

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 4 September 2017*

Agenda item 6: *England Coast Path update – John Truswell*

My apologies for not attending in person I'm on leave at the moment hence this written update.

- The consultation stage has closed now and the report has been designed and due to be at the printers at the time of this meeting
- Publication is now scheduled for no earlier than the 27th September 2017
- The report and associated papers will be sent to all affected land owners, Statutory Consultees and other interested parties and can be accessed here (when published)
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-improving-public-access-to-the-coast#overview-of-progress>
- From the publication date (scheduled no earlier than the 27th September 2017) the 8 week representation and objections period begins. It's very important if making a representation or an objection to use the correct forms and within the correct timescales. Any received after the closing date will not be considered.
- During this period Natural England review and package the representations and objections which are then sent via DEFRA to the Planning Inspectorate, a neutral body who on behalf of the Secretary of State consider them before agreement by the SoS
- Examination by the Planning Inspectorate can take several months, sometimes leading to further site visits by the Inspector, this period of time can vary according to the context and complexity of an individual stretch
- Once this process is complete and approval has been given by the SoS Natural England then work together with the various Access Authorities, Dorset, Hampshire and the New Forest National Park Authority to begin the work with landowners and others to establish the England Coast Path
- Opening of the Highcliffe to Calshot stretch is scheduled for May 2018, however this will be flexible dependent upon the time taken by the Inspectorate to follow their process and the time to complete establishment
- The Calshot to Gosport stretch will soon gather momentum and Chloe and I will be looking to update the Forum on progress in due course. In addition I will be liaising with the Forum and other interested groups such as the Ramblers in taking this forward

Chloe and I would like to thank the Forum for the engagement with this process and look forward to this continuing with the part of the Calshot to Gosport stretch which is relevant to this Forum.

John Truswell
August 2017