King Charles III England Coast Path

Jenny Bowen
Delivery Lead – East Sussex & Kent

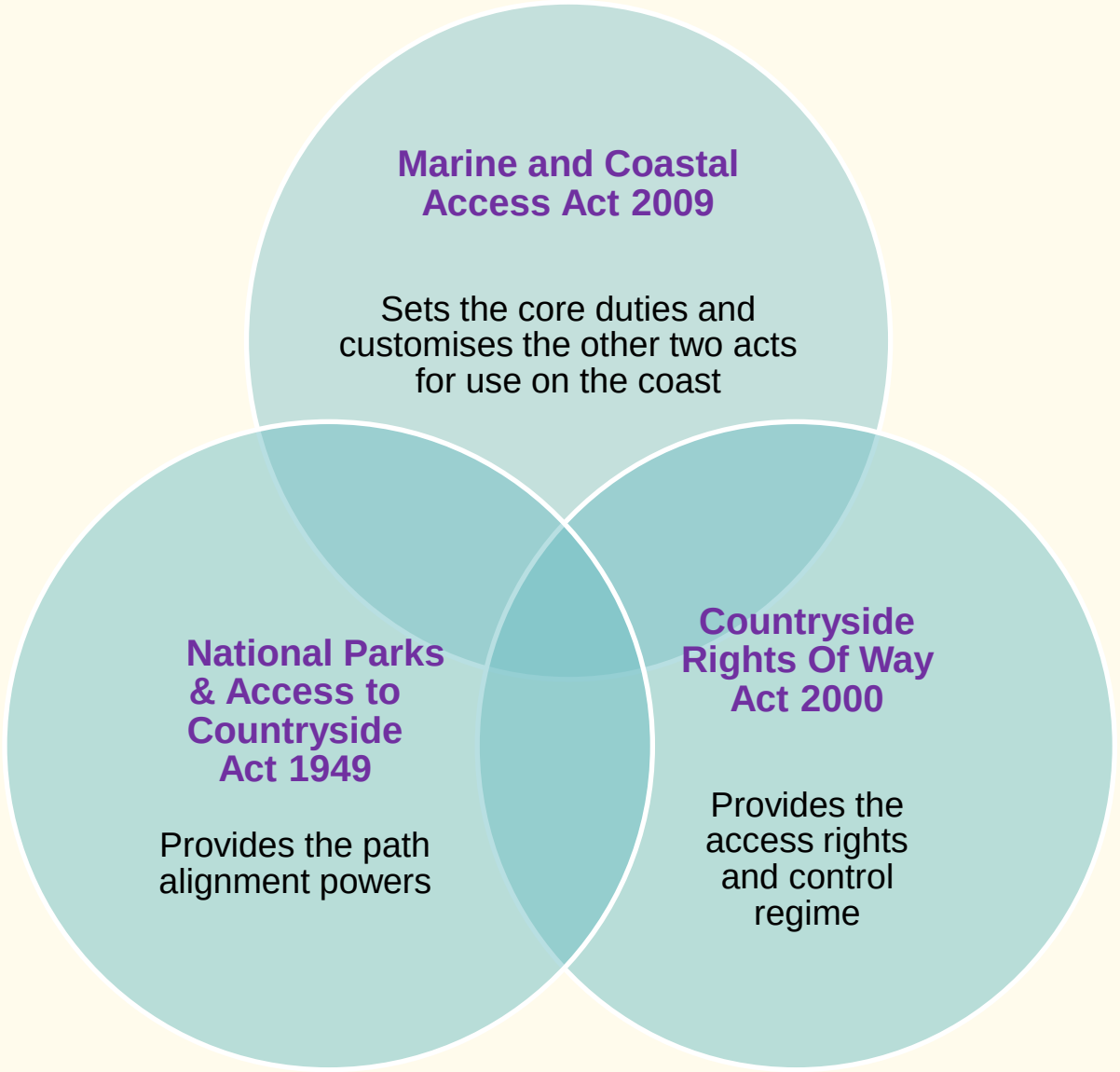
NATURAL ENGLAND

KING CHARLES III

ENGLAND COAST PATH

NATIONAL TRAIL

The legal framework



“*One of the most ambitious ways we are opening up the natural world is through the England Coast Path.*”

Defra 25yr Environment Plan

‘Levelling Up the United Kingdom’ white paper: ‘*the England Coast Path will be fully walkable by the end of this Parliament’*.

