

Chapter 4:

Long Beach Estate, Hemsby to Warren Farm, Horsey

Coastal Access: Hopton-on-Sea to Sea Palling - Natural England's Proposals

Part 4.1: Introduction

Start Point:	Long Beach Estate (grid reference: TG5041 1792)
End Point:	Warren Farm (grid reference: TG4605 2458)
Relevant Maps:	4a to 4e

Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps:

The Trail:

- 4.1.1 Follows existing walked routes, including public rights of way, along this length.
- 4.1.2 Follows the coastline with good views of the sea from Beach Road, Winterton to Winterton Ness. Sea views along other sections of this length of the trail are limited by the dunes that are seaward of it.
- 4.1.3 This part of the coast includes the following sites, designated for nature conservation (See map C of the Overview):
 - Winterton-Horsey Dunes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). It includes Winterton Dunes NNR and lies within the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
 - Part of Great Yarmouth North Denes Special Protection Area (SPA) designated for the Annex 1 species Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*.

We have assessed the potential impacts of access along the proposed route (and over the associated spreading room) on the features for which the affected land is designated and on any which are protected in their own right.

- 4.1.4 The levels and patterns of public access along this length of coast will lead to a negligible increase in numbers of users along the trail and in the spreading room. This is because it is an already promoted route and tourist destination. As a result of our proposals, we have identified several management measures that would protect the Little Terns and vegetation for which the site is designated. When implemented they will avoid likely significant effect on these features.

In relation to those nature conservation sites listed above, refer to our published Access and Sensitive Features Appraisal for more information.

See part 5b of the Overview - 'Natural environment' - for more information.

Accessibility:

4.1.5 Generally, there are few artificial barriers to accessibility on the proposed route, which makes use of existing surfaced paths wherever these meet the criteria in the Coastal Access Scheme.

However, there are places where it may not be entirely suitable for people with reduced mobility because the trail would follow an uneven grass path through the sand dunes.

See part 5a of the Overview - 'Recreational issues' - for more information.

Where we have proposed exercising our discretion:

4.1.6 Landward boundary of the coastal margin: We have used our discretion on some sections of the route to map the landward extent of the coastal margin to adjacent physical boundary e.g. fence lines, pavement or track to make the extent of the new access rights clearer. See Table 4.2.1 below.

4.1.7 The dunes from Long Beach Estate to Winterton Ness, on the seaward side of the trail automatically become coastal margin. We have also used our discretion here to map the landward extent of the coastal margin to an adjacent physical boundary e.g. fence lines.

See also part 3 of the Overview - 'Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps', for an explanation of the default extent of the coastal margin and how we may use our discretion to adjust the margin, either to add land or to provide clarity. See also Annex C of the Overview - 'Excepted land categories'.

4.1.8 Restrictions and/or exclusions: Access rights to the spreading room would be subject to the national restrictions on coastal access rights listed in Annex D of the Overview. These restrictions would not apply to public rights of way.

See part 9 of the Overview - 'Restrictions and exclusions' - for details.

4.1.9 Establishment: Some physical establishment of the trail would be necessary, in accordance with the general approach described in part 6 the Overview. In addition, in Winterton Special Area of Conservation we also propose the following measures to encourage people to use selected routes through the dunes and so conserve the special dune vegetation for which the site is designated:

- Interpretation.
- Surfacing of cross routes to guide walkers and prevent wider damage of the special dune vegetation; if research into the impact of trampling along desire lines between the proposed route and public footpath, parallel with Beach Road, identifies this is necessary. Please refer to map 4b.
- Way marking of two cross routes from the trail to the public byway which is landward of the trail, to guide the public round a circular walk avoiding habitats most sensitive to damage by trampling. Please refer to maps 4b and 4c.
- Clearance of the public right of way and byway which run on the landward side of the site.
- Possible management measures to reduce the impact of walkers with dogs drawing on expert advice from the Kennel Club.
- Fencing around an area of the fixed dune heath and grassland to allow recovery and the provision of suitable signage to explain this activity to visitors.
- Possible monitoring of erosion on way marked routes so further management measures can be considered as needed.

4.1.10 Ongoing management: Ongoing management and maintenance would be necessary in accordance with the general approach described in part 7 of the Overview. The overall need for this is likely to be greater than on some other parts of the stretch, recognising that it will be necessary for the route to roll back from time to time in response to coastal processes, as described below.

See parts 6 - 'Physical establishment of the trail' and 7 - 'Maintenance of the trail' of the Overview for more information.

Future Change:

4.1.11 Part of the route of the trail on this length of coast would be able to change without further approval from the Secretary of State in response to coastal erosion or other geomorphological processes, or encroachment by the sea. This would happen in accordance with the criteria and procedures for 'roll back' set out in part 8 of the Overview. See table 4.2.1 below for details of the sections likely to be affected in the foreseeable future.

4.1.12 At the time of preparing the report, we do not foresee any other need for future changes to the access provisions proposed for the length of coast described in this chapter.

See parts 5e - 'Coastal processes' and 8 - 'Future changes' of the Overview for more information.

Part 4.2: Commentary on Maps

See Part 3 of Overview for guidance on reading and understanding the tables below

4.2.1 Section Details – Maps 4a to 4e: Long Beach Estate, Hemsby to Warren Farm, Horsey

Notes on table:

Column 2 – an asterisk (*) against the route section number means see also table 4.2.2: Other options considered.

Column 5 – ‘Yes – direct and indirect erosion effects’ means roll-back approach is likely to follow the current feature (e.g. cliff edge/beach) for the foreseeable future.

