



ramblers
at the heart of walking



Shaping the Future of our Island Coastal Trail

Isle of Wight Ramblers has been at the heart of a campaign to see the approval of a new Coastal Trail around the Island. It has now been agreed that this will be part of the new long distance English Coastal Trail. This 2700 mile route is scheduled to be completed in 2020.

The trail will usually be 4 metres in width and have spreading room to the low water sea level. This improves access for all recreational users of the coast.

How is the new trail developed?

Natural England is the Government agency who is responsible for this work. Their team will arrive on the Island in late spring 2017. They will be talking to landowners, IW Council, Local Access Forum, and to users of the new path such as The Ramblers.

Natural England will determine the route of the new trail.

How are we helping?

Our members have much local expertise to offer. We have agreed to produce an initial survey of our coast, and to work alongside our Rights of Way Department. We have held training sessions for surveyors of the coast. Some of these surveyors are from other organisations. The survey will show where there are existing Rights of Way and to identify the issues which Natural England will need to consider. We are following a standard procedure which has been approved by Natural England. In particular, we are familiar with their comprehensive guidance document which ensures that all landowners and users can make a contribution to the outcome.

We will produce options for the possible location of the new trail. This will assist Natural England to become familiar with the local geography and to develop their scheme.

Next Steps

We expect to complete the survey by late Autumn and to produce a report during the Winter months.

More Information

Details of the scheme and the latest developments can be found at the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-improving-public-access-to-the-coast>