

Assessment of England Coast Path proposals between **Eastbourne and Camber** on sites and features of nature conservation concern



About this document

This document should be read in conjunction with the published Reports for the Eastbourne and Camber stretch and the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

The Coastal Access Reports contain a full description of the access proposals, including any additional mitigation measures that have been included. These Reports can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-eastbourne-to-camber-comment-on-proposals>

A HRA is required for European sites (SPA and Ramsar site). The HRA can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-eastbourne-to-camber-comment-on-proposals>

This document, the Nature Conservation Assessment (NCA), covers all other aspects (including SSSIs, MCZs and undesignated but locally important sites and features) in so far as any HRA does not already address the issue for the sites and feature(s) in question.

The NCA is arranged site by site. The Nature Conservation Assessment Sites Map shows designated sites along this stretch of coast.

Evidence is also gathered as appropriate from a range of other sources which can include information and data held locally by external partners or from the experience of local land owners, environmental consultants and occupiers. The approach includes looking at any current visitor management practices, either informal or formal. It also involves discussing our emerging conclusions as appropriate with key local interests such as land owners or occupiers, conservation organisations or the local access authority. In these ways, any nature conservation concerns are discussed early and constructive solutions identified as necessary.

See Annex 1 for an index to designated sites and features for this stretch of coast, including features that have been considered within any HRA.

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Assessment of coastal access proposals on Pevensey Levels SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? Yes – The area of the SSSI directly affected by our proposals is however outside of the boundaries of the European site.

Risk				Consideration		Conclusion
Attribute affected	Key areas	Predicted changes in pattern and/or level of use	Possible impact(s)	Existing factors	Relevant features of the access proposals, including any additional mitigation measures	
Standing open water and canals (ditches) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lowland ditch system ■ Vascular plant assemblage¹ ■ Population of <i>Potamogeton acutifolius</i>, Sharp-leaved pondweed ■ Outstanding dragonfly assemblage² ■ Outstanding invertebrate assemblage 	This SSSI is only affected by the route of the trail and margin for a short section east of Normans Bay. These features are located landward of the trail and the coastal margin.	No likely change in access to these habitats as they are located landward of the coastal margin. Walkers are separated from these features by fencing to the west and a road to the east.	These habitats and associated species are vulnerable to repeated trampling and habitat loss.	The proposed trail follows an existing walked route along the beach, which is compacted by beach management works. These features are located landward of the trail and the margin.	The proposed trail follows an existing walked route along the beach. Clear waymarking will be installed to encourage people to follow the route of the trail. Additional mitigation measures are not required.	No likely impact on these features.

¹ Including *Potamogeton friesii* flat stalked pondweed; *Wolffia arrhiza* rootless duckweed; *Polygonum mite/ Persicaria mitis* tasteless water pepper; *Sium latifolium* greater water parsnip; *Althaea officinalis* marshmallow.

² Including Nationally rare and scarce dragonfly species: *Coenagrion pulchellum* variable damselfly and *Brachytron pratense* hairy dragonfly

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of <i>Anisus vorticulus</i>, little ramshorn whirlpool snail and <i>Valvata macrostoma</i>, large-mouthed valve snail 						
<p>Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggregations of non-breeding birds – Lapwing, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>³ 	<p>This SSSI is only affected by the route of the trail and margin for a short section east of Normans Bay. These features are located landward of the trail and the coastal margin.</p>	<p>No likely change in access to these habitats as they are located landward of the coastal margin.</p> <p>Walkers are separated from these features by fencing to the west and a road to the east.</p>	<p>Disturbance to feeding, resting and nesting birds</p>	<p>The proposed trail follows an existing walked route along the beach. This area is already disturbed by the railway line that runs adjacent and beach management works every winter.</p> <p>This habitat is located landward of the margin and this feature tends to be found further in land where it is less disturbed.</p>	<p>The proposed trail follows an existing walked route along the beach.</p> <p>Clear waymarking will be installed to encourage people to follow the route of the trail.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures are not required.</p>	<p>No likely impact on these features</p>

³ Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* are also known to attempt to breed in this habitat

Littoral and Supralittoral sediment Vegetated shingle	<p>There is some limited vegetated shingle interest in the coastal margin. There is some higher quality vegetation that exists landward of the margin, behind the existing fencing.</p>	<p>No likely change in access to the areas of this habitat located landward of the coastal margin.</p> <p>Walkers are separated from much of the higher quality vegetation by fencing to the west and a road to the east.</p> <p>The route of the trail follows shingle which is generally devoid of vegetation, as it is tracked along and compacted during beach management work.</p>	<p>These habitats and associated species are vulnerable to repeated trampling and habitat loss.</p>	<p>This unit of the SSSI was found to be partially destroyed, when it was last condition assessed.</p> <p>The assessment stated that to the beach side of the road there is very limited vegetated shingle interest as result of flood risk management activities, except behind some excluded areas.</p>	<p>The proposed trail follows an existing walked route along the beach.</p> <p>Clear waymarking will be installed to encourage people to follow the route of the trail.</p> <p>Waymarking and an advisory sign will be installed on bare ground avoiding any vegetation.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures are not required.</p>	<p>No likely impact on these features</p>
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Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? Yes - a new simple waymarking post and an advisory sign will be installed on the beach.

These will be installed on bare shingle avoiding any vegetation that is present at the time of installation. No other special conditions have been identified concerning how or when the works are to be carried out.

Where necessary, East Sussex County Council will instigate the SSSI assent process by writing to us to confirm the timing of works and how operations are to be undertaken in line with these conditions. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on Hastings Cliff to Petts Beach SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? Yes

Note that notified features of the SSSI that are also qualifying features of the European site are omitted from this assessment.

Hastings Country Park is also a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and a Local Wildlife Site (LWS).

Risk				Consideration		Conclusion
Attribute affected	Key Area	Predicted changes in pattern and/or level of use	Possible impact(s)	Existing factors	Relevant features of the access proposals, including any additional mitigation measures	
Supralittoral rock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hard maritime cliff and slope ■ Outstanding invertebrate assemblage 	Maritime Cliff and slopes are present within the SSSI from Hastings to Cliff End. Invertebrates are associated with this habitat and are known to be particularly prevalent within Hastings	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>A negligible change in access is expected to these features in the margin. The existing paths provide a surface that is easier to walk over than the surrounding area. People tend to stick to this path as the adjacent habitat is difficult to walk over.</p>	These habitats and associated species are vulnerable to repeated trampling and habitat loss.	<p>The network of PRoW and existing walked routes through Hastings Country Park is already well used and publicised, with maps of the main routes available on line and at the visitors centre⁴.</p> <p>There is an existing system of marked bollards on footpaths that orientate the walker and alert them</p>	<p>The trail follows existing public footpaths and walked routes.</p> <p>Some additional waymarking will be installed to make the route of the Coast Path clear on the ground and encourage people to follow the route of the trail. There will also be one new set of steps and one replacement set of steps installed.</p> <p>The proposals will minimise the installation of</p>	No likely impact on these features.

