

Access Sub-committee Report. Area Council Meeting 11 October 2008

1. Coastal Access.

- (a) **Draft Marine Bill** – This places a duty on the Secretary of State and Natural England (NE) to secure a long distance route and land available for open-air recreation. The Government published its response to the pre-legislative scrutiny and the public consultation in its Command paper “Taking Forward the Marine Bill: The Government response to pre-legislative scrutiny [by EFRA and the Joint committee] and public consultation” on 25 September (www.defra.gov.uk/marine/legislation/index.htm). The RA has welcomed the positive provisions supporting greater coastal access and is pleased that the Government has accepted its arguments to allow greater public access to the coast. Despite the string of successes that the RA’s campaign enjoyed last year and over the summer, the Bill is by no means secured in the Queen’s Speech yet (Dec3).
- (b) The following excerpts (*italics*) from the Government’s response are of particular interest:
- i. **How far will the trail go up the Humber Estuary?** – *NE should be able to stop the route at any point between the mouth of the estuary and the first bridge or tunnel.*
 - ii. **Will there be an appeals mechanism for landowners?** – *The Government does not feel that an appeals process would be appropriate.* We are pleased because the appeals process that was part of CroW, caused an enormous amount of work for RA volunteers.
 - iii. **Will landowners be able to claim compensation?** – *NE will be allowed to avoid creating situations where compensation would be required.*
 - iv. **Will there be wider local consultation about aligning the trail and any spreading room?** – The RA was concerned that the provisions did not provide certainty that consideration would be given to the views of wider stakeholders, in particular the RA. The Government *...believes that the procedures allow for appropriate consideration of the views of the wider stakeholders... and ...will amend the draft Bill to include access authorities in the list of who may make representation... in addition ...the Secretary of State has the power to specify in regulations persons to whom NE must give notice of the publication of coastal access reports.*
 - v. **Who will be responsible for long-term maintenance?** – *NE will fund implementation and maintenance during the ten-year implementation phase. NE should contribute to maintenance of the trail to an extent consistent with its current National Trail Review. Highway authorities will remain legally responsible where the trail follows existing public right of way.*

2. CroW

- (a) **East Riding Open Access Booklets** – East Riding Council has published a booklet “Open Access Walks” describing walks in the new open access areas of the East Riding. Initially, 5,000 were printed and I understand that a further 3,000 are being printed.
- (b) **North Yorkshire Open Access Booklets** – A meeting has been arranged for 17 October with Richard Granville (RA Campaigns Officer) and Aidan Rayner (NYCC) to discuss the feasibility of producing a booklet for North Yorkshire, complementary to the East Riding publication, but probably not restricted to the Wolds, to be produced and funded, jointly by the RA (CO) and NYCC.

3. East Riding LAF (Peter Ayling reports)

- (a) **Coastal Access** – The Forum discussed the draft Marine Bill on 17 September and again did not support Government’s vision for a coastal trail.
- (b) **Site visits** – Members of the Forum visited two potential access sites at Oak Hill and Crowle Moor.
- (c) **Next Meeting** – Members of the RA are encouraged to attend the next meeting on 17 December at Beverley.

- Members of the sub-committee Tom Halstead, Peter Leese, Peter Ayling, Martin Biggs, Sonia Donaghy, Brian Odell, Les Atkinson.

Tom Halstead, Access Officer
7 October, 2008