

Chapter 5:

Littlehampton to Ferring

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

Part 5.1: Introduction

Start Point:	Littlehampton Harbour Footbridge (grid reference: 502187 102132)
End Point:	At the junction of the eastern end of Patterson's Walk with the southern end of Sea Lane, Ferring (grid reference: 510007 101554)
Relevant Maps:	5a to 5e

Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps:

The Trail:

- 5.1.1 Follows existing walked routes, including public rights of way, along most of this length.
- 5.1.2 Follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea.
- 5.1.3 Includes three sections of new path at Rustington, East Preston and Ferring. See maps 5b, 5c and 5e and associated tables below for details.
- 5.1.4 Is aligned on the beach at three locations at Rustington, East Preston and Ferring.

Protection of sensitive features:

- 5.1.5 This part of the coast does not include any sites designated for nature conservation or heritage preservation (See map C of the Overview).

See part 6b of the Overview - 'Protection of sensitive features' for a description of our overall approach and a summary of our conclusions

Accessibility:

- 5.1.6 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 be aligned over unconsolidated shingle.
- There are steps on the existing public right of way (EHS-5-S058, map 5c).

5.1.7 At Kingston Gorse, the existing kissing gates at sections EHS-5-S064 and EHS-5-S065 will be removed by the landowner, so as to make the trail easier to use. We envisage this happening before the new access rights come into force.

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 5b of the Overview.

5.1.8 Estuary: This report proposes that the trail should include a route around the estuary of the River Arun, extending upstream from the open coast as far as Littlehampton Harbour Footbridge, which is the first public foot crossing point over the river. See part 5 of the Overview. The trail covered by this chapter includes part of this estuary route.

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 fence line, pavement or track to make the extent of the new access rights clearer. See Table 5.2.1 below.

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'.

5.1.10 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.

5.1.11 Alternative routes: An optional alternative route between EHS- 5-S056 and EHS-5-S057 is to operate at times when access to the ordinary route is affected by high tides. The optional alternative route would follow route section(s) EHS-5-A001 to EHS-5-A003 as shown on map 5.d. It would not have the effect of creating any additional spreading room on either the seaward or the landward side.

Establishment and ongoing management of the trail

5.1.12 Some physical establishment of the trail would be necessary in accordance with the general approach described in part 7 the Overview. These establishment works will be minor and will include the placement of waymarkers and other signs along the route.

- 5.1.13 There are no additional measures that we consider necessary to improve the safety or convenience of the trail on this length of coast.
- 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 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 5.a to 5.y: Littlehampton to Ferring

Notes on table:

Column 2 – an asterisk (*) against the route section number means see also table 5.2.2: 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)
5a	EHS-5-S001	Public footpath	Tarmac	No	No	Bridge railing	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-5-S002	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-5-S003	Public footway (pavement)	Block paving	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-5-S004	Public highway	Block paving	No	No	Road	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-5-S005 to EHS-5-S007	Public footway (pavement)	Block paving	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-5-S008	Other existing walked route	Block Paving	No	No	Edge of alley way	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-5-S008 to EHS-5-S013	Other existing walked route	Block paving	No	Yes - barrier	Promenade edge	Not used	None
	EHS-5-S014 to EHS-5-S018	Other existing walked route	Block paving	No	Yes - barrier	Promenade edge	Not used	None
	EHS-5-S019 to EHS-5-S022	Other existing walked route	Concrete	No	Yes - barrier	Promenade edge	Not used	None
5a and 5b	EHS-5-S023 to EHS-5-S028	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	No	Yes - barrier	Promenade edge	Not used	None
5b	EHS-5-S029 to EHS-5-S030	Public footpath	Concrete	No	No	Wall	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-5-S031	Other existing walked route	Stone: Flags	No	No	Wall	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-5-S032 to EHS-5-S033	Other existing walked route	Shingle	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-5-S034	Other existing walked route	Concrete	No	No	Landward edge of concrete path	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-5-S035	Other existing walked route	Grass	No	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	EHS-5-S036	Other existing walked route	Grass	No	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	EHS-5-S037	Other existing walked route	Gravel	No	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	EHS-5-S038	Other existing walked route	Gravel	No	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None

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)
5c	EHS-5-S039	Other existing walked route	Grass	No	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	EHS-5-S040 to EHS-5-S044	Other existing walked route	Grass	No	No	Landward edge of greensward	Clarity and cohesion	None
5c and 5d	EHS-5-S045 to EHS-5-S057	Other existing walked route	Shingle	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
5d	EHS-5-S058	Public footpath	Tarmac	No	No	Landward edge of car park	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-5-S059 to EHS-5-S060	Public footpath	Concrete	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-5-S061 to EHS-5-S063	Public footpath	Grass	No	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
5e	EHS-5-S064	Public footpath	Gravel	No	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	EHS-5-S065	Public footpath	Grass	No	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	EHS-5-S066 to EHS-5-S080	Other existing walked route	Shingle	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-5-S081	Other existing walked route	Concrete	No	No	Edge of concrete slab	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-5-S082 to EHS-5-S087	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	No	No	Path edge	Clarity and cohesion	None

5.2.2 Optional alternative route details – Map 5.b: Beach at East Preston

By default, the optional alternative route will cover the land two metres either side of the approved line for this route. However by virtue of s55D(2) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, where the optional alternative route follows an existing path corridor, the trail may adopt a variable width as dictated by existing physical features. Columns 6a and 6b of this table describe the boundaries of the alternative route strips.