⁴ Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve - Site Description. Available at: <https://wildhastings.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/site-description-for-2010-2015-plan.pdf>

	Country Park LNR.	<p>Access to the margin seaward of the route is also limited along much of the route by existing scrub and fencing.</p> <p>The main route of the trail follows Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and existing walked routes.</p> <p>Walkers are expected to continue their current patterns of access using these routes.</p>		<p>to the footpaths available to them⁴.</p> <p>In addition to this map boards are situated at key junctions and entrances⁴.</p> <p>Through Fairlight and Cliff End the route follows PRoW, existing walked routes, and roads.</p> <p>There is some existing climbing interest in the margin at a crag landward of Ecclesbourne Glen. However, due to the instability of the cliffs in the area, the further opportunities for climbing are limited.</p>	<p>new access management infrastructure that would result in a loss of SSSI habitat.</p> <p>The new infrastructure proposed is intended to improve the existing route and guide people along the existing path to help to minimise any potential impact on the wider habitat. The new and replacement steps will be installed within the footprint of the existing path.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures are not required.</p>	
<p>Supralittoral sediment</p> <p>■ Vegetated shingle (<i>Rumex crispus</i> – <i>Glaucium flavum</i> (SD1)</p>	The main area of interest in relation to this feature is the beach between Cliff End and Pett Level (SSSI	<p>The main route of the trail follows an existing path on top of the sea wall in unit 1.</p> <p>The existing path has a compacted surface that is easy to walk over.</p>	These habitats and associated species are vulnerable to repeated	Trampling pressure is apparent in some areas of the beach in unit 1. Beach management works also affect the	The main route of the trail follows an existing path on the top on the seawall in unit 1. The main route of the trail is inland, mainly on top of the cliffs in unit 2.	No likely impact on these features.

shingle community	unit 2) and on the beach below the cliffs between Cliff End and Fairlight (SSSI unit 1).	<p>People tend to stick to this path as the adjacent shingle is difficult to walk over.</p> <p>In unit 2 the main route of the trail is on top of the cliffs and the vegetated area is not easy to access.</p>	trampling and habitat loss.	<p>distribution of the vegetation.</p> <p>In unit 2 the vegetation is present only on the less exposed parts of the beach and there is little evidence of trampling as it is hard to access from Pett.</p>	<p>Some additional waymarking will be installed to make the route of the Coast Path clear on the ground and encourage people to follow the route of the trail.</p> <p>The proposals will minimise the installation of new access management infrastructure that would result in a loss of SSSI habitat.</p> <p>The new infrastructure that is proposed is waymarking intended to guide people along the existing path and therefore help to minimise any potential impact on the wider habitat.</p>	
Supralittoral rock and sediment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Outstanding assemblage of vascular plants⁵ 	Supralittoral rock and sediment is present throughout the SSSI.	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>A negligible change in access is expected to these features in the</p>	These habitats and associated species are vulnerable to repeated	The network of PROW and existing walked routes through Hastings Country Park is already well used and publicised, with maps of the main	<p>The trail follows existing public footpaths and walked routes.</p> <p>Some additional waymarking will be installed to make the route</p>	No likely impact on these features.

⁵ Including: *Apera spicavenerit* Loose silky bent, *Lathyrus japonicas* Sea pea, *Vicia lutea* Yellow vetch and *Viola lactea* Pale dog-violet

		<p>margin. The existing paths provide a surface that is easier to walk over than the surrounding area. People tend to stick to this path as the adjacent habitat is difficult to walk over.</p> <p>Access to the margin seaward of the route is also limited along much of the route by existing scrub and fencing.</p> <p>The main route of the trail follows Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and existing walked routes.</p> <p>Walkers are expected to continue their current patterns of access using these routes.</p>	<p>trampling and habitat loss.</p>	<p>routes available on line and at the visitors' centre⁴.</p> <p>There is an existing system of marked bollards on footpaths that orientate the walker and alert them to the footpaths available to them⁴.</p> <p>In addition to this map boards are situated at key junctions and entrances⁴.</p> <p>Through Fairlight and Cliff End the route follows PRoW, existing walked routes, and roads.</p> <p>There is some existing climbing interest in the margin at a crag landward of Ecclesbourne Glen. However, due to the instability of the cliffs in the area, the further opportunities for climbing are limited.</p>	<p>of the Coast Path clear on the ground and encourage people to follow the route of the trail. There will also be one new set of steps and one replacement set of steps installed.</p> <p>The proposals will minimise the installation of new access management infrastructure that would result in a loss of SSSI habitat.</p> <p>The new infrastructure proposed is intended to improve the existing route and guide people along the existing path to help to minimise any potential impact on the wider habitat. The new and replacement steps will be installed within the footprint of the existing path.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures are not required.</p>	
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<p>Dwarf shrub Heath</p> <p>■ Maritime heath (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Scilla verna</i> heath (H7))</p>	<p>This feature can be found in areas throughout the SSSI, but is primarily present within Hastings Country Park LNR</p>	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>A negligible change in access is expected to these features in the margin. The existing paths provide a surface that is easier to walk over than the surrounding area. People tend to stick to this path as the adjacent habitat is difficult to walk over.</p> <p>Access to the margin seaward of the route is also limited along much of the route by existing scrub and fencing.</p> <p>The main route of the trail follows Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and existing walked routes.</p> <p>Walkers are expected to continue their current</p>	<p>These habitats and associated species are vulnerable to repeated trampling and habitat loss.</p>	<p>The network of PRoW and existing walked routes through Hastings Country Park is already well used and publicised, with maps of the main routes available on line and at the visitor's centre⁴.</p> <p>There is an existing system of marked bollards on footpaths that orientate the walker and alert them to the footpaths available to them⁴.</p> <p>In addition to this map boards are situated at key junctions and entrances ⁴.</p> <p>Through Fairlight and Cliff End the route follows PRoW, existing walked routes, and roads.</p> <p>There is some existing climbing interest in the margin</p>	<p>The trail follows existing public footpaths and walked routes.</p> <p>Some additional waymarking will be installed to make the route of the Coast Path clear on the ground and encourage people to follow the route of the trail. There will also be one new set of steps and one replacement set of steps installed.</p> <p>The proposals will minimise the installation of new access management infrastructure that would result in a loss of SSSI habitat.</p> <p>The new infrastructure proposed is intended to improve the existing route and guide people along the existing path to help to minimise any potential impact on the wider habitat. The new and replacement steps will be installed within the</p>	<p>No likely impact on these features.</p>
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		patterns of access using these routes.		at a crag landward of Ecclesbourne Glen. However, due to the instability of the cliffs in the area, the further opportunities for climbing are limited.	footprint of the existing path. Additional mitigation measures are not required.	
Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Coastal woodland⁶ ■ Outstanding assemblage of bryophytes (Atlantic species associated with wooded streams) ■ Wet woodland 	This feature can be found in areas throughout the SSSI, but is primarily present within Hastings Country Park LNR.	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>A negligible change in access is expected to these features in the margin. The existing paths provide a surface that is easier to walk over than the surrounding area. People tend to stick to this path as the adjacent habitat is difficult to walk over.</p> <p>Access to the margin seaward of the route is also limited along much</p>	These habitats and associated species are vulnerable to repeated trampling and habitat loss.	<p>The network of PRow and existing walked routes through Hastings Country Park is already well used and publicised, with maps of the main routes available on line and at the visitors' centre⁴.</p> <p>There is an existing system of marked bollards on footpaths that orientate the walker and alert them to the footpaths available to them⁴.</p> <p>In addition to this map boards are situated at</p>	<p>The trail follows existing public footpaths and walked routes.</p> <p>Some additional waymarking will be installed to make the route of the Coast Path clear on the ground and encourage people to follow the route of the trail. There will also be one new set of steps and one replacement set of steps installed.</p> <p>The proposals will minimise the installation of new access management infrastructure that would result in a loss of SSSI habitat.</p>	No likely impact on these features.

