

Making the most of **Coastal Access**

**Coastline Survey
Check List for volunteers**



ramblers
at the heart of walking



**ACCESS &
CONSERVATION
TRUST**

Thank you for helping to make the most of coastal access by surveying part of the English coast. If you are uncertain about the features to look for around the coast, or the criteria being used by Natural England to determine the route of the coastal path and associated spreading room, please take a look at our brief guide to the scheme or alternatively, ask the key volunteer for your region.

Purpose of survey check list

This simple survey form is designed to help you record important information along your stretch of coast. Please use as many forms as needed for your length of coast, particularly if it makes it easier to split it into smaller sections. Some boxes have been left blank for you to record further comments.

To undertake a survey you will ideally need a digital camera and a map to record points of interest so that they can be referenced when drafting reports and photographs can be included. The following survey form allows you to collect information and record the following:

- background information;
- existing public rights of way (PROW) and open access land (CROW);
- permissive paths and tracks which are not PROWs;
- coastal land types and land uses;
- river estuaries;
- other notes.



Background Information

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Name of volunteer: | | |
| Name of lead volunteer: | | |
| Date of survey: | | |
| Nearest town or village to survey section: | | |
| Start and finish locations of survey section (description): | | |
| Start and finish of survey section (OS grid reference): | | |
| Approximate length of survey section: | | |



Existing Rights of Way and CROW Access Land

| | Description / location / comments, etc. | Map annotated? | Photo taken? |
|---|---|----------------|--------------|
| Is there an existing Right of Way along your section of coast? | | | |
| Are the existing Rights of Way close to the sea? | | | |
| Do these Rights of Way provide views of the sea? | | | |
| What is the approximate width of the Right of Way? | | | |
| Do you think these Rights of Way are safe and convenient for users? | | | |
| Please note the position of any existing gates, bridges, etc. | | | |
| Please note the position of any gates, bridges, etc. which may be required with a new coastal path. | | | |

Existing Rights of Way and CROW Access Land *cont*

| | Description / location / comments, etc. | Map annotated? | Photo taken? |
|--|---|----------------|--------------|
| Any other comments on existing Rights of Way? | | | |
| Does this section have any CROW public access land adjacent to the coast? | | | |
| If yes, are these easily accessible (are there clear access points)? | | | |
| Are there coastal climbing cliffs along this stretch of coast? | | | |
| Are there any coastal features (cliffs, dunes etc) that are set back from the coast and may fall landward of a coastal path? | | | |

Other permissive paths or tracks which are not Rights of Way

| | Description / location / comments, etc. | Map annotated? | Photo taken? |
|--|---|----------------|--------------|
| Are there any permissive paths along your stretch of coast (these may lead off ROW's)? | | | |
| Are these paths or tracks close to the sea? | | | |
| Do these paths or tracks provide views of the sea? | | | |
| What is the approximate width of these paths or tracks? | | | |
| Please note the position of any existing gates, bridges etc. | | | |
| Please note the position of any gates, bridges etc. which may be required with a new coastal path. | | | |
| Are these paths or tracks close to buildings or houses? | | | |
| Do you think these paths and track are safe and convenient for users? | | | |

Possible location of excepted land

| | Description / location / comments, etc. | Map annotated? | Photo taken? |
|--|---|----------------|--------------|
| Any buildings along the coast or seaward of any possible new coastal path? | | | |
| Any quarries, mines, railways, racecourses, aerodromes, electronic communication masts or military land adjacent to the coast? | | | |
| Any ploughed, drilled or cropped land, a golf course, caravan site, camping site, or burial ground adjacent to the coast? | | | |

Location of key coastal land types and land uses

| | Description / location / comments, etc. | Map annotated? | Photo taken? |
|---|---|----------------|--------------|
| Cliffs (will form part of seaward spreading room). Are there any on the landward side of the path? | | | |
| Shingle, sandy beaches, sand spits (will form part of seaward spreading room). | | | |
| Cropped and ploughed land (this will not form part of seaward spreading room but the path will normally occupy a 4 metre strip along its edge). | | | |
| Grazing land or land used for the keeping of cattle or livestock (will form part of seaward spreading room). | | | |
| Parks and gardens, houses, hotels (these will not form part of seaward spreading room and the coastal path will be created by agreement). | | | |

