



England Coast Path Stretch: Shotley Gate to Felixstowe Ferry

Report SGF 5: Landguard Point to Martello Tower, Felixstowe Ferry

Part 5.1: Introduction

Start Point:	Landguard Point (Grid reference TM2828 3201)
End Point:	Martello Tower, Felixstowe Ferry (Grid reference TM3285 3733)
Relevant Maps:	SGF 5a to SGF 5e

5.1.1 This is one of a series of linked but legally separate reports published by Natural England under section 51 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, which make proposals to the Secretary of State for improved public access along and to this stretch of coast between Shotley Gate to Felixstowe Ferry.

5.1.2 This report covers length SGF 5 of the stretch, which is the coast between Landguard Point and Martello Tower, Felixstowe Ferry. It makes free-standing statutory proposals for this part of the stretch, and seeks approval for them by the Secretary of State in their own right under section 52 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

5.1.3 The report explains how we propose to implement the England Coast Path (“the trail”) on this part of the stretch, and details the likely consequences in terms of the wider ‘Coastal Margin’ that will be created if our proposals are approved by the Secretary of State. Our report also sets out:

- any proposals we think are necessary for restricting or excluding coastal access rights to address particular issues, in line with the powers in the legislation; and
- any proposed powers for the trail to be capable of being relocated on particular sections (“roll-back”), if this proves necessary in the future because of coastal change.

5.1.4 There is also a single Overview document for the whole of this stretch of coast, explaining common principles and background. **This and the other individual reports relating to the stretch should be read in conjunction with the Overview. The Overview explains, among other things, how we have considered any potential environmental impacts of improving public access to this part of the coast, and this report, and other separately published assessments we refer to, then provides more detail on these aspects where appropriate.**

Part 5.2: Proposals Narrative

The trail:

Generally follows existing walked routes, including public rights of way, along most of this length.

5.2.1 Mainly follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea.

5.2.2 Follows a route similar to the existing Suffolk Coast Path but departs from this at Landguard Point to connect to the Ferry.

5.2.3 The whole of Landguard Point is accessible as it falls within the Coastal Margin however this report includes an alignment of the trail to Landguard Point to facilitate a clearly marked onward connection with the seasonal ferry service and to draw users to the tourist facilities and views from the Point.

Protection of the environment:

In this part of the report, we explain how we have taken account of environmental protection objectives in developing our proposals for improved coastal access.

5.2.4 The following designated sites affect this length of coast:

- Landguard Common SSSI (see map C in the Overview)
- Landguard Common Local Nature Reserve (see map C in the Overview)
- Landguard Fort and Associated Field Works SAM (see map D in the Overview)
- Martello tower at Felixstowe Ferry SAM (see map D in the Overview)
- Martello tower on Felixstowe Ferry golf course adjoining Woodbridge Haven SAM (see map D in the Overview)

The following table brings together design features of our access proposals that will help to protect the environment along this length of the coast.

5.2.5 Measures to protect the environment

Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Design features of the access proposals	Reason included
SGF 5a	SGF-5-S001 to SGF-5-S007	<p>The following design features are described elsewhere in this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The trail is aligned on existing walked routes, either public rights of way or surfaced pavements in these locations. ■ Access is currently well managed by local wardening over Landguard Common LNR. 	<p>By virtue of the design measures through the alignment and existing wardening for the spreading room in these locations this report has suggested no further measures to protect the environment as no further risk was determined.</p>
SGF 5e	SGF-5-S033		
	SGF-5-S039 & SGF-5-S040		

Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Design features of the access proposals	Reason included
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Martello towers are landward of the trail, and there is no spreading room or existing access over these areas. ■ Landguard Fort is a tourist attraction and as a building and curtilage is excepted land within seaward spreading room. 	

5.2.6 Natural England is satisfied that the proposals for coastal access in this report are made in accordance with relevant environmental protection legislation. For more information about how we came to this conclusion; see the following assessments of the access proposals that we have published separately:

- A Habitats Regulations Assessment relating to any potential impact on the conservation objectives of European sites.
- Our Nature Conservation Assessment, in which we document our conclusions in relation to other potential impacts on nature conservation.

Part 6b of the Overview includes some contextual information about protecting the environment along this length of coast.

Accessibility:

5.2.7 There are few artificial barriers to accessibility on the proposed route. However, the natural coastal terrain is often challenging and this is the case on sections of our proposed route because:

- The trail would follow an uneven grass or bare soil path along the cliff top in Felixstowe;

See part 6a of the Overview - 'Recreational issues' - for more information.

