

## England Coast Path

Natural England (NE) have started their programme to map coastal access in Devon. The County Council and Exmoor National Park (as our agent relating to public rights of way), will be advising NE on particular matters along the route. The stretch from Dartmouth to the Plymouth border will start in Spring 2016.

### **The following information has been received from Natural England:-**

We are writing to inform you about plans to improve public access on foot along the South West coast Path between Minehead and Combe Martin and Kingswear and Lyme Regis.

The plans to improve a coastal access arise from Part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, which places a duty on Natural England to make proposals to the Secretary of State for a long distance walking route around the English Coast and for an adjoining margin of land where the public will also have a right of access on foot. This might include foreshore, grazing land or cliffs but will not affect buildings, their curtilage or gardens.

Natural England will be investigating options for the stretches of coast between Minehead and Combe Martin and Kingswear and Lyme Regis over the coming months. As you will be aware, this part of the coast already has the South West Coast Path along it for the entire length. Wherever possible our approach here will be to adopt this existing route as part of the England Coast Path - we expect this to happen on most sections of coast along these lengths. Where this happens, the project will be about confirming the existing route, making it easier to deal with any future loss of the path to landslip or erosion, and confirming public access rights over beaches and cliffs etc, which is something the legislation also deals with.

We will work in close association with officers from the local authorities and Exmoor National Park Authority who will be providing expert local advice and help us to ensure there is full consultation with local interests. We will be contacting all landowners to share our initial thinking and will offer to meet with the owners and occupiers of the land to discuss potential options for the trail and the adjoining margin. It is important to note that there will be no *new* public access along the coast until the proposals have been approved by the Secretary of State. We expect the whole process for both stretches to be completed during 2017/18.

We have announced the start of work on these two stretches on our website on 9 October.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-improving-public-access-to-the-coast>

## Public Rights of Way Committee – 26 November 2015

Reports on the parishes of Bere Ferrers (part 3), Clayhidon (part 2), Combe Martin (part 3), Ivybridge, Nymet Rowland and Poltimore will be taken to committee next month. For more information please contact the PROW team. Reports will be on the website about a week before [http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/decision\\_making/cma/index\\_prw.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/decision_making/cma/index_prw.htm)