

The England Coast Path National Trail



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"Government should legislate to create an approach that combines the best features of the existing mechanisms - offering customised powers to make sense of the unique coastal situation, and to ensure the necessary flexibility to the circumstances on each section of coast." February 2007

The current position



- The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 received Royal Assent on 12th November 2009.
- The Scheme received Secretary of State approval in March 2010.
- The first implementation began on the Weymouth stretch. This was completed in Summer 2012.
- Work on the 5 lead stretches, after Weymouth, has begun.



Coastal Access Delivery Model



- We have established one Natural England team to deliver coastal access comprising:
 - 5 delivery teams
 - North East
 - North West
 - East of England
 - South East
 - South West
 - A central enabling team

The framework for alignment of the coastal trial



The new access will consist of:

- ‘the trail’ - a long-distance walking route around the English coast; and often,
- ‘spreading room’ - land beside the route where people can spread out and explore, rest or picnic.

Certain land categories are automatically excepted.

Principles of alignment



- First we align the route of the trail in consultation with owners and occupiers
 - Either adopt an existing PRow
 - Adopt a permissive or de-facto walked line
 - Create a fresh 'line'
- That then defines the seaward spreading room

Figure 1 A section of coast before alignment, showing fields of permanent pasture with heath, scrub and rock to seaward side.

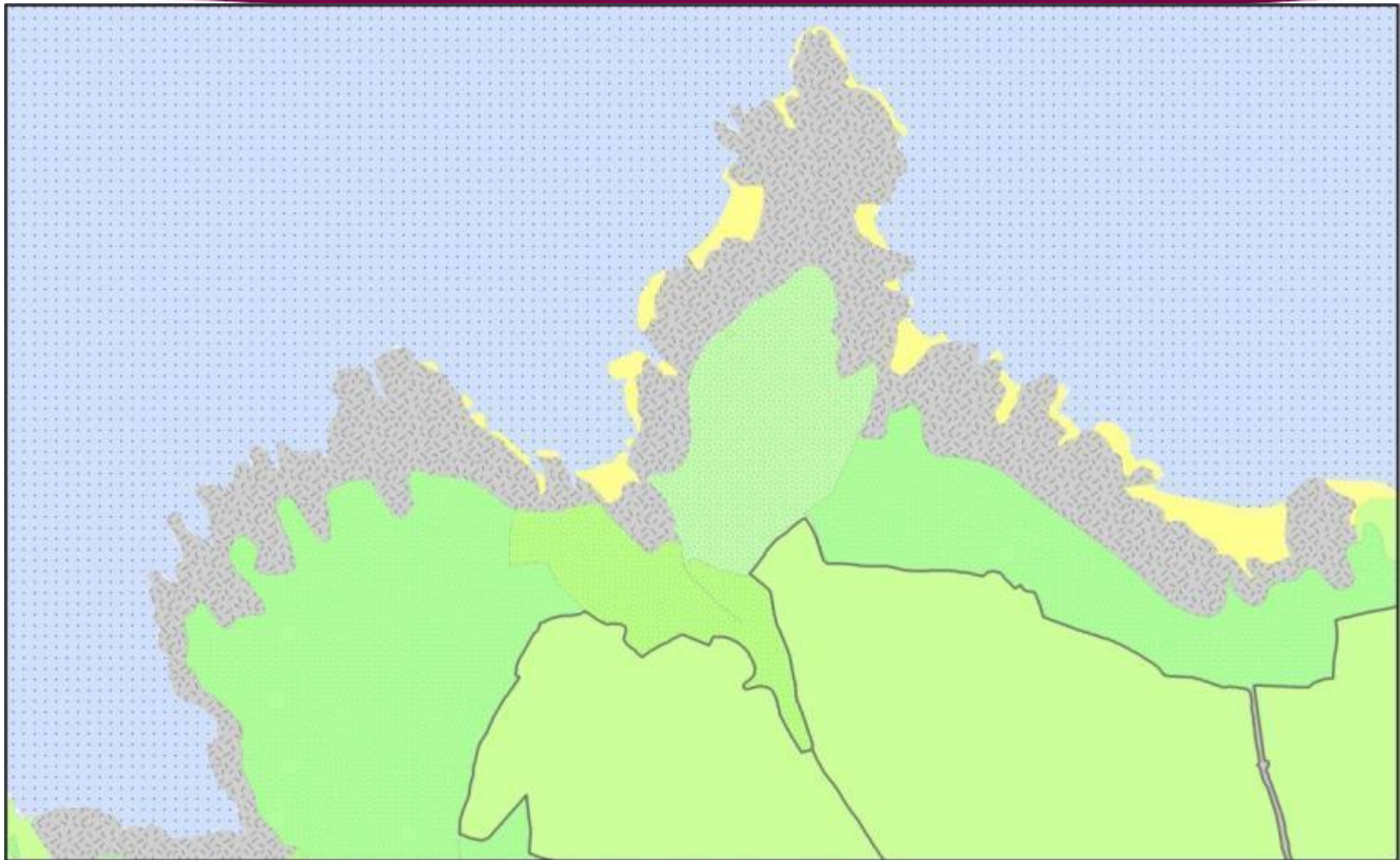


Figure 2 The trail aligned along the cliff slope.