Where we have proposed exercising statutory discretions:

5.2.8 **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 an adjacent physical boundary such as a fence line, pavement, track or promenade to make the extent of the new access rights clearer. See Table 5.3.1 below.

5.2.9 Land at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Course is Common Land with public access under the CROW Act 2000. It is also accessible to the public under other enactments listed in S15 land under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. This land is therefore included in the landward coastal margin by default, but will carry no new right of access by foot as a result of being an excepted land type. It remains accessible under the CROW and there is no material change in rights at this location. The CROW access land

extends northwards from the end of the Shotley Gate to Felixstowe Ferry Coastal Access report proposed route. It will be referred to in the Felixstowe Ferry to Bawdsey Coastal Access Report. The Tomline Seawall which is continuous with the S15 land will also be included in the landward coastal margin by default.

5.2.10 The Proposals Tables show where we are proposing to alter the default landward boundary of the coastal margin. These proposals are set out in columns 5b and 5c of table 5.3.1. Where these columns are left blank, we are making no such proposals, so the default landward boundary applies. See the note relating to Columns 5b & 5c [above Table 5.3.1] explaining what this means in practice.

See also part 3 of the Overview - 'Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps', for a more detailed 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.

5.2.11 **Other factors affecting access:** The route section SGF-5-S013 on the promenade will pass through flood gates (P1) that remain open during the winter months. However public access may be interrupted from time to time for short periods when these flood gates are closed. This arrangement would continue and the local organisations managing the flood gates (East Suffolk Council and the Environment Agency) have agreed to ensure that any signage or instructions indicating suitable alternatives routes will be given to the general public and walkers on the England Coast Path. Signage will be placed at the two flood gates requesting that walkers follow local instructions given by these authorities.

5.2.12 **Coastal erosion:** Natural England is able to propose that the route of the trail would be able to change in the future, without further approval from the Secretary of State, in response to coastal change. This would happen in accordance with the criteria and procedures for 'roll-back' set out in part 7 of the Overview.

5.2.13 We have chosen not to make any such proposal in this report. Accordingly the route is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps SGF 5a to SGF 5e as the proposed route of the trail.

Other future change:

5.2.14 At this point we do not foresee any need for future changes to the access provisions that we have proposed within this report.

See parts 7 - 'Future changes' of the Overview for more information.

Establishment of the trail:

5.2.15 Below we summarise how our proposed route for the trail would be physically established to make it ready for public use before any new rights come into force.

Establishment works will only start on this length of coast once these proposals have been approved by the Secretary of State. The works may therefore either precede or follow the start of establishment works on other lengths of coast within the stretch, and are detailed in their separate reports.

5.2.16 Our estimate of the capital costs for physical establishment of the trail on the proposed route is £15,362.50 and is informed by:

- information already held by the access authority, Suffolk County Council
- the conclusions of our deliberations in relation to potential impacts on the environment; and
- information gathered while visiting affected land and talking to the people who own and manage it about the options for the route.

5.2.17 There are a number of main elements to the overall cost:

- A significant number of new signs would be needed on the trail, in particular on route sections where the proposed route differs from that of the existing Suffolk Coast Path
- The surfaces and access furniture of the existing paths and footways on the proposed route are generally of a suitable standard for the trail, but there are some places where new signage on Felixstowe promenade would enhance the convenience of the trail. More significant items of establishment works are shown on the relevant maps accompanying this report.

Table 1 shows our estimate of the capital cost for each of the main elements of physical establishment described above.

Table 1: Estimate of capital costs

Signs & interpretation	£15,362.50
Steps	N/A
Boardwalks	N/A
Bridges	N/A
Fencing	N/A
Gates	N/A
Clearance	N/A
Surfacing and traffic management	N/A
Total	£15,362.50 (Exclusive of any VAT payable)

5.2.18 Once the Secretary of State's decision on our report has been notified, and further to our conversations with land managers during the route planning stage, Suffolk County Council will liaise with affected land owners and occupiers about relevant aspects of the design, installation and maintenance of the new signs and infrastructure that are needed on their land. Ornamental lampposts on Felixstowe promenade will have metal fingers attached in matching livery to indicate the route. Prior to works being carried out on the ground, all necessary permissions, authorisations and consents will be obtained. All such works would conform to the published standards for National Trails and the other criteria described in our Coastal Access Scheme.

