

# Coastal Access – *Amble to Bamburgh length* **ABB4**



## Representations with Natural England’s comments

**July 2020**

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### 1. Introduction

This document records the representations Natural England has received on the proposals in length report ABB4 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 length ABB4 only.

### 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 3 representations pertaining to length report ABB4, of which 1 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. Also included in Section 3 is a summary of the two representations made by other individuals or organisations, referred to as

'other' representations. Section 4 contains the supporting documents referenced against the representations.

### 3. Representations and Natural England's comments on them

## Length Report ABB4

#### *Full representations*

<b>Representation number:</b>	MCA/ABBSTRETCH/R/1/ABB0573
<b>Organisation/ person making representation:</b>	Historic England, [redacted]
<b>Route section(s) specific to this representation:</b>	Whole stretch
<b>Other reports within stretch to which this representation also relates:</b>	ABB 1, ABB 2, ABB 3
<b>Representation in full</b>	
<p>Thank you for consulting with Historic England on 31st July 2019 regarding the above reports for the coastal path proposal between Amble and Bamburgh.</p> <p>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.</p>	
<b>Natural England's comments</b>	
<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>	
<b>Relevant appended documents (see section 4):</b>	
None	

#### *Other representations*

<b>Representation ID:</b>	MCA/ABB4/R/1/ABB0488
<b>Organisation/ person making representation:</b>	[Redacted]
<b>Name of site:</b>	[Redacted]

<b>Report map reference:</b>	Maps ABB4C and ABB4D
<b>Route sections on or adjacent to the land:</b>	ABB-4-S025 to ABB-4-S042
<b>Other reports within stretch to which this representation also relates</b>	None
<b>Summary of representation:</b>	
<p>Maps ABB 4c St Aidens Dunes to Monks House &amp; ABB 4d Monks House to Bamburgh Dunes.</p> <p>The newly constructed footpath along the side of the B1340 road is an improvement on the proposed dunes route indicated on maps ABB 4c and AA 4d. It has none of the disadvantages and as many advantages of the ABB 4c and ABB 4d route. It won't cost anything. It will have low maintenance costs.</p>	
<b>Natural England's comment:</b>	
<p>The proposed route is safe and convenient as it avoids the need to cross the B1340 Bamburgh to Seahouses road in two locations. It also reduces the number of interruptions to the user. The B1340 can get quite busy during the peak summer holiday months, which would likely coincide with when the proposed route would carry the most users.</p> <p>Evidence from numerous site visits tells us that the proposed route is the one that walkers are currently using. The proposed route maintains views of the sea and local points of interest like the Farne Islands and Bamburgh Castle.</p> <p>At [redacted] the properties create a pinch point at high tides when the sea reaches the curtilage of these properties. The proposed route does then move away from the coast up to the B1340, passing [redacted] to the seaward side of the B1340 and back towards the coast via the dunes. This avoids the section of beach, in front of [redacted], which is cut off at high tides. At low tide, walkers have the option to continue along the beach, but would need to cross the area where Ingram Burn meets the foreshore in order to do so.</p>	
<b>Relevant appended documents (see Section 4):</b>	
4A, 4B, 4C	

<b>Representation ID:</b>	MCA/ABB4/R/2/ABB0008
<b>Organisation/ person making representation:</b>	Disabled Ramblers, [redacted]
<b>Name of site:</b>	Whole report

<b>Report map reference:</b>	ABB4a to ABB4f
<b>Route sections on or adjacent to the land:</b>	Whole report
<b>Other reports within stretch to which this representation also relates</b>	None
<b>Summary of representation:</b>	
<p>The Disabled Ramblers is concerned that Natural England, in the Accessibility statement 4.2.8 and 4.2.19 in Report ABB 4: Linkhouse, Beadnell to Bamburgh 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"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- 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. Disabled Ramblers is very happy to provide further advice.</li> </ul>	
<b>Natural England's comment:</b>	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We work with Northumberland County Council to establish the trail, so we will discuss accessibility with them when we plan our schedule of works.</p>	
<b>Relevant appended documents (see Section 4):</b>	
None	

#### 4. Supporting documents

<b>Supporting Document</b>	<b>Description and Ref number</b>
4A	MCA/ABB4/R/1/ABB0488 Additional information / comments from [redacted]
4B	MCA/ABB4/R/1/ABB0488 Supporting photograph and comments
4C	MCA/ABB4/R/1/ABB0488 Supporting photograph and comments

## 4A MCA/ABB4/R/1/ABB0488

Document One

Additional Information in answer to question 5.

Representation

[Redacted]

Report No. ADD4 maps ABB4c and 4d

Linkhouse Beadnell to Bamburgh. Including 2 photographs

Since your survey of the coastal path between Beadnell and Bamburgh, in fact only two or three months ago a substantial quality footpath has been constructed along the side of the B 1340 road between Seahouses and Bamburgh. It joins the northernmost point of the existing pavement into Seahouses and the southernmost point of the pavement into Bamburgh. It is well constructed, smooth and level and is suitable for persons walking two abreast (ideal if you are walking with a child and wish to hold their hand) and for wheelchairs and prams. There are views of the sea and the Farne Islands. Inland the views are dramatic with Bamburgh Castle ahead of you (or behind) and Cheviot and Hedgehope visible on the distant skyline.

Most people who walk between Seahouses and Bamburgh prefer to walk along the beach, which is easy and accessible, even across Greenhill Rocks.

If you do not like walking on sand or if you are in a hurry then this new footpath is an excellent alternative and having walked along the road in the past myself for some or all of this route between Seahouses and Bamburgh it is just as enjoyable as walking the beach route and is often warmer and less windy and a break from the roar of the waves.

In the light of this new game changer footpath along the road I wish to make representations regarding your proposed path along the dunes, that this path is better for the following reasons and that the path along the route you propose is unnecessary.

England Coast Path Sketch: Amble to Bamburgh Accessibility 4.2.8 Terrain is challenging, uneven terrain through the dunes.

4.2.9 The need for steps. Steps would quickly fill up with the wind-blown sand and would become ineffective or require frequent excavation. Wind-blown sand and voracious growth of the Marram Grass make maintenance of a path through the dunes challenging or not possible.

4.2.13 to 15 The path adjoining the road would not require roll back.

4.2.18 No cost required the path is already in existence.

4.2.19 Minimal signage required as the path is so obvious and self-evident. No surface upgrade or access furniture required. Footpath of a very high standard already.

4.2.20 No liaising with landowners etc. required, no costs, no permissions or authorisations consents, just use it

4.2.21/22 No need to obtain agreement to use and identify who is planning to maintain it. Very low maintenance.

There are frequent access routes from this footpath onto the beach. Land owned by National Trust, so access assured.

This new footpath already exists and is in daily and regular use.

One final benefit. If you children say, "We can easily walk to Bamburgh/Seahouses for ice cream and back" and then you get a call "we are tired" you can easily quickly and safely pick them up.

**4B MCA/ABB4/R/1/ABB0488** – some information redacted due to containing personal information



**4C MCA/ABB4/R/1/ABB0488** – some information redacted due to containing personal information

