Lincolnshire County Council  
Legal Services (fao Property Records Team)  
County Offices  
Newland  
Lincoln LN1 1YL

29th October 2015

Dear Lincolnshire County Council

**Improvements to public access along the coast: Skegness to Mablethorpe**

**Forthcoming consultation with owners and occupiers of affected land**

I am writing to inform you about plans to improve public access on foot along the coast from Skegness to Mablethorpe, as I understand that you are an owner or occupier of coastal land on that stretch of coast that may be affected by the proposals.

The plans to improve coastal access arise from Part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, which places a duty on Natural England to make proposals to the Secretary of State for a long-distance walking route around the English coast and a ‘margin’ of land adjoining the route where people will also have a right of access on foot. This might include foreshore, grazing land or cliffs but **will not** affect buildings, their curtilage or gardens.

Natural England has been working to implement the England Coast Path in the North East since 2011. Early last year new access rights were introduced on the coast between Hartlepool and Sunderland. In March 2015 we published our report setting out our proposals for coastal access between Filey Brigg and the Newport Bridge in Middlesbrough.

We are now turning our attention to the stretch of coast between Skegness and Mablethorpe. We will work in close association with officers from Lincolnshire County Council and other local organisations who will provide expert local advice. It's important to note however that there will be **no** new right of access public access to the coast until proposals have been approved by the Secretary of State and work to
establish the route has been carried out. We expect that the whole process will be completed by early 2018 on this part of the coast.

Before preparing our proposals, we will aim to visit the majority of land that is likely to be affected. During these visits we will, where appropriate, aim to hold individual discussions with the owner and/or occupier of the affected land, in order to understand any specific factors which we will need to take into account in our proposals.

The site visit will be an important opportunity for you to explain any concerns you have and to discuss potential options for the walking route and the adjoining margin.

For those site visits that we will look to arrange with you, we hope that you and/or a nominated representative will be able to make time to join us but we understand that for some people this may not be possible or even necessary.

Please find enclosed a site visit information sheet which explains in more detail the purpose of the site visit we may need to arrange with you - how we will arrange the date and time of the visit and what will happen on the day. We would encourage you to read the site visit information sheet and to look at our website at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-improving-public-access-to-the-coast](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-improving-public-access-to-the-coast)

In some areas, we may identify an existing access route as being the most appropriate route for the England Coast Path, during our early planning work. In such circumstances, we may well contact those with a legal interest in the land concerned and explain our initial proposals, without necessarily conducting a site visit. Even if you receive such a letter and map in due course, you will still be able to talk to us or ask us to visit your land to discuss options and details, if you feel that would be helpful.

You should also find enclosed with this letter a reply slip that you can use to confirm or amend your contact details and indicate your preferred method of contact. We will use the details to make further contact with you as and when required.

**Please complete and return the reply slip by email.** If you do not have access to the internet, please post the reply slip to the address on the slip. If you require a prepaid return envelope, please telephone 0300 060 3900.

The webpage (shown above) includes a link to our statutory Coastal Access Scheme, which sets out the approach we must follow in preparing our coastal access proposals. This is a substantial document but we would encourage you to familiarise yourself with it, in particular chapters 2 and 3 which set out the framework for the new coastal access and the opportunities that you will have to influence our emerging proposals.

Some membership organisations also offer information or advice about our coastal access programme which you may find helpful.
If you have any tenants or know of anyone else with a legal interest in your land (such as grazing or shooting rights) then we would be grateful if you could pass the information in this letter on to them and ask them to contact us directly.

Finally, we have also arranged two public ‘drop-in sessions’ to allow anyone whose land might be affected an opportunity to find out more information about this project. Representatives from Natural England and other organisations will be present to answer any initial queries that you may have prior to detailed planning of the route. If you do wish to attend then the details for these events are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Session One:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Date: Tuesday 15\textsuperscript{th} December 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Time: 3.00pm – 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Venue: Anderby Village Hall, Sea Road, Anderby, PE24 5YB</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Session Two:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Date: Wednesday 16\textsuperscript{th} December 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Time: 10.00am – 3.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Venue: The Village Church Farm, Church Road South, Skegness, PE25 2HF</td>
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If after further planning, we think that your land will be affected then we will make contact with you again within the next 6–12 months, to discuss the alignment of the trail and any associated margin. In the meantime, if you have any questions, then please contact us using the details at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Best

Senior Advisor – Coastal Access