Maintenance of the trail:

5.2.19 Because the trail on this length of coast will form part of the National Trail being created around the whole coast of England called the England Coast Path, we envisage that it will be maintained to the same high quality standards as other National Trails in England (see The New Deal; Management of National Trails in England from April 2013: details at Annex A of the Overview).

5.2.20 We estimate that the annual cost to maintain the trail will be £1,299.88 (exclusive of any VAT payable). In developing this estimate we have taken account of the formula used to calculate Natural England's contribution to the maintenance of other National Trails.

Part 5.3: Proposals Tables

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

5.3.1 Section Details – Maps SGF 5a to SGF 5e: Landguard Point to Martello Tower, Felixstowe Ferry

Key notes on table:

1. Column 2 – an asterisk (*) against the route section number means see also table 5.3.2: Other options considered.
2. Column 4 – ‘No’ means no roll-back is proposed for this route section. ‘Yes – normal’ means roll-back is proposed and is likely to follow the current feature (e.g. cliff edge/beach) for the foreseeable future as any coastal change occurs.
3. Column 5a - Certain coastal land types are included automatically in the coastal margin where they fall landward of the trail if they touch it at some point. The relevant land type (foreshore, cliff, bank, barrier, dune, beach, flat or section 15 land – see Glossary) is shown in this column where appropriate. “No” means none present on this route section.
4. Columns 5b and 5c – Any entry in these columns means we are proposing to align the landward boundary of the coastal margin on this route section with the physical feature(s) shown in 5b, for the reason in 5c. No text here means that for this route section the landward edge of the margin would be that of the trail itself - or if any default coastal land type is shown in 5a, that would be its landward boundary instead.

1	2	3	4	5a	5b	5c	6
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of route section(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
SGF 5a	SGF-5-S001*	Other existing walked route	No	No			
SGF 5a	SGF-5-S002*	Other existing walked route	No	No			
SGF 5a	SGF-5-S003*	Other existing walked route	No	No			

1	2	3	4	5a	5b	5c	6
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of route section(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
SGF 5a	SGF-5-S004*	Other existing walked route	No	No	Path	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5a	SGF-5-S005 CP*	Cycle track (pedestrian)	No	No	Path	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5a	SGF-5-S006 CP*	Cycle track (pedestrian)	No	No	Path	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5a	SGF-5-S007*	Other existing walked route	No	No			
SGF 5a	SGF-5-S008*	Other existing walked route	No	No	Path	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5a	SGF-5-S009 FW*	Public footway (pavement)	No	No	Path	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5a	SGF-5-S010 RD*	Public highway	No	No			
SGF 5a	SGF-5-S011*	Other existing walked route	No	No			
SGF 5a	SGF-5-S012*	Other existing	No	No	Path	Clarity and cohesion	

1	2	3	4	5a	5b	5c	6
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of route section(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
		walked route					
SGF 5b	SGF-5-S013 *	Other existing walked route	No	No	Promenade edge	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5b & 5c	SGF-5-S014	Other existing walked route	No	No	Promenade edge	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S015 RD	Public highway	No	No			
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S016 FW	Public footway (pavement)	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S017 RD	Public highway	No	No			
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S018 FW	Public footway (pavement)	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S019 FW	Public footway (pavement)	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S020 FW	Public footway (pavement)	No	No			
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S021 FW	Public footway (pavement)	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	

1	2	3	4	5a	5b	5c	6
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of route section(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S022 FW	Public footway (pavement)	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S023 FW	Public footway (pavement)	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S024 CP	Other existing walked route	No	No			
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S025	Other existing walked route	No	No			
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S026	Other existing walked route	No	No			
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S027 FP	Public footpath	No	No	Path	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S028 FP	Public footpath	No	No			
SGF 5d	SGF-5-S029 FP	Public footpath	No	No	Promenade edge	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5e	SGF-5-S030 FP	Public footpath	No	No	Promenade edge	Clarity and cohesion	

1	2	3	4	5a	5b	5c	6
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of route section(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
SGF 5e	SGF-5-S031 FP	Public footpath	No	Yes – S15			
SGF 5e	SGF-5-S032 FP	Public footpath	No	Yes – S15			
SGF 5e	SGF-5-S033 FP	Public footpath	No	Yes - bank			
SGF 5e	SGF-5-S034 FP	Public footpath	No	Yes – S15			
SGF 5e	SGF-5-S035 FP	Public footpath	No	Yes – S15			
SGF 5e	SGF-5-S036 FP	Public footpath	No	Yes – S15			
SGF 5e	SGF-5-S037 FP	Public footpath	No	No	Edge of S15 land	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5e	SGF-5-S038 FP	Public footpath	No	No	Edge of S15 land	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5e	SGF-5-S039 FP	Public footpath	No	No	Edge of S15 land	Clarity and cohesion	
SGF 5e	SGF-5-S040 FP	Public footpath	No	No	Edge of S15 land	Clarity and cohesion	