⁶ *Alnus glutinosa* – *Urtica dioica* (W6) woodland; *Quercus robur* - *Pteridium aquilinum* - *Rubus fruticosus* (W10) woodland; *Crataegus monogyna* - *Hedra helix* scrub (W21)

		<p>of the route by existing scrub and fencing.</p> <p>The main route of the trail follows Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and existing walked routes.</p> <p>Walkers are expected to continue their current patterns of access using these routes.</p>		<p>key junctions and entrances⁴.</p> <p>Through Fairlight and Cliff End the route follows PRoW, existing walked routes, and roads.</p> <p>There is some existing climbing interest in the margin at a crag landward of Ecclesbourne Glen. However, due to the instability of the cliffs in the area, the further opportunities for climbing are limited.</p>	<p>The new infrastructure proposed is intended to improve the existing route and guide people along the existing path to help to minimise any potential impact on the wider habitat. The new and replacement steps will be installed within the footprint of the existing path.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures are not required.</p>	
<p>Coastal cliffs and foreshore, Disused quarries and pits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Geological feature – Wealden ■ Geological feature – Mesozoic Mammalia 	<p>These geological features are present throughout the SSSI.</p>	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>A negligible change in access is expected to these features in the margin. The existing paths provide a surface that is easier to walk over than the surrounding area. People tend to stick to</p>	<p>Loss of these features due to abrasion or installation of new infrastructure.</p>	<p>The network of PRoW and existing walked routes through Hastings Country Park is already well used and publicised, with maps of the main routes available on line and at the visitors' centre⁴.</p> <p>There is an existing system of marked</p>	<p>The trail follows existing public footpaths and walked routes.</p> <p>Some additional waymarking will be installed to make the route of the Coast Path clear on the ground and encourage people to follow the route of the trail. There will also be one new set of steps</p>	<p>No likely impact on these features.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Geological feature – Jurassic – Cretaceous Reptilia ■ Geological feature – Mesozoic Paleobotany ■ Geological feature – Post Variscan ■ Geological feature – recent fossil finds from the cliffs. 		<p>this path as the adjacent habitat is difficult to walk over.</p> <p>Access to the margin seaward of the route is also limited along much of the route by existing scrub and fencing.</p> <p>The main route of the trail follows Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and existing walked routes.</p> <p>Walkers are expected to continue their current patterns of access using these routes.</p>		<p>bollards on footpaths that orientate the walker and alert them to the footpaths available to them⁴.</p> <p>In addition to this map boards are situated at key junctions and entrances⁴.</p> <p>Through Fairlight and Cliff End the route follows PRoW, existing walked routes, and roads.</p> <p>There is some existing climbing interest in the margin at a crag landward of Ecclesbourne Glen. However, due to the instability of the cliffs in the area, the further opportunities for climbing are limited opportunities for climbing are limited.</p>	<p>and one replacement set of steps installed.</p> <p>The proposals will minimise the installation of new access management infrastructure that would result in a loss of SSSI features.</p> <p>The new infrastructure proposed is intended to improve the existing route and guide people along the existing path to help to minimise any potential impact on the wider habitat. The new and replacement steps will be installed within the footprint of the existing path.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures are not required.</p>	
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Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? Yes – 1 new set of steps, 1 replacement set of steps, 10 waymarking posts and 6 finger posts will be installed within this SSSI.

These items will be installed on or near existing walked routes within the site which are not considered to be functioning as qualifying features or supporting habitat. No other special conditions have been identified concerning how or when the works are to be carried out.

Where necessary, East Sussex County Council will instigate the SSSI assent process by writing to us to confirm the timing of works and how operations are to be undertaken in line with these conditions. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI

Is this site or feature also part of a European site? Yes

Note that notified features of the SSSI that are also qualifying features of the European site are omitted from this assessment

This assessment only covers the reportable features of the relevant SSSI Units (151, 153, 155, 157, 158, 159, 161, 162, 182, 187) where there could be a pathway of impact from the coastal access proposals.

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve is also a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Camber Sands is a Local Wildlife Site (LWS).

Risk				Consideration		Conclusion
Attribute affected	Key Area	Predicted changes in pattern and/or level of use	Possible impact(s)	Existing factors	Relevant features of the access proposals, including any additional mitigation measures	
Lowland ditch systems and ponds	This habitat is found landward of the trail at Pett Level and Rye Harbour Nature Reserve (RHNR)	A small increase is expected along the route. Negligible change in access is likely to the landward side of the trail at Pett Level and RHNR. Pett Level Road separates the trail from this habitat at Pett Level and at RHNR existing fencing landward of	Alien aquatic plants (such as <i>Crassula helmsii</i> , <i>Acorus calamus</i> , <i>Mimulus spp.</i> , <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> , <i>Fallopia japonica</i> , <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>) are a significant threat to freshwater ditch features. Access could increase the likelihood of	The proposed trail follows the existing walked route along the seawall and then along the surfaced track located at the top of the shingle beach through RHNR. Access to the landward wetland habitats at Pett Level and RHNR is physically limited by roads or fences.	The proposed trail follows the existing walked route along the seawall and then a surfaced track. Additional mitigation measures are not required.	No likely impact on these features.

