

Chapter 5:

Beaumont Quay to Dovercourt

England Coast Path: Jaywick to Harwich - Natural England's Proposals

Part 5.1: Introduction

Start Point:	Beaumont Quay (grid reference: TM1889 2403)
End Point:	Dovercourt (grid reference: TM2469 3006)
Relevant Maps:	5a to 5g

Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps:

The Trail:

- 5.1.1 Generally follows existing walked routes, including public rights of way, along most of this length.
- 5.1.2 Mainly follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea.
- 5.1.3 Includes 14 sections of new path, near Great Oakley. See map 5b, 5c and 5d and associated tables below for details.
- 5.1.4 In some areas (sections JWH-5-S001 to JWH-5-S029) a significant inland diversion is necessary to take the trail away from areas of nature conservation interest and to avoid excepted land at Bramble Island and surrounding land, currently inaccessible because of the Explosives Regulations 2014.
- 5.1.5 This part of the coast includes the following sites, designated for nature conservation or heritage preservation (See map C of the Overview):
 - Hamford Water Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - Hamford Water Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Hamford Water Ramsar site
 - Hamford Water Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its wildlife interest
 - Hamford Water National Nature Reserve (NNR)
 - Scheduled Ancient Monument 7408 – Old sea walls (SAM)

- Scheduled Ancient Monument 10632 – Pill box (SAM)
- Scheduled Ancient Monument 17367 – Old sea defences and pits (SAM)
- Scheduled Ancient Monument 3519 – Saltern (SAM)
- Scheduled Ancient Monument 45745 – Enclosure (SAM)
- Scheduled Ancient Monument 13716 – Prehistoric settlement (SAM)
- Scheduled Ancient Monument 7457 – Saltern (SAM)

We have assessed the potential impacts of access along the proposed route (and over 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.

- 5.1.6 With input from specialists we have considered each of the sites involved and the relevant designations and concluded that for this section of the coast our proposals will not have a detrimental effect.

In reaching this conclusion we have identified that it would be necessary to install an interpretation panel near Irlam's beach.

In relation to those nature conservation sites listed above, 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:

- 5.1.7 Generally, there are few artificial barriers to accessibility on the proposed route, which makes use of existing surface 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 or bare soil path in places where it is aligned along arable field margins.
- The trail would follow an uneven grass or bare soil path in places where it is aligned along the sea wall.

- 5.1.8 At section JWH-5-S005, two existing stiles will be replaced by kissing gates, to improve accessibility as part of the physical establishment work described in part 7 of the Overview.

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 the Overview.

- 5.1.9 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 hedgerow, pavement or track to make the extent of the new access rights clearer. See Table 5.2.1.

5.1.10 At sections JWH-5-S030 to JWH-5-S036 we have used this discretion to limit the landward extent of the coastal margin to the landward top edge of the seawall. This has had the effect of reducing the amount of coastal margin that would have otherwise been available by default. This option provides the most clarity because:

- The break in slope provides an easily identifiable boundary for access users.
- There is no clear boundary feature at the bottom of the seawall that could mark the boundary of the coastal margin.

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'.

5.1.11 Restrictions and/or exclusions: We have proposed to exclude access by direction under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) in places along this section of coast. For details of these directions, see section 5.3.6 in the Formal Proposals Section of this report and part 10 of the Overview.

5.1.12 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

5.1.13 Some physical establishment of the trail would be necessary, in accordance with the general approach described in part 7 of the Overview:

- Two kissing gates will be installed at section JWH-5-S005
- A small footbridge will be installed at the intersection of sections JWH-5-S008 and JWH-5-S009
- A small footbridge will be installed at section JWH-5-S012
- An interpretation panel will be installed at section JWH-5-S032

5.1.14 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:

5.1.15 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 6e - 'Coastal processes' and 9 - 'Future changes' of the Overview for more information.

Part 5.2: Commentary on Maps

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

5.2.1 Section Details – Maps 5a to 5g: Beaumont Quay to Dovercourt

Notes on table:

Column 2 – an asterisk (*) against the route section number means see also table 5.2.2: Other options considered.