When completed it will be the longest managed coastal walking route in the world.

The Concept – Improving Coastal Access

To provide

- a continuous route
- a coastal margin
- roll back, to protect against coastal erosion
- the benefits that a quality nation trail can bring

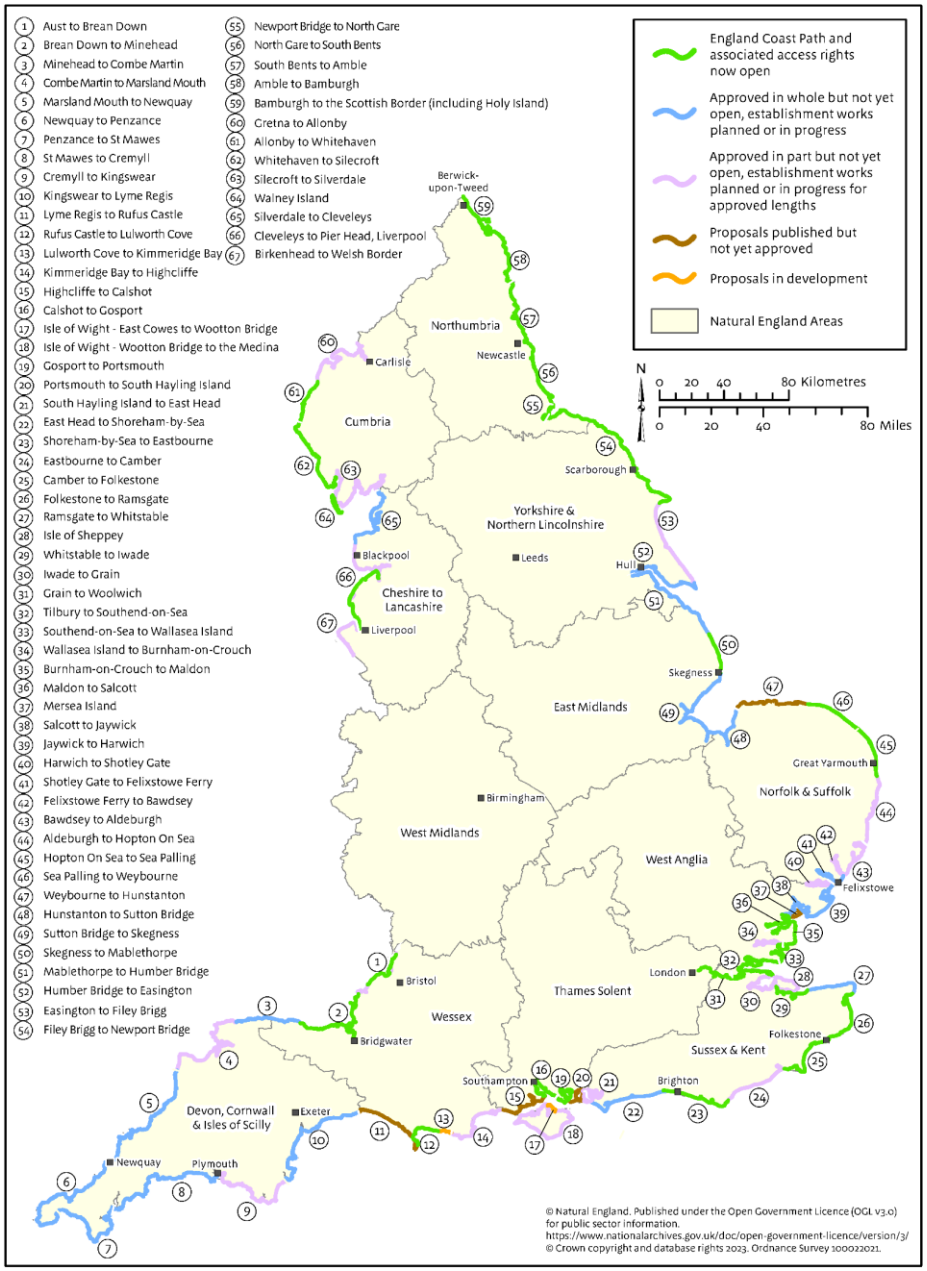
Natural England's role delivering 67 stretches