Figure 3 Spreading room seaward of the trail



Responsiveness to coastal change



- The trail will need to adapt to changes in the coastline either because:
 - The coastline is eroding rapidly; or
 - There is a strategy of managed realignment or non-intervention.



The trail on an eroding coast, showing potential trigger points for a reassessment of the route.



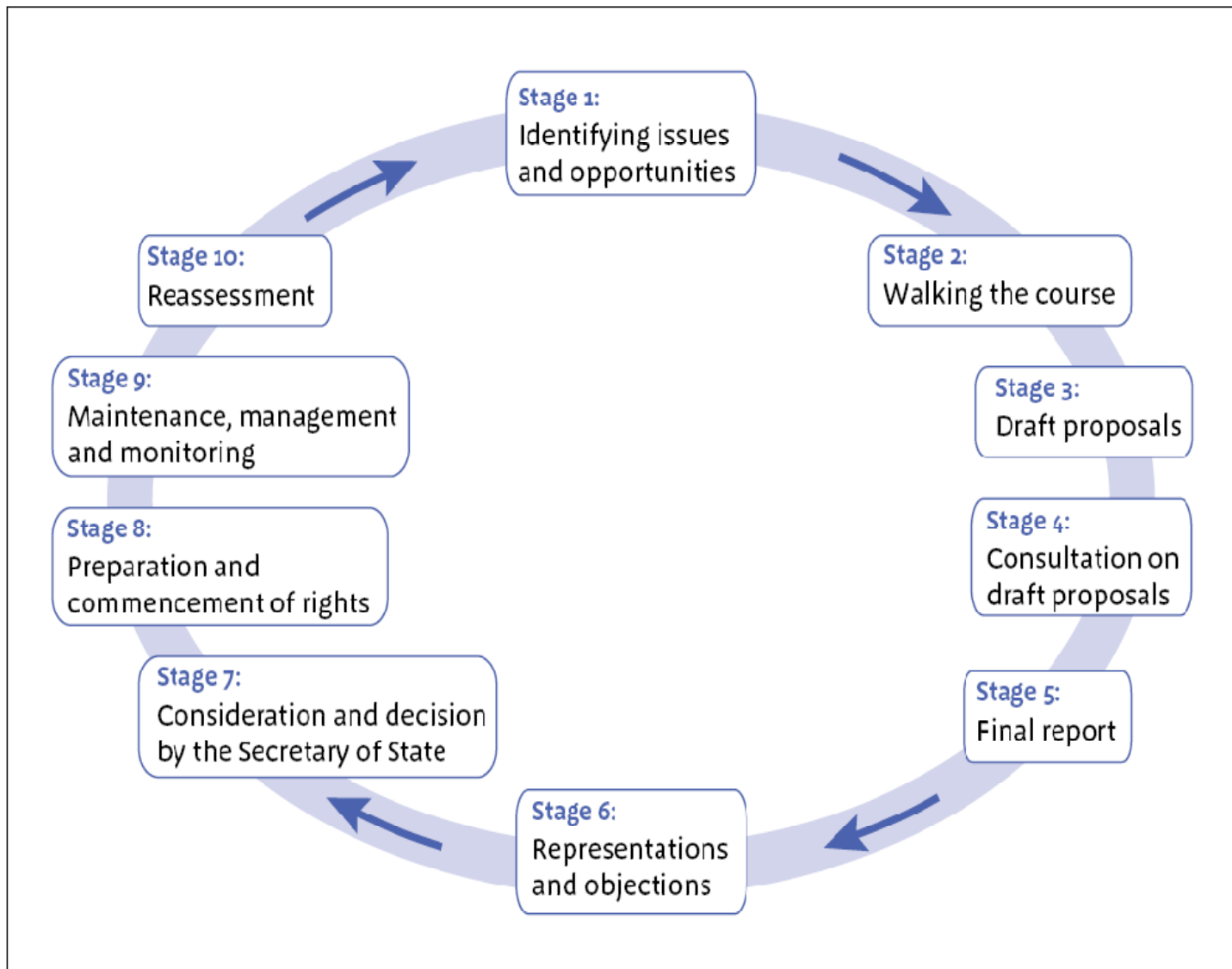
2 years on: the trail has rolled back automatically



5 years on: the trail has been reassessed and repositioned.



Figure 7 Overview of the implementation process



Questions?

