

## Chapter 1:

# East Head to Bracklesham

England Coast Path: East Head to Shoreham by Sea - Natural England's Proposals

## Part 1.1: Introduction

<b>Start Point:</b>	<b>West Wittering car park entrance</b> (grid reference: 477198 978312)
<b>End Point:</b>	<b>East Bracklesham Bay</b> (grid reference: 481636 956028)
<b>Relevant Maps:</b>	<b>1a to 1c</b>

### Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps:

#### The Trail:

- 1.1.1 Follows existing walked routes, including public rights of way and suburban roads, along most of this length.
- 1.1.2 Mainly follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea.
- 1.1.3 Is aligned on the beach or foreshore in two locations at West Wittering along an existing public right of way and on the shingle beach at East Bracklesham Bay. (Sections EHS-1-S001 to EHS-1-S002; EHS-1-S006; EHS-1-S019 and EHS-1-S028 to EHS-1-S029. See maps 1.a, 1.b and 1.c).
- 1.1.4 Takes an inland diversion at East Wittering and Bracklesham along suburban roads. This is to avoid an unconsolidated shingle beach, which is unsuitable for walking. (Sections EHS-1-S020 to EHS-1-S027. See maps 1.b and 1.c)

#### Protection of sensitive features

- 1.1.5 This part of the coast includes the following sites that are designated for nature conservation or heritage preservation (See map C of the Overview):
  - Bracklesham Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geological/ wildlife interest

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

1.1.6 With input from specialists we have considered the sites involved and the relevant designations and conclude that for this section of the coast, our proposals will not have a detrimental effect.

In relation to the nature conservation sites listed in section 1.1.5, refer to our published Access and Sensitive Features Appraisal for more information.

**See part 6b of the Overview - 'Protection of sensitive features' - for more information.**

### **Accessibility:**

1.1.7 Generally, there are few artificial barriers to accessibility on the proposed route, which uses existing surface paths, wherever they 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 follows soft sand dunes at sections EHS-1-S001 to EHS-1-S002 at Cakeham, West Wittering along an existing public footpath.
- The trail follows an unconsolidated shingle beach at section EHS-1-S006, at section EHS-1-S019 at East Wittering and between sections EHS-1-S028 and EHS-1-S029 at East Bracklesham Bay.
- There are steps at the end of the alleyway towards the eastern end of East Bracklesham Drive at section EHS-1-S027. The steps lead on to the shingle beach at East Bracklesham Bay.

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

### **Where we have proposed exercising our discretion:**

The discretions referred to below are explained in more detail in part 3 of the Overview.

1.1.8 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 or track. This is to make the extent of the new access rights clearer. See Table 1.2.1.

**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'.**

1.1.9 Restrictions and exclusions: No directions to restrict or exclude access are proposed on this length of coast. However, 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 10 of the Overview - 'Restrictions and exclusions' - for details.**

### **Establishment and ongoing management of the trail**

1.1.10 There are no additional measures that we consider necessary to improve the safety or convenience of the trail on this length of coast.

1.1.11 Ongoing management and maintenance would be necessary in accordance with the general approach described in part 8 of the Overview.

**See parts 7 - 'Physical establishment of the trail' and 8 - 'Maintenance of the trail' of the Overview for more information.**

**Future Change:**

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

**See parts 6e - 'Coastal processes' and 9 - 'Future changes' of the Overview for more information.**

## Part 1.2: Commentary on Maps

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

### 1.2.1 Section Details – Maps 1.a to 1.c: West Wittering to Bracklesham

Notes on table:

Column 2 – an asterisk (\*) against the route section number means see also table 1.2.2: Other options considered.

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

Column 6a - certain specific coastal land types are included automatically in the coastal margin where they fall landward of the trail, or connect indirectly with it by touching another part of the coastal margin that itself touches the foreshore at some point.