5.3.2 Other options considered: Maps SGF 5a to SGF 5b: Landguard Point to Beach Station Road/Langer Road junction

Map(s)	Route section numbers(s)	Other option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option
5a and 5b	SGF-5-S001 to SGF-5-S013 RD	We considered aligning the trail around the perimeter of Landguard Point to create a loop accessing the end of the point.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It connects to the seasonal Ferry, should users of the trail wish to enjoy this option ■ It connects to the tourist sites and facilities, drawing users down to the Point and the views it affords. ■ Landguard Point is already fully accessible to the public and is a well-managed site. We therefore concluded that we could not improve on the existing access at this location ■ we concluded that overall the proposed route struck the best balance in terms of the criteria described in chapter 4 of the Coastal Access Scheme

Note: Any public rights of way not forming part of the proposed trail would remain available for people to use under their pre-existing rights.

Part 5.4: Maps

5.4.1 Map Index

Map reference	Map title
SGF 5a	Landguard Point car park to Martello Tower Park
SGF 5b	Southern end of Felixstowe Promenade to Undercliff Road West
SGF 5c	Undercliff Road West to Undercliff Road East
SGF 5d	Undercliff Road East to promenade below Cliff Road car park
SGF 5e	Promenade below Cliff Road car park to Martello Tower, Felixstowe Ferry

PROPOSALS

Trail Sections

- Trail using existing public right of way or highway
- Trail using other existing walked route
- Trail not using existing walked route
- Alternative route
- Trail shown on other maps
- Approved or open England Coast Path

Maps that show sections of the trail that follow the existing South West Coast Path as currently walked and managed use the following trail categories. Information on the existing status and infrastructure is not shown.

- Trail using existing South West Coast Path
- Alternative or optional alternative route using existing South West Coast Path

Trail sections which follow existing public rights of way or highways are indicated by a suffix:

- BW** - Public bridleway
- BY** - Public byway
- CP** - Cycletrack (pedestrian)
- CT** - Cycletrack (cycles only)
- FP** - Public footpath
- FW** - Public footway (Pavement)
- RB** - Restricted byway
- RD** - Public road

Coastal Margin

Explanatory note

Part 3 of the Overview to the report explains where the landward boundary of the coastal margin falls by default. Our proposals include any suggested variation of this default boundary. The purple wash on the map indicates where as a result of our proposals the coastal margin would extend significantly to the landward side of the proposed route of the trail. The coastal margin may include some areas where coastal access rights do not apply, either seaward or landward of the proposed route of the trail: the Overview explains more about this. The landward boundary of the coastal margin may in due course move inland, if the trail rolls back under proposals in this report to respond to coastal change.

- Coastal margin landward of the trail
- Coastal margin landward of the trail which is existing access land

Other Information

Other access rights and routes

- Public bridleways
- Public byways
- Public footpaths
- Restricted byways
- South West Coast Path
- Sustrans national routes
- Existing access land

Infrastructure types

For status of each, where shown on map, see colour codes below

Bridges:

- Clapper bridge
- Footbridge
- Quad bike bridge
- Sleeper bridge
- Vehicle bridge

Stiles:

- Ladder stile
- Lift-up stile
- Squeeze stile
- Step stile
- Stone stile

Gates:

- Bristol gate
- Field gate
- Gateway with no gate
- Kissing gate
- Pedestrian gate
- Wheelchair gate

Miscellaneous:

- Barrier
- Boardwalk
- Bollard
- Cattle grid
- Culvert
- Cycle chicane
- Drainage
- Drop-kerb
- Gap in fence
- Hurdle
- Interpretation panel
- Ramp
- Revetment
- Stepping stones
- Steps

Infrastructure status

Each symbol shown on the map is colour coded as appropriate, as in this example for a set of steps:

- Existing steps to be retained
- New steps required
- Existing steps to be removed

* Please note that the items in this legend may not all be present on an individual map or report.