River Estuaries

| | Description / location / comments, etc. | Map annotated? | Photo taken? |
|--|---|----------------|--------------|
| Name of river | | | |
| Approximate width of river | | | |
| Type of shoreline and any physical features? | | | |
| Are there any crossing points or ferry services? | | | |
| Would a path / crossing point be of recreational benefit (view points, links to Rights of Way etc.)? | | | |

Other notes

| | Description / location / comments, etc. | Map annotated? | Photo taken? |
|---|---|----------------|--------------|
| Location of any eroding paths or cliffs which may need roll back provisions. | | | |
| Location of any possible conflict with nature conservation, shooting, wildfowling or other land management practices. | | | |

| Land type / Land use | Best place for trail? |
|---|---|
| Cliffs | Along the cliff top, a safe distance inland |
| Headlands | Along seaward edge or across the neck |
| Woodland and Scrub | Through or inland from |
| Heath | Through or inland from |
| Grassland & Grazing land | Through or along seaward edge |
| Wet Grassland & Grazing marsh | Inland from or along seawalls and coastal defences where possible |
| Fresh water (non tidal) | Existing crossings or new ones |
| Dunes | Inland from or through |
| Sandy Beaches, Splits & Flats | Inland from or along |
| Shingle Beaches, Splits & Flats | Inland from |
| Saline Lagoons | Inland from or along seaward banks |
| Rocky shores | Inland from |
| Saltmarsh & Mudflats | Inland from or along seawall & coastal defences where possible |
| Islands linked to mainland | As on mainland (along seaward edge) |
| Islands not linked to mainland | As on mainland (if included) |
| Estuaries | Up to and across the first fixed convenient pedestrian crossing |
| Land used to keep bulls | Seaward edge of field (unless PROW runs across the field) |
| Land used to graze cattle, horses, ponies & other animals | Seaward edge of field |
| Cropped or ploughed land | 4 metres width on seaward edge of field |
| Land used for shooting game | Seaward edge or other route which will cause least interference |
| Land used for target shooting (non MOD Land) | Seaward edge or other route which will cause least interference |
| Coastal settlements | Trail will usually follow existing PROWs |
| Ports, marinas and industrial land | In land from or through on existing PROWs |
| MOD & Military land | Permissive only |
| Parks and Gardens | Permissive only |
| Golf courses | 4 metres width on seaward edge |
| Caravan and camping sites | 4 metres width on seaward edge |

| Spreading room? | Issues / restrictions |
|---|--|
| Always, including any tops & slopes landward of the trail | Public safety / Nature conservation / Fossil hunting |
| Seaward & landward to boundaries | Nature conservation / Cropping / Cattle |
| Seaward & landward to boundaries | Nature conservation / Shooting / Forestry / Fire |
| Seaward & landward to boundaries | Nature conservation / Cattle / Fire |
| Seaward & landward to boundaries | Nature conservation / Cropping / Cattle / Fire |
| Seaward & landward to boundaries | Nature conservation / Cattle |
| Seaward | Nature conservation / Public safety |
| Always | Nature conservation |
| Always | Nature conservation / Public safety |
| Always | Nature conservation |
| Seaward of trail | Nature conservation / Flooding |
| Always | Public safety / Nature conservation |
| Always | Nature conservation / Public Safety / Shooting & Wildfowling / |
| As on mainland | As on mainland |
| The Secretary of State may include these by order only | As on mainland |
| As on open coast | Nature conservation / Public Safety |
| Seaward of trail | Public safety / Animal Diseases / Dogs |
| Seaward of trail | Public safety / Animal Diseases / Dogs |
| Seaward of trail | Dogs |
| Seaward of trail | Public safety / Dogs |
| Seaward of trail | Public safety |
| Seaward | Security |
| Seaward | Public safety / Security |
| Permissive only | Public safety / Security |
| Permissive only | Security |
| Seaward of trail | Public safety |
| Seaward of trail | Public safety / Security |

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