



Meeting Date:	20th April 2022
Report Type:	Public – for information
Report Subject:	England Coastal Path – Kimmeridge Bay to Highcliffe
Agenda Item No:	12
Contact:	Cllr Nigel Brooks

BACKGROUND:

Having 'tracked' Natural England's progress, over a number of years, to establish a national coastal path reaching the Hampshire/Dorset border, I am pleased to report the Secretary of State has decided to approve the new England Coastal Path, which includes our section of coastline in the Parish area. Extract of letter below.

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Dear Sir/Madam,

On 21 June 2017 Natural England submitted a coastal access report for improving coastal access between Kimmeridge Bay and Highcliffe to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The reports set out Natural England's proposals for improving coastal access under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

The report is available under the link here or at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-fromkimmeridge-bay-to-highcliffe-comment-on-proposals>

The Secretary of State has decided to approve the proposals for Kimmeridge Bay to Highcliffe, the decision is outlined in the notice which is available here or at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-lulworth-cove-to-highcliffe>

The right of access to the approved stretch of coast does not come into effect at this stage. Natural England will be working with the local authority to establish any infrastructure works before an Order is made by the Secretary of State under the 2009 Act to bring the rights into effect.

Yours faithfully,

Access and Engagement with Nature Team Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs E: coast.consultation@defra.gov.uk

RECOMMENDATION:

- The start/end of the Coastal Path at Chewton Bunny is a significant marketing opportunity for Highcliffe, with the expectation of an increase in visitor numbers who will wish to follow a section of the new Path.
- In consultation with BCP Council/Natural England the Parish should endeavour to secure a 'feature' sign at the start/end of the Path at Chewton Bunny as well as other 'way-

marker signage'. **Photos below** - examples, the 'feature' sign in Minehead, Somerset at the start of the South West Coastal Path and at the end Ferry Road, Sandbanks, Poole.



Minehead, Somerset



Ferry Road, Sandbanks, Poole