Map SGF 5a: Landguard Point car park to Martello Tower Park



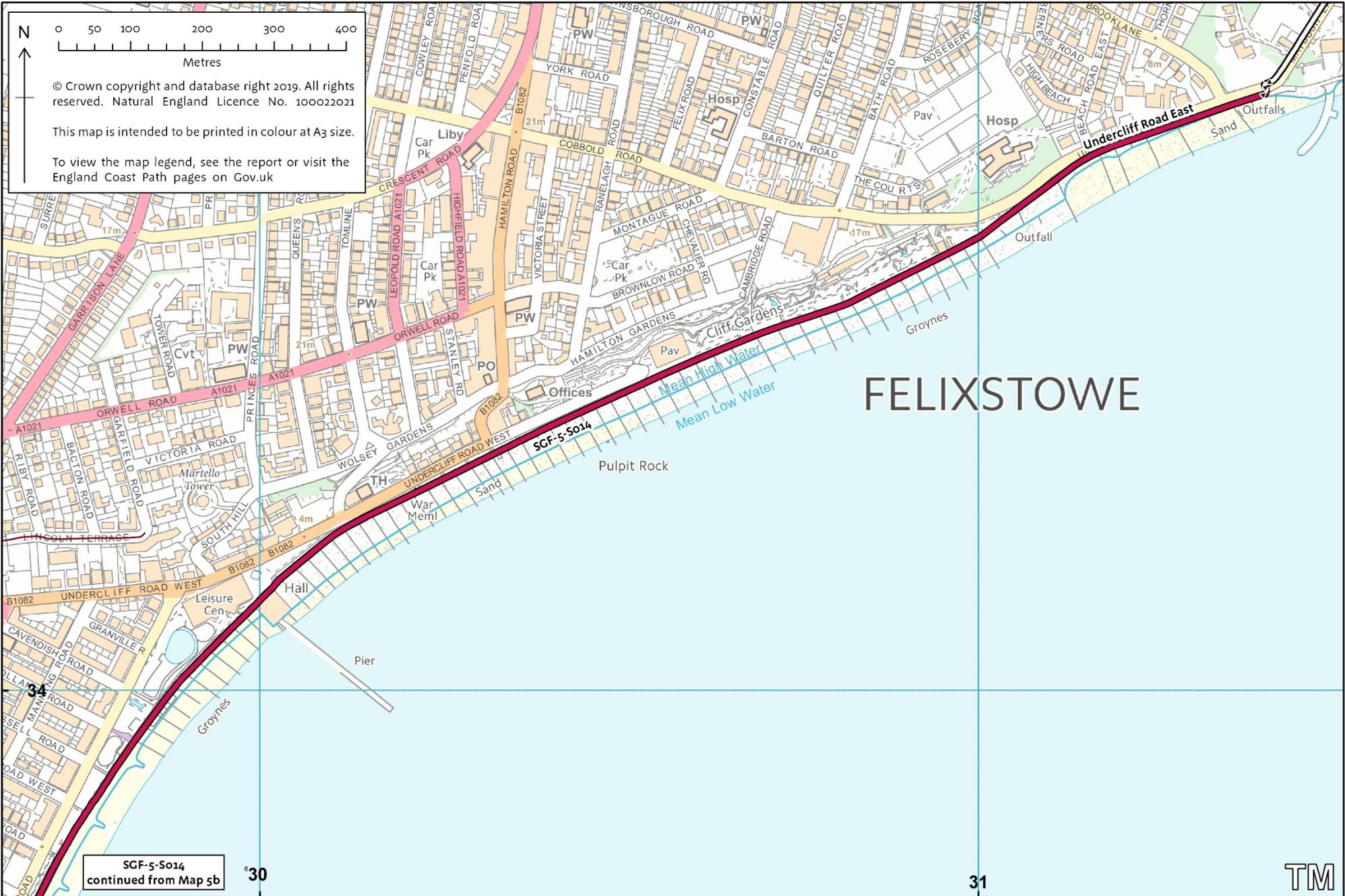
Map SGF 5a: Landguard Point car park to Martello Tower Park

Map SGF 5b: Southern end of Felixstowe Promenade to Undercliff Road West



Map SGF 5b: Southern end of Felixstowe Promenade to Undercliff Road West

Map SGF 5c: Undercliff Road West to Undercliff Road East



Map SGF 5d: Undercliffe Road East to promenade below Cliff Road car park



Map SGF 5d: Undercliffe Road East to promenade below Cliff Road car park

Map SGF 5e: Promenade below Cliff Road car park to Martello Tower, Felixstowe Ferry

Map SGF 5e: Promenade below Cliff Road car park to Martello Tower, Felixstowe Ferry