		the trail limits access to inland areas.	transference of these plants from/to other freshwater ditches, by foot or dog access.			
Saltmarsh communities (SM4-12, 13a, 16b, 16d, 17, 24, 28)	This habitat is found landward and seaward of the trail in areas at RHNR.	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>Negligible change in access is predicted in the margin. The existing track provides a surface that is easier to walk over than the surrounding area. People tend to stick to this path as the adjacent habitat is difficult to walk over.</p> <p>Negligible change in access is likely to the landward side of the trail at RHNR. The existing fencing landward of the trail</p>	These habitats and associated species are vulnerable to repeated trampling and habitat loss.	<p>Rye Harbour Nature Reserve is a popular visitor location and access is managed, by Sussex Wildlife Trust, to concentrate access to main paths and hides, using fencing and shingle bunds.</p> <p>The provision of a surfaced track through the reserve reduces access to and across the saltmarsh, which reduces trampling pressure.</p> <p>Site management has also resulted in a good awareness of wildlife here, amongst visitors⁷.</p>	<p>At Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, the proposed route will follow the existing promoted, tarmacked track, and a flood defence bank, with additional waymarking.</p> <p>Access to the majority of the saltmarsh in the coastal margin landward of the trail at Rye Harbour is to be excluded all year-round by direction under Section 25A the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) as it is mudflat and saltmarsh that is unsuitable for public access.</p>	No likely impact on these features.

⁷ Blackwood Bayne Ltd (March 2015) Rye Harbour, Camber, Dungeness and Shepway Visitor Surveys 2014-2015.

		limits access to inland areas.			The saltmarsh landward of the trail is behind an existing fence.	
Vascular plant assemblages of dry coastal habitats – sand dunes, grassland and vegetated shingle Including <i>Lactuca saligna</i> , Least Lettuce and <i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i> , Lizard Orchid (grassland)	<p>These species are found at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve in areas of grassland, vegetated shingle or on seawalls, both landward and seaward of the trail.</p> <p>At Camber Sands, the embryo, mobile, strandline and fixed dunes support a vascular plant assemblage.</p>	<p>A small increase is expected along the route at both these sites.</p> <p>At RHNR a negligible change in access is expected to areas landward of the trail, due to fences/ bunds and hides along this side of the path.</p> <p>A negligible change is expected on the seaward side, with walkers continuing the current pattern of use. The nature of the shingle (hard to walk on) also deters access across this area.</p>	<p>These habitats and associated species are vulnerable to repeated trampling and habitat loss.</p> <p>In some cases, light trampling can increase plant diversity⁸</p>	<p>Rye Harbour Nature Reserve is a popular visitor location and access is managed, by Sussex Wildlife Trust, to concentrate access to main paths and hides, using fencing and shingle bunds.</p> <p>The provision of a surfaced track through the Reserve reduces access to and across the shingle to reduce trampling and erosion.</p> <p>Site management has also resulted in a good awareness of wildlife here, amongst visitors⁷.</p> <p>Camber Sands has up to 25 thousand visitors each day in the peak season⁸. They are mainly focussed in the central beach and dune area. It also is one of the</p>	<p>At Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, the proposed route will follow the existing promoted, tarmacked track, and part of a coastal defence bank, with additional waymarkers.</p> <p>To help manage the existing risk of trampling of vegetation within the coastal margin at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, we are proposing a year-round exclusion on nature conservation grounds under Section 26(3)(a). This will cover the vegetated shingle foreshore south of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve up to mean high water. Routes between the trail and the beach will be provided. These will be</p>	No likely impact on these features.

⁸ Dungeness Complex Draft - Sustainable Access and Recreation Management Strategy (SARMS) 2017, Prepared for Shepway District Council and Rother District Council. Available at: <http://www.rother.gov.uk/article/13264/Draft---Sustainable-Access-and-Recreation-Management-Strategy-SARMS>

		<p>At Camber Sands, a negligible change is likely onto the dunes, landward of the trail, and on the exposed beach, seaward of it – following existing patterns of use at this popular tourist destination.</p> <p>On approximately 6 days a year exceptionally high tides may mean walker will use the margin rather than the trail at Camber Sands, but it is expected on these few occasion they will follow the existing walked routes through the dunes.</p>		<p>top five sites in the UK for kitesurfing⁷.</p> <p>The dunes are currently subject to large scale trampling and loss of dune vegetation.</p> <p>Access is currently managed through clearance of the vegetation on the main paths, signage and beach patrols^{8,9}</p> <p>The beach patrols runs from the 15th of July to 1st of September, 7 days per week. Rother District Council also have a Coastal Officer at the site and the onsite Coastal Office is open from the 1st of April to 30th of October daily⁹.</p> <p>Between 1st May and 30th September dogs are prohibited at certain locations along the coastline⁹.</p> <p>An existing informal dog route (available when dogs</p>	<p>signed, with the aim of focusing access to certain points to minimise any potential impact on the wider habitat.</p> <p>At Camber Sands, the England Coastal Path will end at the Estuary. There will be signs at the main car parks and where the trail ends explaining this and letting people know how to reach the point at which the trail begins again at Rye Harbour by public transport.</p> <p>The proposed route will follow the base of the sand dunes between the river and the Central car park – on an existing walked route.</p> <p>Two advisory signs will be installed where people enter the beach from the central and western car parks to provide information fauna and flora</p>	
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⁹ Rother District Council – Camber Sands <http://rother.gov.uk/cambersands>

				excluded from main beach) follows existing bare sand paths through the dunes ⁹ .	<p>sensitivities. This measure has been included to help manage existing pressures at the site.</p> <p>The proposals will minimise the installation of new access management infrastructure that would result in a loss of SSSI habitat.</p> <p>The new infrastructure that is proposed includes waymarking and advisory signs intended to guide people along the existing path and therefore help to minimise any potential impact on the wider habitat.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures are not required.</p>	
Breeding birds of lowland open waters and their margins	At Rye Harbour Nature Reserve on open water habitats and fringing reed beds, landward of the trail, near	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>At RHNR a negligible change in access is expected</p>	Disturbance to birds at nesting sites; or during feeding and/or resting – reducing	Rye Harbour Nature Reserve is a popular visitor location and access is managed, by Sussex Wildlife Trust, to concentrate access to main	The proposed route will follow the existing promoted, tarmacked track with additional waymarking.	No likely impact on these features.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bearded tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i> ■ Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i> (regular summer visitor¹⁰) ■ Cetti's warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i> (uncommon) ■ Tufted duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i> (breeds annually) ■ Water rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> (occasional) ■ Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> 	Lime Kiln Cottage.	<p>to areas landward of the trail, due to fences/ bunds and hides along this side of the path.</p> <p>A negligible change is expected on the seaward side, with walkers continuing the current pattern of use. The nature of the shingle (hard to walk on) also deters access across this area.</p>	<p>abundance / distribution of birds.</p> <p>Disturbance to species nesting in fringing vegetation (eg Bearded tit, Cetti's warbler, garganey) is reduced by the protective nature of the reeds and other vegetation.</p>	<p>paths and hides, using fencing and shingle bunds.</p> <p>The provision of a surfaced track through the reserve reduces access to the surrounding habitats.</p> <p>Site management has also resulted in a good awareness of wildlife here, amongst visitors⁷.</p> <p>This management provides quiet refuge areas around the pools, for these and other birds.</p>	Additional mitigation measures are not required.	
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¹⁰ Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Management Plan 2012-2021. Available at: <https://assets.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/Files/management-plan-2012-2021-1.pdf>

