

Coastal Access – Salcott to Jaywick length SCJ2

Representations with Natural England’s comments



April 2021

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1. Introduction

This document records the representations Natural England has received on the proposals in length report SCJ2 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 Salcott to Jaywick they are included here in so far as they are relevant to length SCJ2 only.

2. Background

Natural England’s compendium of reports setting out its proposals for improved access to the coast from Salcott to Jaywick, comprising an overview and six separate length reports, was submitted to the Secretary of State on 14 October 2020. This began an eight-week period during which representations and objections about each constituent report could be made.

In total, Natural England received three representations pertaining to length report SCJ2, of which one was made by an organisation or individual 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. This ‘full’ representation is reproduced in Section 3 in its 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.

3. Representations and Natural England's comments on them

Length Report 2

Full representations

Representation number:

MCA/SCJ Whole Stretch/R/1/SCJ0019

Organisation/ person making representation:

The Ramblers Association

Route section(s) specific to this representation:

Whole report

Other reports within stretch to which this representation also relates:

Whole stretch

Representation in full

The Ramblers fully supports Natural England's proposals. We are very pleased to have a continuous coastal walking route which will give walkers a pleasant alternative to existing routes on busy roads. We would like to thank the Natural England team for their work.

Our only comment is that Church Road, Fingringhoe can be hazardous. We would welcome additional road signs to alert drivers that walkers will be using this route.

Natural England's comments

Natural England thank the Ramblers Association for their supportive comments.

We will be working with Essex County Council to ensure Church Road, Fingringhoe is appropriately signed.

Other representations

Representation ID:

MCA/SCJ2/R/3/SCJ1518

Organisation/ person making representation:

[Redacted]

Name of site:

Whole report.

Report map reference:

Whole report

Route sections on or adjacent to the land:

Whole report

Other reports within stretch to which this representation also relates

Report SCJ1.

Summary of representation:

Offering support for the proposals as currently trying to walk the Essex coast and is currently forced on to dangerous roads. "The proposals are excellent"

Natural England's Comments.

Natural England are grateful for the positive comments.

Representation ID:

MCA/SCJ2/R/8/SCJ0008

Organisation/ person making representation:

The Disabled Ramblers.

Name of site:

Whole report

Report map reference:

Whole report

Route sections on or adjacent to the land:

Whole report

Other reports within stretch to which this representation also relates

All other reports.

Summary of representation:

The Disabled Ramblers noted that Natural England should ensure that, unless the natural terrain itself prevents access, any existing or new infrastructure along the Coast Path does not present a barrier to their ability to progress along the Coast Path. They note that certain structures such as kissing gates and bridges need to be constructed to allow the passage of larger mobility vehicles and to seek that consideration is given to ramps rather than steps.

They also note that wherever possible man-made infrastructure should be changed or adapted to enable users of mobility vehicles to have the same, legitimate, use and enjoyment of the main route of the England Coast Path that walkers have.

Natural England's comment

Natural England welcomes the Disabled Ramblers comments regarding infrastructure that may present as a barrier to many users of the England Coast Path and will work with Essex County Council as the access authority who have responsibility for establishing and maintaining the trail to ensure all users are considered and structures and surfacing meets all necessary legislation, including that designed to protect wildlife and the protection of the flood defence systems.

Natural England acknowledges its duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and also the extra responsibilities conferred by the Public Sector Equality Duty, under the former. An important element of equality law is that the needs of those with constrained or restricted mobility are taken into account throughout the planning, design and implementation processes, and that they are not simply treated as an 'add on'. We have endeavoured to achieve this as we have developed our proposals for the Salcott to Jaywick stretch, and, if our proposals are approved, will continue to do so through the implementation

phase, working alongside Essex County Council, which shares the same responsibilities and duties.

We also recognise the importance of satisfying the relevant British Standards, and the desirability of complying with the advice contained in the *Disabled Ramblers Notes on Infrastructure*, and will consider these documents as we work with the Essex County Council.

We also note the Disabled Ramblers advice regarding the larger mobility vehicles and will ensure this is considered.