

[REDACTED]

The East Yorkshire and Derwent Area of the Ramblers **object** to the application for the “**Alteration to the local network at Cherry Cobb Sands**” as proposed by Able UK.

The Ramblers Association is a registered charity and has over one hundred thousand members split into Areas and Groups. I, represent the ramblers on the northern bank of the Humber, I do not speak for the members on the south bank.

Parliament think this path is very important because they have ordered Natural England to convert this path into the part of the English Long-distance Coastal Path by 2017.

Able UK wrote to us on the 4th May 2011 with an “indicative” proposal to divert Paull Footpath No.6 from the top of the existing flood bank to the base of a new flood bank. At present walkers have long views over 360 degree from the whole of the footpath, whilst Able’s proposals would greatly restrict the long views for the path users.

We responded with a number of questions, which the developer responded to on the 22nd September 2011., and included Drawing No. AME - 02060, and information from Natural England and the RSPB. 29/9/2011

According to this paper on **Advice from Natural England and RSPB on suitable buffers for SPA and Ramsar waterbird mitigation areas within the South Humber Gateway**. Which in its conclusion states; **We believe that the proposed buffer of 150m is the minimum that should be considered in a situation where the adjacent land use is unsecured.**

Despite a request for site meetings to Able UK by both the Ramblers and the Highway Authority, we have had no consultations with Able UK, and the return of Drawing No. AME - 02060, amended with a 150 metre buffer shown.

Natural England require a compensation site twice the size of the area required by Able UK on the south bank, but have fail to explain why? The information supplied is minimal. We are told it the site consists of 55 hectares, but we have no information on how much of this is mud flats, salt marsh, or covered by water the whole time or how much is unavailable because of the footpath which runs along one side. (The 150 metre buffer)

With regards to the compensation site, we are told its area, and where the existing flood bank will be breached, but we do not know where or how much mud flats or salt marsh will be created.

NE by demanding twice the area as compensation land and insisting the footpath is established at the base of the flood bank are refusing a ford fiesta in return for a Vauxhall Corsa, but are demanding a BMW 5 series, whilst the walking public are being denied a like for like footpath.

WE CALCULATE THAT BY REMOVING THE FOOTPATH RIGHTS FROM THE ^{EXISTING} RIVER BANK AN EXTRA 30 HECTARES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE CURLEWS.

Therefore we ask you to request Natural England to justify their position by putting flesh on the skeleton of their compensation site, or failing this to require Able UK to amend their plans and position the footpath on the top of the flood bank as at Paull.