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	Proposed exclusions or restrictions (see Part 9 of Overview)
5a	JWH-5-S001*	Public footpath	Concrete	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S002*	Public footpath	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of track	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-5-S003*	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of track	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-5-S004*	Public footpath	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of track	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-5-S005*	Public footpath	Bare soil: compacted	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
5b	JWH-5-S006*	Not an existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S007*	Not an existing walked route	Concrete	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S008*	Not an existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S009*	Not an existing walked route	Bare soil: ploughed	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S010*	Not an existing walked route	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S011*	Not an existing walked route	Bare soil: ploughed	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S012	Not an existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S013	Not an existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S014	Not an existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S015	Public Highway	Gravel	No	Landward edge of road	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-5-S016	Not an existing walked route	Grass	No	To fence line	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-5-S017	Not an existing walked route	Bare soil: compacted	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S018	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S019	Public footpath	Bare soil: compacted	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	5c	JWH-5-S020	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used
JWH-5-S021		Public footpath	Bare soil: compacted	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin

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	Proposed exclusions or restrictions (see Part 9 of Overview)
5c	JWH-5-S022	Public footpath	Bare soil: compacted	No	Landward edge of track	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-5-S023	Not an existing walked route	Bare soil: compacted	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
5d	JWH-5-S024	Track	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S025	Not an existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S026	Not an existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S027	Public bridleway	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S028	Public bridleway	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S029	Public footpath	Gravel	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-5-S030	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	5e	JWH-5-S031	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion
5e and 5f	JWH-5-S032	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
5f	JWH-5-S033	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-5-S034	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
5g	JWH-5-S035	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-5-S036	Public footpath	Gravel	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin

5.2.2 Other options considered: Maps 5a to 5b: Beaumont Quay to the sea wall near Bramble Island

Map	Section number	Option considered	Reasons for not proposing this option as the route
5a, 5b	JWH-5-S001 to JWH-5-S011	We considered aligning the trail along the sea wall between Beaumont Quay and Moze Cross	<p>After consultation with nature conservation specialists we concluded that the proposed route would have less impact on the sensitive features found on and adjacent to this section of seawall. Although the proposed route is in places some distance from the coast, it is aligned at a higher elevation which provides better views of the coast.</p> <p>We therefore concluded that overall the proposed route struck the best balance in terms of the criteria described in chapter 4 of the Coastal Access Scheme</p>
5a, 5b	JWH-5-S004 to JWH-5-S011	We considered aligning the trail through agricultural land and existing farm tracks between Beaumont Quay and Moze Cross	We opted for the proposed route because we concluded that overall it struck the best balance in terms of the criteria described in chapter 4 of the Coastal Access Scheme. Although the proposed route lies further from the coast than this option, we concluded that because the proposed route is at a higher elevation, it provides better views of the coast whereas the option considered did not.

Part 5.3: Chapter 5 - Formal Proposals

- Below are our formal proposals to the Secretary of State for the length of coast shown on maps 5a to 5g.
- They should be read in conjunction with the relevant maps.
- The commentary above explains the practical effect of these proposals.

Formal Proposals – Beaumont Quay to Dovercourt

Proposed route of the trail

5.3.1 The route is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps 5a to 5g as the proposed route of the trail.

Landward boundary of coastal margin

- 5.3.2 Adjacent to the route section JWH-5-S015 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the road.
- 5.3.3 Adjacent to route sections JWH-5-S002 to JWH-5-S004, and JWH-5-S022, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the track shown as the trail on maps 5a and 5c.
- 5.3.4 Adjacent to route section JWH-5-016, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the fence line shown as the trail on map 5b.
- 5.3.5 Adjacent to route sections JWH-5-S030 to JWH-5-S036 the landward edge of the top of the sea wall shown as the trail on maps 5d to 5g.

Local restrictions and exclusions

- 5.3.6 Natural England proposes to exclude access relevant to this length of coast, as follows:
- Access to the saltmarsh and flat will be excluded, seaward of route sections JWH-5-S001 to JWH-5-S036, because we are satisfied that the land is unsuitable for public access.

Please refer to part 10 of the Overview for further details.