Assemblages of breeding birds - Sand-dunes and saltmarshes Black headed gull, <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	<p>At Rye Harbour Nature Reserve there are large colonies of black headed gull on open water and shingle islands, landward of the trail. They have been recorded nesting at RHNR within areas secured by the anti-predator fence.</p>	<p>A small increase is expected along the route at both these sites.</p> <p>At RHNR a negligible change in access is expected to areas landward of the trail, due to fences/ bunds and hides along this side of the path.</p> <p>A negligible change is expected on the seaward side, with walkers continuing the current pattern of use. The nature of the shingle (hard to walk on) also deters access across this area.</p>	<p>Disturbance to birds at nesting sites or during feeding / resting – reducing abundance / distribution of birds.</p>	<p>Rye Harbour Nature Reserve is a popular visitor location and access is managed, by Sussex Wildlife Trust, to concentrate access to main paths and hides, using fencing and shingle bunds.</p> <p>The provision of a surfaced track through the reserve reduces access to the surrounding habitats.</p> <p>Site management has also resulted in a good awareness of wildlife here, amongst visitors⁷.</p> <p>This management provides quiet refuge areas around the pools, for these and other birds.</p>	<p>At RHNR the proposed route will follow the existing promoted, surfaced track with additional waymarkers.</p> <p>Access to the majority of the saltmarsh in the coastal margin landward of the trail at Rye Harbour is to be excluded all year-round by direction under Section 25A the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) as it is mudflat and saltmarsh that is unsuitable for public access.</p> <p>The saltmarsh landward of the trail is behind an existing fence.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures are not required.</p>	<p>No likely impact on these features.</p>
Aggregations of non-breeding waterbirds	<p>At RHNR, Camber Sands and Pett Beach.</p> <p>Numbers of wintering birds</p>	<p>RHNR as above.</p> <p>At Camber Sands a small increase is expected along the route. A negligible</p>	<p>Repeated disturbance may result in changes to roosting and feeding behaviour, leading to reduced</p>	<p>Existing access management at RHNR, as described above, concentrates access to</p>	<p>At RHNR the proposed route will follow the existing promoted, tarmacked track with additional waymarkers.</p>	<p>No likely impact on these feature.</p>

	<p>use the intertidal and shores for feeding, including curlew, oystercatchers, grey and ringed plovers, dunlin, turnstone, redshank, bar-tailed godwits, little egret, greenshank.</p> <p>They feed on the exposed intertidal muds and sands when the tide is out.</p> <p>Many of them also feed and roost behind the fencing at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, including smew and greylag goose.</p> <p>There have also been observations of roosting birds</p>	<p>change is likely onto the dunes, landward of the trail, and on the exposed beach, seaward of it – following existing patterns of use at this popular tourist destination.</p> <p>At Pett beach a small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>No real change is expected to areas landward of the trail, due to Pett Level Road running alongside it to the north.</p> <p>A negligible change is expected on the seaward side, with walkers continuing the current pattern of use. The nature of the shingle (hard to walk on) also deters</p>	<p>fitness and reduction in population and/or contraction in the distribution within the site.</p>	<p>main paths and hides, using fencing and shingle bunds.</p> <p>At Camber Sands, there is existing use of the proposed route along the base of the dunes at this popular site.</p> <p>Access is currently managed through clearance of the vegetation on the main paths, signage and beach patrols^{8,9}</p> <p>The beach patrols runs from the 15th of July to 1st of September, 7 days per week. Rother District Council also have a Coastal Officer at the site and the onsite Coastal Office is open from the 1st of April to 30th of October daily⁹.</p> <p>Between 1st May and 30th September dogs are prohibited at certain locations along the coastline⁹.</p> <p>The large western car park is closed on weekdays outside of school holidays during the winter (October</p>	<p>At Camber Sands, the proposed alignment between the river and the Central car park, will follow the base of the sand dunes– on an existing walked route.</p> <p>Two advisory signs will be installed where people enter the beach from the central and western car parks to provide information on fauna and flora sensitivities. This measure has been included to help manage existing pressures at the site. These signs will advise that dogs are kept under close control.</p> <p>At Pett Level the trail will be aligned along existing, surfaced route and well signed.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures are not required.</p>	
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	<p>including oystercatcher, grey plover, turnstone and redshank on Pett beach.</p> <p>Large gull (including black-headed gull and herring gull) roosts are present at night along the RHNR and Camber shore, at sea and seaward of the trail.</p>	<p>access across this area.</p> <p>There are fewer visitors in the evenings and at night.</p>		<p>to the first day before good Friday)⁹.</p> <p>At Pett Level, there is existing use of the main walked route along the top of the seawall, and the beach – all year. The main route offers a hard surface to walk along, off the (hard to walk along) shingle.</p>		
<p>Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i></p>	<p>At Rye Harbour Nature Reserve on shallow, open water habitats and fringing vegetation, landward of the trail, near Lime Kiln Cottage.</p>	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>At RHNR a negligible change in access is expected to areas landward of the trail, due to fences/ bunds and hides along this side of the path.</p>	<p>Repeated disturbance may result in changes to roosting and feeding behaviour, leading to reduced fitness and reduction in population and/or contraction in the distribution within the site.</p>	<p>Rye Harbour Nature Reserve is a popular visitor location and access is managed, by Sussex Wildlife Trust, to concentrate access to main paths and hides, using fencing and shingle bunds.</p> <p>The provision of a surfaced track through the reserve reduces access to the surrounding habitats.</p>	<p>At RHNR the proposed route will follow the existing promoted, surfaced track with additional waymarkers.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures are not required.</p>	<p>No likely impact on this feature</p>

