

Coastal Access – Amble to Bamburgh



Representations on ABB: Amble to Bamburgh and Natural England's comments

March 2020

1. Introduction

This document records the representations Natural England has received on lengths ABB1, ABB2 and ABB3 of this report from persons or bodies. It also sets out any Natural England comments on these representations.

Where representations were made that relate to the entire stretch for Amble to Bamburgh they are included here in so far as they are relevant to lengths ABB1, ABB2 and ABB3.

2. Background

Natural England's compendium of reports setting out its proposals for improved access to the coast from Amble to Bamburgh, comprising an overview and four separate length reports, was submitted to the Secretary of State on 31 July 2019. This began an eight-week period during which representations and objections about each constituent report could be made.

In total, Natural England received four representations pertaining to length reports ABB1, ABB2 and ABB3 of the Amble to Bamburgh stretch, of which one was made by organisations or individuals whose representations must be sent in full to the Secretary of State in accordance with paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 1A to the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. These 'full' representations are reproduced in Section 3 in their entirety, together with Natural England's comments. Included in Section 4 is a summary of the representation made by other individuals or organisations, referred to as 'other' representations.

3. Record of 'full' representations and Natural England's comments on them

Representation number:	MCA/ABBSTRETCH/R/1/ABB0573
Organisation/ person making representation:	Historic England
Route section(s) specific to this representation:	Whole stretch
Other reports within stretch to which this representation also relates:	ABB 2, ABB 3, ABB 4
Representation in full	
Thank you for consulting with Historic England on 31st July 2019 regarding the above reports for the coastal path proposal between Amble and Bamburgh.	
The proposed route will not affect any highly designated heritage assets. As the government's advisor on all aspects of the historic environment in England, Historic England has no concerns with the proposed route.	

Natural England's comments
<p>We welcome what we consider is a positive representation from Historic England.</p> <p>In designing our proposed route we took time to ensure that it was sympathetic to the numerous Historic sites that are located in the area.</p>

4. Summary of 'other' representations making non-common points, and Natural England's comments on them

Representation ID:	MCA/ABB1/R/1/ABB0008 MCA/ABB2/R/1/ABB0008 MCA/ABB3/R/1/ABB0008
Organisation/ person making representation:	Disabled Ramblers
Name of site:	Whole report
Report map reference:	ABB1a to ABB1e
Route sections on or adjacent to the land:	Whole report
Other reports within stretch to which this representation also relates	None
Summary of representation:	
<p>The Disabled Ramblers is concerned that Natural England, in the Accessibility statement 1.2.9 and 1.2.10 in Report ABB1: Amble to Alnmouth has not recognised that there is a significant and steadily increasing number of people with reduced mobility who use off-road mobility scooters and other mobility vehicles to enjoy routes on more rugged terrain including uneven grass and bare soil paths.</p> <p>The Disabled Ramblers request that Natural England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - take all reasonable steps needed to make the trail as easy as possible for disabled people and those with reduced mobility, and be mindful of British Standard BS5709: 2018 Gaps Gates and Stiles. - reconsider the suitability of existing infrastructure that it has indicated should be retained (gates, kissing gates, footbridges, various types of barrier etc), because in many cases these bar legitimate access for this group of people, so it would be helpful to adapt or replace these. <p>Disabled Ramblers is very happy to provide further advice.</p>	

Natural England's comment:

We were not aware of any specific issues at the development stage of creating the proposed route. As such we have worked to the guidelines set out in the Coastal Access Scheme at paragraphs 4.3.8 to 4.3.11.

We are aware of British Standard BS5709: 2018 Gaps Gates and Stiles. In designing our proposed route we have tried to make the route available to as wide a group of users as is reasonably possible. We have avoided creating any unnecessary new barriers to access by choosing infrastructure that will have the least restrictive impact. There are no stiles proposed on this route. Gaps have been used where appropriate however in this agricultural landscape livestock grazing is a common land use. This limits the use of gaps where and when livestock are present. Pedestrian gates are favoured above kissing gates on most of the route and we will ensure the fastenings and latches are suitable simple operation.

We work with Northumberland County Council to establish the trail, so we will discuss accessibility with them when we plan our schedule of works.