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)	Seaward boundary of alternative route strip	Landward boundary of alternative route strip (See maps)	Reason for boundary discretion	Proposed exclusions or restrictions (see Part 10 of Overview)
5d	EHS-5-A001	Other existing walked route	Gravel	No	Wall	Edge of track	Clarity and cohesion	No
	EHS-5-A002	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	No	Seaward edge of trail (2m)	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	No
	EHS-5-A003	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	No	Seaward edge of trail (2m)	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	No

5.2.3 Other options considered: Maps 5.a to 5.e: Littlehampton to Ferring

Map(s)	Section number(s)	Option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option as the route
5b and 5c	EHS-5-S034 to EHS-5-S044	Between Rustington and East Preston, we considered aligning the trail along the existing public footpath upon the beach.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The beach is unconsolidated shingle and is difficult to walk on. ■ The majority of existing walkers are using the well-defined informal path upon the greenswards. ■ 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.
5c and 5d	EHS-5-S045 to EHS-5-S057	At East Preston, we considered aligning the trail along Sea Lane, Seaview road and South Strand road.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It is closer to the sea and maintains views of the sea. ■ It is more direct and we consider it likely that trail users would use the beach route even if it did not form part of the proposed trail. ■ 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.
5e	EHS-5-S066 to EHS-5-S081	At Ferring, adjacent to the car park at Bluebird Café we considered using the existing public footpaths in this area, as shown on the map.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It is closer to the sea and maintains views of the sea. ■ 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.

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 5e.
- They should be read in conjunction with the relevant maps.
- The commentary above explains the practical effect of these proposals.

Formal Proposals – Littlehampton to Ferring

Discretion to include an estuary

- 5.3.1 Natural England proposes to exercise its functions as if the sea included the estuarial waters of the River Arun as far as Littlehampton Harbour Footbridge as indicated by the extent of the trail shown on map 5e.

Proposed route of the trail

- 5.3.2 The route is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps 5.a to 5.e as the proposed route of the trail.

Landward boundary of coastal margin

- 5.3.3 Adjacent to route section EHS-5-S001, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the bridge shown as the trail on map 5a.
- 5.3.4 Adjacent to route sections EHS-5-S002 to EHS-5-S003 and EHS-5-S005 to EHS-5-S007, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of the pavement as shown as the trail on map 5a.
- 5.3.5 Adjacent to route section EHS-5-S004, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the road shown as the trail on map 5a.
- 5.3.6 Adjacent to route section EHS-5-S008, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of the alleyway as shown as the trail on map 5a.
- 5.3.7 Adjacent to route sections EHS-5-S029 to EHS-5-S030, 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 5b.
- 5.3.8 Adjacent to route section EHS-5-S031, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the wall, which is landward of the existing walked route shown as the trail on map 5b.
- 5.3.9 Adjacent to route section EHS-5-S034, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of the path shown as the trail on map 5b.
- 5.3.10 Adjacent to route sections EHS-5-S040 to EHS-5-S044, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the greensward, which is landward of the existing walked route shown as the trail on map 5c.

- 5.3.11 Adjacent to route section EHS-5-S058, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the edge of the car park, which is landward of the trail shown on map 5d.
- 5.3.12 Adjacent to route section EHS-5-S059 and EHS-5-S060, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the path shown as the trail on map 5d.
- 5.3.13 Adjacent to route section EHS-5-S081, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the edge of the concrete slab, which is landward of the trail shown on map 5e.
- 5.3.14 Adjacent to route sections EHS-5-S082 to EHS-5-S087, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the path at shown as the trail on map 5e.

Local restrictions and exclusions

- 5.3.15 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

- 5.3.16 An optional alternative route is to operate at times when access to route sections EHS-5-S056 to EHS-5-S057 on the beach at East Preston is affected by high tides. The optional alternative route is to be at the centre of the line shown as route sections EHS-5-A001 to EHS-5-A003 as shown on map 5d.

Landward/seaward boundary of alternative route strip

- 5.3.17 In relation to route section EHS-5-A001:
- the landward boundary of the optional alternative route strip is to correspond to the edge of the track shown as the trail on map 5d; and
 - the seaward boundary of the optional alternative route strip is to correspond to the wall seaward of the line shown as the trail on map 5d.