				Site management has also resulted in a good awareness of wildlife here, amongst visitors ⁷ .		
<p>Invertebrate assemblages of dry coastal habitats - including vegetated shingle, open swards, short sward grassland and bare sand, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Lasiocampa trifolii flava</i>, Pale Grass Eggar ■ <i>Dibolia cynoglossi</i>, a flea beetle ■ <i>Euophrys browni</i>, a jumping spider 	<p>At Rye Harbour Nature Reserve in areas of grassland, vegetated shingle or edges of waterbodies landward and seaward of the trail.</p> <p>At Camber Sands, the dunes support an invertebrate assemblage.</p>	<p>A small increase is expected along the route at both these sites.</p> <p>At RHNR no real change in access is expected to areas landward of the trail, due to fences/ bunds and hides along this side of the path.</p> <p>A negligible change is expected on the seaward side, with walkers continuing the current pattern of use. The nature of the shingle (hard to walk on) also deters access across this area.</p> <p>At Camber Sands, a negligible change is likely onto the dunes, landward of</p>	<p>These habitats and associated species are vulnerable to repeated trampling and habitat loss.</p>	<p>Existing access management, at RHNR, concentrates access to main paths and hides, using fencing and shingle bunds.</p> <p>The provision of a surfaced track through the reserve, reduces access to and across the shingle to reduce trampling.</p> <p>Camber Sands has up to 25 thousand visitors each day in the peak season⁸. They are mainly focussed in the central beach and dune area. It also is one of the top five sites in the UK for kitesurfing⁷.</p> <p>The dunes are currently subject to large scale trampling and loss of dune vegetation.</p> <p>Access is currently managed through clearance</p>	<p>At Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, the proposed route will follow the existing promoted, tarmacked track, and part a coastal defence bank along the river, with additional waymarkers.</p> <p>A year-round exclusion on nature conservation grounds under Section 26(3)(a), will cover the vegetated shingle foreshore south of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve up to mean high water. This will cover some areas of vegetated shingle where invertebrates could be present.</p> <p>At Camber Sands, the proposed route will follow the base of the sand dunes between the Estuary and the Central</p>	<p>No likely impact on these features.</p>

		<p>the trail, and on the exposed beach, seaward of it – following existing patterns of use at this popular tourist destination.</p> <p>On approximately 6 days a year exceptionally high tides may mean walker will use the margin rather than the trail at Camber Sands, but it is expected on these few occasion they will follow the existing walked routes through the dunes.</p>		<p>of the vegetation on the main paths, signage and beach patrols^{8,9}</p> <p>The beach patrols runs from the 15th of July to 1st of September, 7 days per week. Rother District Council also have a Coastal Officer at the site and the onsite Coastal Office is open from the 1st of April to 30th of October daily⁹.</p> <p>Between 1st May and 30th September dogs are prohibited at certain locations along the coastline⁹.</p> <p>An existing informal dog route (available when dogs excluded from main beach) follows existing bare sand paths through the dunes⁹</p>	<p>car park – on an existing walked route.</p> <p>Two advisory signs will be installed where people enter the beach from the central and western car parks to provide information on fauna and flora sensitivities. This measure has been included to help manage existing pressures at the site.</p> <p>Some additional waymarking will be installed to make the route of the Coast Path clear on the ground and encourage people to follow the route of the trail.</p> <p>The proposals will minimise the installation of new access management infrastructure that would result in a loss of SSSI habitat.</p> <p>The new infrastructure that is proposed is intended to guide people along the</p>	
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					<p>existing path and therefore help to minimise any potential impact on the wider habitat.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures are not required.</p>	
<p>IA - Coastal Geomorphology (active)</p> <p>IS - Coastal Geomorphology (fossil)</p>	<p>Rye Harbour Nature Reserve active shingle ridge development on the foreshore and the fossil shingle ridges inland that show how the shoreline has changed.</p>	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>At RHNR no real change in access is expected to areas landward of the trail, due to fences/ bunds and hides along this side of the path.</p> <p>A negligible change is expected on the seaward side, with walkers continuing the current pattern of use. The nature of the shingle (hard to walk on) also deters access across this area.</p>	<p>Trampling of the developing pattern of shingle ridges or fossil patterns, reducing the extent of these geomorphological features.</p>	<p>Existing access management, at RHNR, concentrates access to main paths and the provision of a surfaced path through the Reserve reduces access to / across the shingle to reduce trampling and erosion.</p>	<p>At Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, the proposed route will follow the existing promoted surfaced track, and part of a coastal defence bank along the river, with additional waymarkers.</p> <p>Some additional waymarking will be installed to make the route of the Coast Path clear on the ground and encourage people to follow the route of the trail.</p> <p>The proposals will minimise the installation of new access management infrastructure that would result in a loss of SSSI features.</p>	<p>No likely impact on these features</p>

					<p>The new infrastructure that is proposed is intended to guide people along the existing path and therefore help to minimise any potential impact on the wider habitat.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures are not required.</p>	
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Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? Yes – 7 new multi-finger posts, 2 new simple waymarking posts, 1 trail information sign and 9 advisory signs will be installed with the SSSI.

These items will be attached to existing infrastructure or installed on or near existing walked routes within the site, which are not considered to be functioning as qualifying features or supporting habitat.

At Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, establishment works will take place outside of the breeding season (May to September) to avoid disturbance to breeding birds. No other special conditions have been identified concerning how or when the works are to be carried out.

Where necessary, East Sussex County Council will instigate the SSSI assent process by writing to us to confirm the timing of works and how operations are to be undertaken in line with these conditions. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on Beachy Head East MCZ

Is this site or feature also part of a European site? No

Risk				Consideration		Conclusion
Attribute affected	Key Area	Predicted changes in pattern and/or level of use	Possible impact(s)	Existing factors	Relevant features of the access proposals, including any additional mitigation measures	
Littoral chalk communities	To the east of this stretch of the coast path	This habitat is known to be located outside of the area covered by this stretch of the coast path and is difficult to access.	Not considered sensitive due to the lack of interaction between coast path users and this features.	None	Additional mitigation measures are not required.	No likely impact on this feature
Short-snouted seahorse (<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i>)	Found in shallow muddy waters amongst seaweed and seagrasses or rocky areas.	Not subject to coastal access rights.	Not considered sensitive due to the lack of interaction between coast path users and this feature.	None	Additional mitigation measures are not required.	No likely impact on this feature
Subtidal course sediment;	Subtidal	Not subject to coastal access rights.	Not considered sensitive due to the lack of interaction between coast	None	Additional mitigation measures are not required.	No likely impact on this feature