Balancing public and private interests:

- Landowner engagement– site visits
- Community consultation
- Habitats Regulations Assessment HRA
- Proposals submitted to SoS
- Determination of proposals (SoS)
- Overseeing establishment works (AAs)
- Launch /opening
- Funding and engagement with National Trail partnerships, once open

King Charles III England Coast Path National Trail - Stretch Progress

23rd August 2023



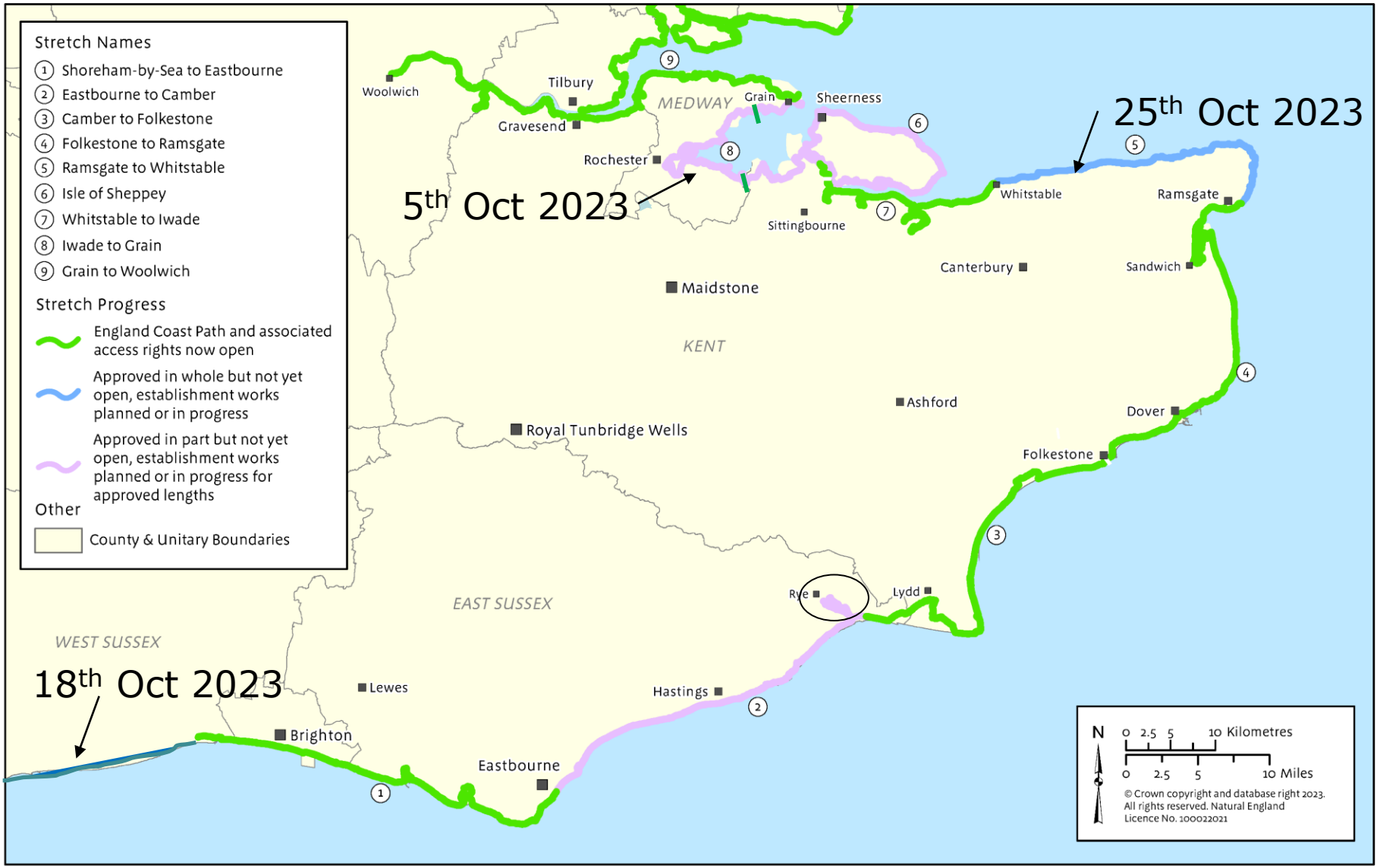
2,692 miles of English coast in total of which proposals for:

99.4% of total length has been submitted to government of which:

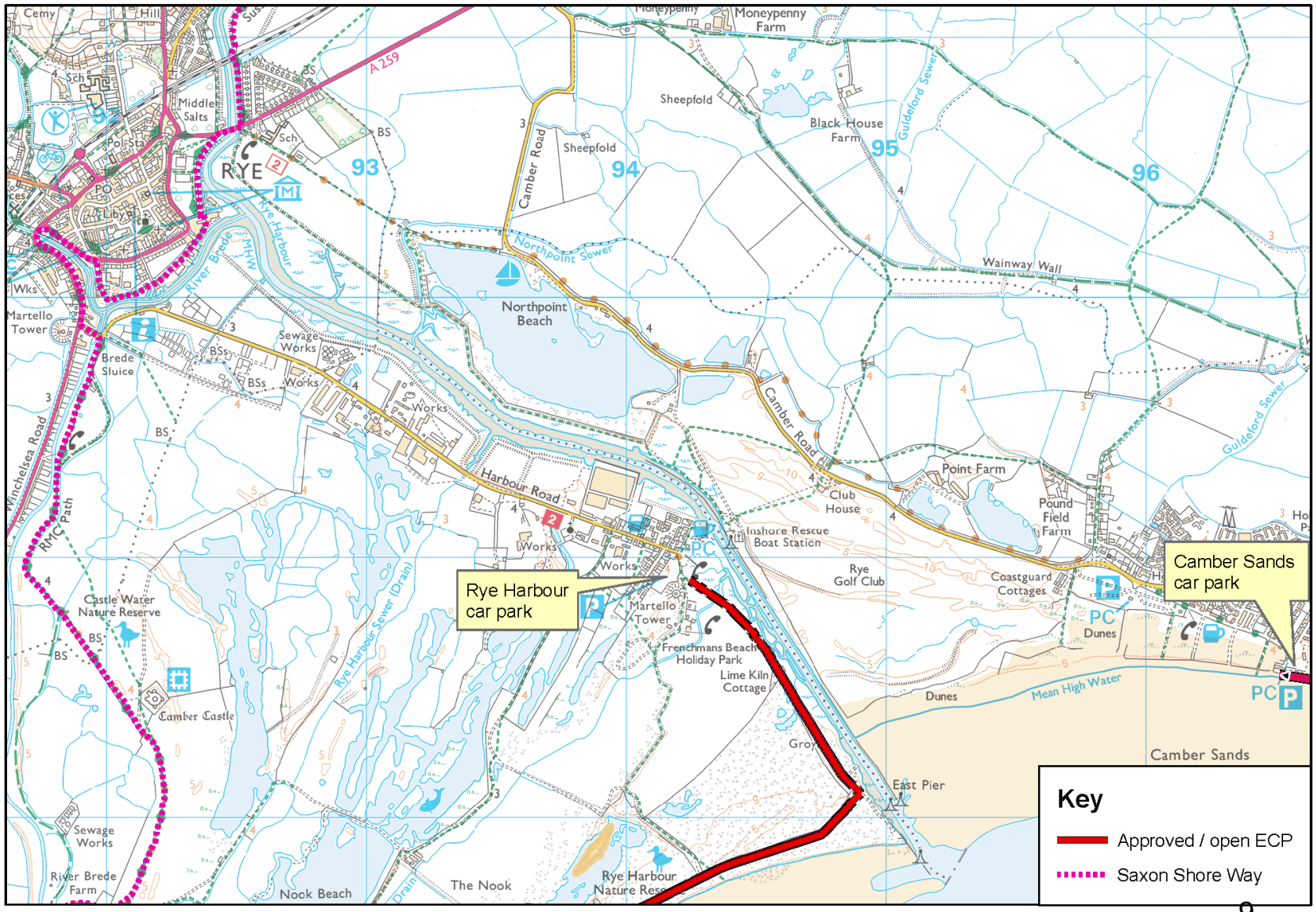
- 2,228 miles (83% of total length) have been approved by government, of which:
  - 1,314 miles (49% of total length) have establishment works in hand / pending) while:
  - 914 miles (34% of total length) have been completed and new rights commenced.