1	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	6c	7
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of this section	Current surface of this section	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 9 of Overview)	Default landward coastal margin?	Landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary discretion	Proposed exclusions or restrictions (see Part 10 of Overview)
1a	EHS-1-S001 to EHS-1-S002	Public footpath	Sand	No	Yes - dune	Landward edge of dune	Not used	None
	EHS-1-S003	Public footpath	Grass	No	No	Wall	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-1-S004	Public footpath	Grass	No	No	Ditch	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-1-S005 to EHS-1-S006	Public footpath	Shingle	No	No	Hedge bank	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-1-S007 to EHS-1-S009	Public footpath	Shingle	No	No	Wall	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-1-S010	Public footpath	Concrete	No	No	Wall	Clarity and Cohesion	None
1b	EHS-1-S011	Public footpath	Grass	No	No	Various	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-1-S012 to EHS-1-S013	Public footpath	Concrete	No	No	Wall	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-1-S014 to EHS-1-S015	Public footpath	Tarmac	No	No	Wall	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-1-S016 to EHS-1-S017	Public highway	Tarmac	No	No	Wall	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-1-S018	Public highway	Gravel	No	No	Wall	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-1-S019	Public footpath	Shingle	No	Yes – beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-1-S020	Public footpath	Gravel	No	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-1-S021	Public highway	Tarmac	No	No	Road edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-1-S022	Public highway	Tarmac	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	1c	EHS-1-S023	Public highway	Tarmac	No	No	Road edge	Clarity and cohesion
EHS-1-S024		Public highway	Concrete	No	No	Road edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
EHS-1-S025		Public highway	Block paving	No	No	Road edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
EHS-1-S026		Public highway	Tarmac	No	No	Road edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
EHS-1-S027		Other existing walked route	Gravel	No	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
EHS-1-S028		Other existing walked route	Shingle	No	Yes-beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
EHS-1-S029		Other existing walked route	Shingle	No	Yes - beach	Ditch	Not used	None

## 1.2.2 Other options considered: Maps 1a to 1c: West Wittering to Bracklesham

Map(s)	Section numbers(s)	Option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option as the route
1b	EHS-1-S020 to EHS-1-S022	We considered aligning the trail along the shingle beach between East Wittering and Bracklesham.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The beach here is unconsolidated and mobile shingle. To provide a firm walking surface, we have chosen to use the alleyway and roadside pavement adjacent to the coast.</li> <li>■ 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.</li> <li>■ Under our proposals the beach would be available for people to use as part of the spreading room, but would not form part of the designated trail.</li> </ul>
1c	EHS-1-S023 to EHS-1-S027	We considered aligning the trail along the shingle beach between the car park at the end of Bracklesham Lane (B2198) and the eastern end of Bracklesham	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The beach here is unconsolidated and mobile shingle. To provide a firm walking surface, we have chosen to use the private road and alleyway adjacent to the coast.</li> <li>■ 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.</li> <li>■ Under our proposals the beach would be available for people to use as part of the spreading room, but would not form part of the designated trail.</li> </ul>
1c	EHS -1-S028	We considered aligning the trail through the caravan park at the eastern end of Bracklesham	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ It is closer to and provides views of the sea.</li> <li>■ The caravan park is within a gated and fenced compound with no unauthorised public access into or out of the enclosure. For security, they do not want the public walking through their site.</li> <li>■ 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.</li> </ul>

## Part 1.3: Chapter 1 - Formal Proposals

- Below are our formal proposals to the Secretary of State for the length of coast shown on maps 1a to 1c.
- They should be read in conjunction with the relevant maps.
- The commentary above explains the practical effect of these proposals.

### Formal Proposals – West Wittering to Bracklesham

#### Proposed route of the trail

1.3.1 The route is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps 1a to 1c as the proposed route of the trail.

#### Landward boundary of coastal margin

- 1.3.2 Adjacent to route sections EHS-1-S003, EHS-1-S007 to EHS-1-S010 and EHS-1-S012 to EHS-1-S015, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the wall, which is landward of the public footpath shown as the trail on map 1a and 1b.
- 1.3.3 Adjacent to route sections EHS-1-S016 to EHS-1-S018, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the wall, which is landward of the road shown as the trail on map 1a and 1b.
- 1.3.4 Adjacent to route section EHS-1-S004, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the ditch, which is landward of the public footpath shown as the trail on map 1a.
- 1.3.5 Adjacent to route sections EHS-1-S005 and EHS-1-S006, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the hedge bank, which is landward of the public footpath shown as the trail on map 1a.
- 1.3.6 Adjacent to route section EHS-1-S011, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with various boundary features, which are landward of the public footpath shown as the trail on map 1b.
- 1.3.7 Adjacent to route section EHS-1-S020, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the fence line, which is landward of the public footpath shown as the trail on map 1b.
- 1.3.8 Adjacent to route sections EHS-1-S021 and EHS-1-S023 to EHS-1-S026, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of the road shown as the trail on maps 1b and 1c.
- 1.3.9 Adjacent to route section EHS-1-S022, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of the pavement shown as the trail on map 1b.
- 1.3.10 Adjacent to route section EHS-1-S027, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the fence line, which is the landward edge of the alleyway shown as the trail on map 1c.

#### Local restrictions and exclusions

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

#### Alternative routes

1.3.12 There are no proposals for alternative routes in relation to this length of coast.







