to submit responses in a way we can readily analyse and act upon. You will be provided with a user name and password so that you can edit or update your submission as many times as you wish while the consultation is underway.

Should you prefer not to respond online, you can request a paper response form or discuss an alternative way of participating by calling the company that is receiving responses on our behalf, asking for Sarah Alder on 0208 683 6602.

**Please note that responses must arrive by 6pm on 5th February 2010.**

We will consider all responses carefully, and publish a consultation report on our website in due course. We do not plan to publish individual responses but there may be circumstances in which we would be required to disclose your response to third parties on request, to comply with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. If you do not want your response to be disclosed in these

circumstances, you must state clearly that you want it treated confidentially. Please note that any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in email responses will not be treated as such a request.

Should you have any comments or queries about the consultation process, please address them to Natural England's enquiry service:

By email: [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

By phone: 0845 600 3078

By post: Enquiries

Natural England

Northminster house

Peterborough PE1 1UA

Yours sincerely,

Ben Nichols

Coastal Access Team

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