

FORM FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT A COASTAL ACCESS REPORT

Any person may make a representation about a coastal access report.

This form should be completed if you wish to make a representation about the coastal access report which Natural England submitted to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 27th September 2017 under section 51 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, pursuant to its duty under section 296(1) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The report relates to East Head to Shoreham by Sea in West Sussex.

Any representations about the report must be made on this form and received by Natural England no later than 22nd November 2017. If you require more space for your comments, please continue on a separate sheet.

1. Please give the chapter number of the report and number of the map to which the representation(s) relate(s):

General
2 - 2d, 2e
3 – 3e
6 - various

2. If the representation(s) relate to specific land on the map(s), please describe the land here:

3. Please tick the appropriate box below to show who is making the representation(s), or on whose behalf you are making the representation(s):

An access authority for an area in which land to which the report relates is situated	<input type="checkbox"/>
A local access forum for an area in which land to which the report relates is situated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage)	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Environment Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>
A person specified in Schedule 1 to the Coastal Access Reports (Consideration and Modification Procedure) (England) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/1976)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please give details): West Sussex Local Access Forum	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. If you have ticked the “other” box above, please also indicate if you are a person with a relevant interest (within the meaning of section 55J(2) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 ^(a)) in land to which the report relates	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Please give details of, and the reasons for, the representation(s) you are making about Natural England’s report:

General. WSLAF members have the general view that Natural England, via the consultation process has, on the whole, proposed realistic and practical solutions in order for the ECP to keep, within reason, as close to the sea as possible and looks forward to the opening of the new section of ECP in the near future and the opportunities it represents to access the coast of West Sussex.

There are a few areas of concern arising from the report as detailed below:

EHS-2-S015 to EHS-2-S032 (maps 2d and 2e) – West Sands Caravan Park. The plan for dog walkers to go landward during the period when dogs are excluded from the beach, 1st May – 30th September, is on one level a very reasonable solution. Although not an official alternative route the signage for this footpath, particularly from the sea, is lacking on the ground. The signage from both ends, and along the route, needs to be

present and the paths re-established as part of this process as at present it is very unclear where to go through the Caravan Park.

EHS-2-S027 (map 2d) - Although this section is loose shingle at the present time it would be accessible for all terrain motorised disabled buggies if they could get access. To enable this the existing steps would need to be converted to a ramp. This would be an easy way to provide local disabled users access to the path and the beach.

EHS-2-S035 (map 2e) - Medmerry Cliffs. The public footpath here has been eroded so the definitive line of the footpath is no longer available for use. The Forum is concerned that the rate of erosion will lead to roll back which will incur costs. It is not clear now such costs will be funded.

EHS-3-S077 (map 3e)- At Middleton Point the route goes inland slightly to avoid the trail being cut off at high tide. The Forum requests a sign be displayed saying that an alternative route along the beach is available at times other than high tide.

EHS-6-various sections (map 6various) – The route here coincides with the proposed cycle / shared use path NCN2 / South Coast Cycle Path. The Forum believes there is potential for conflict between cyclists and ECP users and asks Natural England to consider how this can best be managed, in particular to engaged with cycle bodies over this matter.

General – Maintenance of the trail (page 38) – The report estimates that the annual cost of maintenance for this section will be £27,714.67. The Forum understands the existing National Trail budget will be stretched to cover the ECP, but is concerned this pot will be sufficient to cover the additional costs to ensure maintenance to the National Trail standards. It is also not clear if this covers maintenance solely to the path or includes some allowance for management of the coastal margin that may be required due to increased use. The Forum also asks how secure the funding in the long term.

The Forum is keen that where the ECP follows existing routes the responsibility during the implementation phase is with National England to maintain the standard of new gates and other furniture to reflect the original routes user’s needs. The Forum expects these initial costs to be wholly provided by Natural England and not fall to West Sussex County Council Rights of Way service.

6. Please list below any documents or evidence you have included in support of the representation(s):

N/a

7. Have you made any other representations about the report?

Yes

No

8. If you are a person with a relevant interest in land to which the report relates, have you made any objection(s) which relate(s) to that land? N/a

Yes

No

9. Please complete your details below:

Name: Jane Noble, Forum Officer

Organisation/company (if appropriate): **West Sussex Local Access Forum**

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Telephone: 03302 226691

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Date:	22/11/17
<p><i>10.</i> The completed form should be sent to Natural England at: Natural England Coastal Access Team (EHS) Guildbourne House Chatsworth Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 1LD</p> <p>or to: southcoastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk</p>	
<p>(a) Section 55J(2) provides that a person has a relevant interest in land if the person is the owner of the land, holds a term of years absolute in the land, or is in lawful occupation of the land.</p>	