Subtidal sand; Subtidal chalk			path users and this feature.			
High energy circalittoral rock; Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Subtidal	Not subject to coastal access rights.	Not considered sensitive due to the lack of interaction between coast path users and this feature.	None	Additional mitigation measures are not required.	No likely impact on this feature
Peat and clay exposures	This feature is known to be located along the coast between Bexhill and Hastings	These features are located in an area which is already well accessed adjacent to the coastal towns of Bexhill and Hastings. The route follows a clearly signed path on the promenade in this area.	This feature is sensitive to abrasion.	This feature is currently assessed as recovering due to abrasion, but this is in relation to fishing activities, rather than walkers.	The trail follows existing walked routes. Clear waymarking will be installed to encourage people to follow the route of the trail. Additional mitigation measures are not required.	No likely impact on this feature
Ross worm reefs (<i>Saballeria spinulosa</i>)	The known records of this feature in this area are located offshore.	Not subject to coastal access rights	Not considered sensitive due to the lack of interaction between coast path users and this feature.	None	Additional mitigation measures are not required.	No likely impact on this feature

Establishment works

Is an MCZ Assessment needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? No

Assessment of coastal access proposals on Local Wildlife Sites

Is this site or feature also part of a European site? No

Risk				Consideration		Conclusion
Attribute affected	Key Area	Predicted changes in pattern and/or level of use	Possible impact(s)	Existing factors	Relevant features of the access proposals, including any additional mitigation measures	
Vegetated Shingle; Maritime grasses; Lichens and mosses.	Prince William Parade Local Wildlife Site	<p>The majority of the site landward of the trail is not affected by the trail or the coastal margin.</p> <p>The trail follows the existing walked route on the concrete promenade.</p> <p>It is expected people will continue with their current patterns of use here as shingle is difficult to walk</p>	Trampling of vegetation	<p>The beaches around Eastbourne experience a very high level of public access already¹¹.</p> <p>Access to Sovereign Park landward of the trail is managed with a series of paths, boardwalks, and existing interpretation to help protect the vegetation from trampling.</p>	<p>The trail follows an existing walked route.</p> <p>Clear waymarking will be installed to encourage people to follow the route of the trail.</p> <p>The East Sussex Vegetated Shingle Management Plan suggests it may be beneficial to increase the level of interpretation in this areaError! Bookmark not defined.. Therefore as an enhancement measure to help tackle the existing threat to this habitat, we are proposing updating two of the interpretation panels along the promenade to raise</p>	No likely impact on these features.

¹¹ East Sussex Vegetated Shingle Management Plan, 2009. Available at: <https://www.pevensey-bay.co.uk/resources/pdf/ESCC%20Shingle%20MP%20-%202009.pdf>

		on for any distance.			awareness of the sensitivity of vegetated shingle habitat. Additional mitigation measures are not required.	
Vegetated Shingle, Invertebrate fauna.	Sovereign Harbour Beach Local Wildlife Site	The trail follows the existing walked route on the surfaced path in the northern part of this site. It is expected people will continue with their current pattern of use here as shingle is difficult to walk on for any distance.	Trampling of vegetation Trampling of invertebrate fauna	The area is popular with tourists, with multiple camping and caravanning sites in close proximity ¹¹ . An existing interpretation board informs people of the flora and fauna present in the shingle and how to protect them.	The trail follows an existing walked route. Clear waymarking will be installed to encourage people to follow the route of the trail. Additional mitigation measures are not required.	No likely impact on these features.
Vegetated Shingle, Herb-rich grassland	Shingle Beach at Normans Bay Local Wildlife Site	The main route of the trail is primarily aligned along the road and along a grass bank in this area. There are excepted land categories between the road and the beach	Trampling of vegetation	The area is popular with tourists, with multiple camping and caravanning sites in close proximity to the beach ¹¹ . The citation for the site states that the beach here displays a wide variety of	The main route of the trail is aligned along an existing walked route on shingle for a short section in front of Normans Bay Caravan and Camping site. Clear waymarking will be installed to encourage people to follow the route of the trail.	No likely impact on these features.

		<p>along much of this length, which limit opportunities for walkers to access the beach.</p> <p>Where the route is aligned along the beach it primarily follows existing routes across bare shingle, which has been compacted due to beach management works.</p>		<p>shingle vegetation including several healthy patches of Red Hemp-nettle (<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>). The western area contains the most extensive vegetated shingle with herb-rich grassland on the landward slopes. The eastern area consists of small patches of Sea Kale¹¹.</p> <p>Parts of the beach suffer from enrichment through dog fouling, litter and other waste¹¹.</p> <p>Shingle in the area is annually replenished and regularly re-profiled as part of flood protection works¹¹.</p>	<p>The East Sussex Vegetated Shingle Management Plan suggests it may be beneficial to increase the level of interpretation in this area. Therefore as an enhancement measure we are proposing installing a new interpretation panel to raise awareness of the sensitivity of vegetated shingle habitat at EBC-2-S077.</p>	
Vegetated Shingle	Cooden Cliffs Local Wildlife Site	The main route of the trail is only aligned on the shingle for a short	Trampling of vegetation	There is a very sparse and patchy shingle flora on the beach. The citation	The trail follows existing walked route.	No likely impact on

<p>Low, steep clay cliffs, which have patches of grassland and some maritime species associated with them.</p>		<p>section, where it follows an existing walked route over bare shingle.</p> <p>To the west the route is aligned along the road, where excepted land categories between the road and the beach limit opportunities for walkers to access the beach.</p> <p>To the east the trail follows the existing walked route on the concrete walkway at the back of the beach.</p> <p>It is expected people will continue with their current pattern of use here as shingle is difficult to walk on for any distance.</p>		<p>for the site states it includes Sea-Kale (<i>Crambe maritima</i>) and Yellow-horned Poppy (<i>Glaucium flavum</i>)¹¹.</p> <p>The beach experiences a high level of recreational activity, with a large hotel complex and several camping/caravanning sites located in the surrounding area¹¹.</p> <p>The shingle here is subject to beach management activities¹¹.</p>	<p>Clear waymarking will be installed to encourage people to follow the route of the trail.</p> <p>The East Sussex Vegetated Shingle Management Plan suggests it may be beneficial to increase the level of interpretation in this area.</p> <p>Therefore as an enhancement measure we are installing a new interpretation panel on the shingle section here. This is to raise awareness of the sensitivity of vegetated shingle habitat.</p>	<p>these features.</p>
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Maritime cliffs Vegetated shingle	Bulverhythe Shingle Beach and Cliffs Local Wildlife Site	<p>The main route of the trail follows a tarmacked path at the back of the beach, which is an existing public footpath and National Cycle Route.</p> <p>It is expected people will continue to use this tarmacked track as they do currently as shingle is difficult to walk on for any distance.</p>	Trampling of vegetation	<p>The shingle beach supports populations of rare sea kale and long homed poppy. The citation for the site suggests these appear to be fairly resilient to trampling.</p> <p>The area is extensively utilised for informal recreation such as walking and dog walking. Vegetation is impacted by the high level of public usage on the site, through trampling disturbance and enrichment¹¹.</p> <p>The beach here is managed, as part of flood defence works.</p>	<p>The trail follows an existing walked route.</p> <p>Clear waymarking will be installed to encourage people to follow the route of the trail.</p>	No likely impact on these features.
Vegetated shingle	Rock-a-Nore Shingle Beach Local Wildlife Site	<p>The main route of the trail follows a concrete path and road behind the beach. The area in the margin is</p>	Trampling of vegetation	<p>The citation for this site states that as a result of all the current fishing activities on the site and the visitors this attracts most of the</p>	<p>The trail follows an existing walked route behind the beach.</p> <p>Clear waymarking will be installed to encourage people to follow the route of the trail.</p>	No likely impact on this feature

