

The England Coast Path National Trail

- Natural England is creating a long distance walking trail around the English coast.
- The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 makes this possible.
- The trail will avoid areas like private houses, major ports and sensitive conservation sites.
- Where the route erodes it will roll back or be replaced, securing people's right of access forever.
- Opening up the coastline for all to enjoy supports local services through increased visitor spend.

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Getting involved in the England Coast Path

- We visit affected land with owners and occupiers and discuss route options. We call this “Walking the Course”.
- Draft proposals are published and everyone can comment.
- Comments are considered and a final report is submitted to the Secretary of State.
- Any formal objections by land owners or occupiers are considered by an independent inspector.
- The Secretary of State makes the final decision and the new right of access comes into force in stages, as the route is established.

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Managing coastal access rights along the England Coast Path

- Local Access Authorities can maintain and manage the Coast Path.
- Signs and waymarks will guide visitors along the route and steer them away from any sensitive areas.
- Natural England can make directions to restrict and exclude people where necessary for land management, nature conservation or other reasons.
- Users of the path are responsible for their own safety and must keep dogs under effective control by law.

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