

# ACCESS NEWSLETTER

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## **Coastal Access – Natural England's Scheme approved by the Secretary of State**

Section 298 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 requires Natural England to set out in a scheme the approach it will take in delivering coastal access. Following an extensive consultation process which ended on 5 February 2010, Natural England finalised its Scheme and submitted it to the Secretary of State for approval. The Scheme was approved on 23 March and, as required by the Act, has now been laid before Parliament (on 25 March).

The Scheme explains the principles Natural England will adopt in reaching a conclusion as to how the long-distance route and the boundary of the coastal margin should be aligned on a particular section of the coast. It includes the steps that will be taken to consult with all those with a relevant interest in affected land as well as stakeholders and other interested parties and the approach that will be applied in a wide variety of situations, both in terms of land types and land uses.

You can view the approved Scheme on Natural England's website at:

<http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/NE269>

Formal approval of the Scheme from the Secretary of State means that it is now possible for Natural England to begin work on implementing the first stages of the English coastal path.

The Secretary of State has announced that the intention is to introduce the first of the new right of coastal access on a short stretch of the English coast between Weymouth and Lulworth Cove in Dorset. Weymouth Bay is the Olympic sailing venue and Natural England will work with Dorset County Council to deliver the new and improved access on this stretch of coast in time for the Olympic sailing events in 2012.

Implementation is also expected to start in 5 other areas in 2011 – Cumbria, East Riding, Kent, Norfolk and Somerset.

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