

## Coastal Access in Devon

### Natural England update for the Devon Countryside Access Forum

September 2019

#### Summary

##### Combe Martin to Marsland Mouth

Natural England is undertaking the following work:

- Currently finalising the routes at the following locations:
  - Taking the trail off the road at Saunton;
  - making a safer route at Chesil Cliff, Croyde (off road and a safer crossing);
  - 'new' route at Braunton Burrows – on the beach as opposed to on the American Road landward of the dunes; and
  - new route at Watertown, Appledore – taking a 'low tide route' off the foreshore to reduce disturbance to birds and removing the need for a 'high tide route' along the road.
- Drafting of 10 length reports and Overview underway.
- Drafting of length maps.
- Drafting of Nature Conservation and Habitats Regulations Assessments.
- Final visits to assess mudflat and salt marsh restrictions on the Tav/Torridge estuary.
- Meetings with stakeholders including Historic England.
- Meeting with Devon County Council Public Rights of Way officers to agree new infrastructure and establishment costs.
- Planned publication date of end November.

##### Cremyll to Kingswear

Natural England is undertaking the following work:

- Currently finalising the routes at the following locations:
  - Plymouth – new seaward alignment for the coast path in the Cremyll and Millbay areas;
  - Yealm Estuary Alternative Route – using public rights of way and permissive routes;
  - Mothecombe Beach – providing a 'high tide route' to allow continuous access;
  - Avon Estuary Alternative Route – using the Avon Estuary Walk;
  - Lannacombe Beach – new section of path to avoid area subject to coastal erosion;
  - Hallsands – new alignment to address coastal erosion issues;
  - Beesands – new alignment to address coastal erosion issues;
  - Torcross – alignment to address coastal erosion issues; and

- Stoke Fleming – new seaward alignment of coast path through the village.
- Drafting of 9 length reports and Overview underway.
- Drafting of length maps.
- Drafting of Nature Conservation and Habitats Regulations Assessments.
- Drafting of directions for coastal access restrictions.
- Meetings with stakeholders including Historic England, South West Coast Path Association and the Ramblers.
- Discussions with Plymouth City Council and Devon County Council Public Rights of Way officers to agree new infrastructure and establishment costs.
- Planned publication date of mid-November.

## **General**

Following a review of the England Coast Path proposal procedure, the stretch publication process has been updated so that each chapter will now become a legally separate statutory report and will be published as a compendium of linked reports covering the whole of the stretch. This change will allow Defra to approve the proposals and establishment works to then begin on the lengths covered by the individual reports where there are no objections, whilst the remaining reports, where objections have been received, will be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate as is currently the case.