1	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	7
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of this section	Current surface of this section	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 8 of Overview)	Landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary discretion	Exclusions or restrictions (see Part 9 of Overview)
4a	HSP-4-S001* to HSP-4-S003*	Public footpath	Grass	Yes: direct and indirect erosion effects	Boundary fences of residential and business properties along the ridge landward of the Valley	Additional landward area, clarity and cohesion	None
4b	HSP-4-S004*	Public footway (pavement)	Gravel	Yes: direct and indirect erosion effects	Landward edge of pavement	Clarity and cohesion	None
	HSP-4-S005*	Public highway	Tarmac	Yes: direct and indirect erosion effects	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	HSP-4-S006* to HSP-4-S008*	Other existing walked route	Grass, bare sand	Yes: direct and indirect erosion effects	Boundary fence of residential properties and landward edge of the public byway	Additional landward area, clarity and cohesion	None
4b & 4c	HSP-4-S009*	Other existing walked route	Grass, bare sand	No	Landward edge of the public byway	Additional landward area, clarity and cohesion	None
4c	HSP-4-S010*	Public footpath	Gravel	No	Landward edge of the gravel track	Clarity and cohesion	None
4c & 4d	HSP-4-S011*	Public footpath	Gravel	No	Landward edge of the gravel track	Clarity and cohesion	None
4e	HSP-4-S012*	Public footpath	Gravel	No	Landward edge of the gravel track	Clarity and cohesion	None
	HSP-4-S013*	Other existing walked route	Gravel	No	Landward edge of the gravel track	Clarity and cohesion	None
	HSP-4-S014	Other existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of the trail	Not used	None

4.2.2 Other options considered: Maps 4a to 4e: Long Beach Estate, Hemsby to Warren Farm, Horsey

Map(s)	Section numbers(s)	Options considered	Reasons for not proposing this option as the route
4a	HSP-4-S001 to HSP-4-S003	Alignment along a walked path along the dune ridge, seaward of the proposed trail.	The path is uneven making it difficult to walk on. There is a more accessible public right of way landward of it.
4a	HSP-4-S003	Alignment along any one of the public rights of way which run parallel with and to the south of Beach Road. See map 4a.	There are no obvious desire lines here and the habitat is sensitive to damage by trampling. The grass is uneven and there is a more accessible surfaced pavement nearby.
4b to 4e	HSP-4-S005 to HSP-4-S013	Alignment along the beach seaward of the proposed trail	The sandy beach is difficult to walk on for long distances. It is regularly cut off by tidal action and we were advised against it by HM Coastguard on safety grounds.
4b to 4c	HSP-4-S004 to HSP-4-S009	Alignment along one of the currently walked routes through the central area of the site and landward of the proposed trail.	<p>Winterton Dunes is designated as a SPA, SAC and SSSI for nature conservation and accordingly has been subject to an access and sensitive features appraisal. The outcome of the appraisal concluded likely significant effect on the features of this site for these options.</p> <p>The more mobile dunes on the seaward side of the site are more resilient than the fixed dune heath and grassland communities across the central area of the site and the proposed trail was found to have no likely effect on them.</p>
4b to 4c	HSP-4-S004 to HSP-4-S009	Alignment along the public footpath and byway landward of (and broadly parallel with) the proposed trail.	<p>Views of the sea are largely limited or hidden because of the dunes present seaward of the public footpath and byway.</p> <p>The proposed route is closer to the sea than the public right of way and provides views of the sea.</p>

Part 4.3: Chapter 4 - Formal Proposals

- Below are our formal proposals to the Secretary of State for the length of coast shown on maps 4a to 4e.
- They should be read in conjunction with the relevant maps.
- The commentary above explains the practical effect of these proposals.

Formal Proposals – Long Beach Estate, Hemsby to Warren Farm, Horsey

Proposed route of the trail

- 4.3.1 In relation to route sections HSP-4-S001 to HSP-4-S008, the initial proposed route, as determined at the time the report was prepared, is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps 4a to 4b as the proposed route of the trail.
- 4.3.2 If at any time any part of the route described in the previous paragraph needs to change in order to remain viable, as a result of coastal erosion or other geomorphological processes or encroachment by the sea, the new route will be determined by Natural England in accordance with the criteria and procedures described under the title 'Roll-back' in part 8 of the Overview and section 4.10 of the Scheme. If this happens, the new route will become the approved route for that section for the purposes of the Order which determines where coastal access rights apply.
- 4.3.3 In relation to route sections HSP-4-S009 to HSP-4-S014, the route is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps 4b to 4e as the proposed route of the trail.

Landward boundary of coastal margin

- 4.3.4 Adjacent to route sections HSP-4-S001 to HSP-4-S003, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the existing boundaries of residential properties and businesses along the ridge above the Valley, as indicated by the coastal margin landward of the trail on map 4a.
- 4.3.5 Adjacent to route section HSP-4-S004, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of the pavement shown as the trail on map 4b.
- 4.3.6 Adjacent to route sections HSP-4-S006 to HSP-4-S009, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the boundary fences of the residential properties in Winterton that border the dunes and the landward edge of the public byway between Winterton and Winterton Ness, as indicated by the coastal margin landward of the trail on maps 4b and 4c.
- 4.3.7 Adjacent to route section HSP-4-S010 to HSP-4-S013, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the gravel track shown as the trail on maps 4c to 4e.

Local restrictions and exclusions

- 4.3.8 At the time of writing this report, there are no proposals for local restrictions or exclusions in relation to this length of coast.