King Charles III England Coast Path National Trail - Stretch Progress

South East Hub Team - 27th July 2023



Map 1. King Charles III England Coast Path proposals to be developed between Rye Harbour and Camber Sands



Date: Aug 2023

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Not just a path…

The KCIIIECP = National Trail

+

The Coastal Margin

Rollback

Component 1 – The KCIIIECP Trail

- Proposals - what's there already, improving it, and new access
- Public Right of Way (PROW) - we're not creating new PROW!
- National Trails standards - can be walked without needing a map
- Marked by the National Trails acorn logo – some co-branding with existing trails

Component 2 – The Coastal Margin

- A recognisable **corridor of coastal land** incorporating a walking route and coastal margin to the water's edge
- Clear boundaries to landward and seaward sides
- Existing rights (PROW) and new rights ('**coastal access rights**')
- Purpose – to secure access to **beaches, foreshore and cliffs** on foot

- Includes land that is not accessible: **'excepted land'** and land **'excluded' by direction**
- Seaward by default, landward when fulfilling certain conditions or through dedication

What rights are created?

- **open-air recreation on foot**: walking, picnicking, kite-flying, climbing (but not camping, lighting fires, riding a horse or bike)

- subject to national restrictions (**no horse riding or cycling, fires, camping etc**.) while local restrictions are put in place for wildlife, 'suitability', land management practices (e.g. agriculture) reasons

- Horses and cycles can only be ridden by permission of landowner or via existing legal rights

- **No vehicles** (other than mobility vehicles)

Sensitive habitats and species

Controlling access

For nature conservation / land management..

Least restrictive approach

Mixture of formal and informal measures – for example:

- Signage (eg interpretation)
- Directing people (eg fencing)
- Temporary fencing on beaches
- Dogs on leads
- Salt marsh and mud – (unsuitable for access)

Images - North Wales Little Tern Group

Component 3 – Rollback

- The ability to move the King Charles III England Coast Path from its current location if needed
- For example, coastal erosion, managed retreat
- (Any PROW stays where it is however)

Launches and celebrations

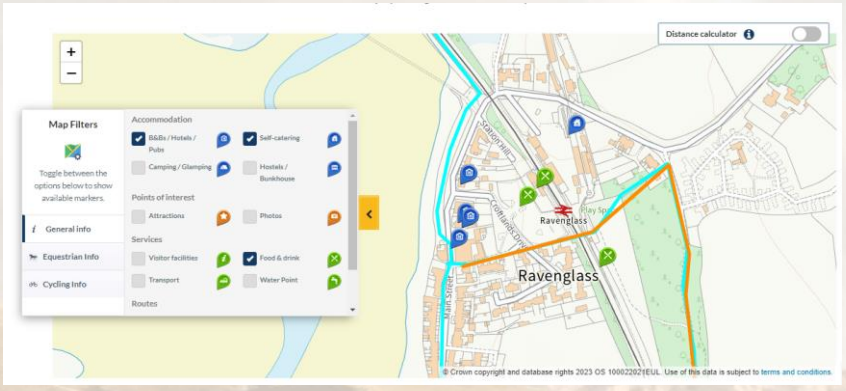
The Countryside Code
RESPECT • PROTECT • ENJOY

www.gov.uk/natural-england

Where to find information

3. National Trails website – open sections

- to plan walks and report any problems
- look up restrictions
- check for changes to the trail (temporary routes, alternative routes)
- Find places to stay, eat and visit
- https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/



ECP Business Leaflet

National Coastal Tourism Academy, 2019

- Coastal Tourism in England generated £13.7bn tourism spend,
- 21m overnight domestic visits,
- 169m day visits and supported
- 210,000 tourism related jobs (pre-covid)

Contacts & information

southeastcoastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk

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

https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/

Thank you – any questions?

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