		already heavily accessed as a result of fishing activities and associated visitors.		habitat is of a disturbed ground species composition, with some areas of Sea kale.		
Vegetated shingle	Shingle Beach Dogs Hill Local Wildlife Site	<p>The majority of the site landward of the trail is not affect by the trail or the coastal margin.</p> <p>The main route of the trial follows an existing path on top of the sea wall.</p> <p>It is expected people will continue with their current pattern of use here as shingle is difficult to walk on for any distance.</p>	Trampling of vegetation	<p>The citation states there is a strip of shingle along the top of the seaward side of the sea wall, which supports pioneer vegetation, with species such as the nationally scarce Sea-kale (<i>Crambe maritima</i>).</p> <p>The surrounding area supports several camping/caravanning sites, and is a popular holiday destination. Tourist activity is common and the beach experiences high levels of recreational activity¹¹.</p>	<p>The trail follows existing walked route on the sea wall behind the beach.</p> <p>Clear waymarking will be installed to encourage people to follow the route of the trail.</p>	No likely impact on this feature

Establishment works

Where new infrastructure is installed on the foreshore it will be sited on bare sand or shingle avoiding any vegetation that is present at the time of installation. No other special conditions have been identified concerning how or when the works are to be carried out.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on other features

Risk				Consideration		Conclusion
Attribute affected	Key Area	Predicted changes in pattern and/or level of use	Possible impact(s)	Existing factors	Relevant features of the access proposals, including any additional mitigation measures	
Mammals hazel dormice, badger	Hastings Country Park LNR ⁴	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>A negligible change in access is expected to these features in the margin. The existing paths provide a surface that is easier to walk over than the surrounding area. People tend to stick to this path as the adjacent habitat is difficult to walk over.</p> <p>Access to the margin seaward of the route is also limited along much of the route by</p>	<p>Loss of habitat due to installation of new infrastructure.</p> <p>Killing or injuring mammals during construction of new infrastructure.</p>	<p>Known to occur within Hastings Country Park LNR.</p> <p>The network of PRow and existing walked routes through Hastings Country Park is already well used and publicised, with maps of the main routes available on line and at the visitors' centre⁴.</p> <p>There is an existing system of marked bollards on footpaths that orientate the walker and alert them to</p>	<p>The construction of infrastructure includes some additional waymarking, as well as one replacement and one new set of steps.</p> <p>These will be situated on or adjacent to an existing walked route. The new and replacement steps will not exceed the footprint of the existing path.</p> <p>No vegetation removal is planned as part of the works. So it is considered unlikely that there will be any interaction with this feature.</p>	No likely impact on these features.

		<p>existing scrub and fencing.</p> <p>The main route of the trail follows Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and existing walked routes.</p> <p>Walkers are expected to continue their current patterns of access using these routes.</p>		<p>the footpaths available to them⁴.</p> <p>In addition to this map boards are situated at key junctions and entrances⁴.</p>	<p>If mammals are found to be present with the footprint of the works, advice will be taken from an ecologist on acceptable avoidance and mitigation measures.</p>	
<p>Reptiles grass snake, adder, slow worms, viviparous lizard</p>	<p>Hastings Country Park LNR⁴</p>	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>A negligible change in access is expected to these features in the margin. The existing paths provide a surface that is easier to walk over than the surrounding area. People tend to stick to this path as the adjacent habitat is difficult to walk over.</p>	<p>Loss of habitat due to installation of new infrastructure.</p> <p>Killing or injuring reptiles during construction of new infrastructure.</p>	<p>Known to occur within Hastings Country Park LNR.</p> <p>The network of PRoW and existing walked routes through Hastings Country Park is already well used and publicised, with maps of the main routes available on line and at the visitors' centre⁴.</p> <p>There is an existing system of marked</p>	<p>The construction of infrastructure includes some additional waymarking, as well as one replacement and one new pair of steps.</p> <p>These will be situated on or adjacent to an existing walked route. The new and replacement steps will not exceed the footprint of the existing path.</p> <p>If reptiles are found to be present within the footprint of the works,</p>	<p>No likely impact on these features.</p>

		<p>Access to the margin seaward of the route is also limited along much of the route by existing scrub and fencing.</p> <p>The main route of the trail follows Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and existing walked routes.</p> <p>Walkers are expected to continue their current patterns of access using these routes.</p>		<p>bollards on footpaths that orientate the walker and alert them to the footpaths available to them⁴.</p> <p>In addition to this map boards are situated at key junctions and entrances⁴.</p>	<p>advice will be taken from an ecologist on acceptable avoidance and mitigation measures.</p>	
Amphibians great crested newt	Hastings Country Park LNR ⁴	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>A negligible change in access is expected to these features in the margin. The existing paths provide a surface that is easier to walk over than the surrounding area. People tend to stick to this path as the</p>	<p>Not considered sensitive, as based on the establishment works planned here there is unlikely to be any interaction with this feature.</p>	<p>Known to occur within Hastings Country Park LNR.</p> <p>The network of PRoW and existing walked routes through Hastings Country Park is already well used and publicised, with maps of the main routes available on</p>	<p>The construction of infrastructure includes some additional waymarking, as well as one replacement and one new set of steps.</p> <p>This will be situated on or adjacent to an existing walked route. The new and replacement steps will</p>	<p>No likely impact on these features.</p>

		<p>adjacent habitat is difficult to walk over.</p> <p>Access to the margin seaward of the route is also limited along much of the route by existing scrub and fencing.</p> <p>The main route of the trail follows Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and existing walked routes.</p> <p>Walkers are expected to continue their current patterns of access using these routes.</p>		<p>line and at the visitors' centre⁴.</p> <p>There is an existing system of marked bollards on footpaths that orientate the walker and alert them to the footpaths available to them⁴.</p> <p>In addition to this map boards are situated at key junctions and entrances⁴.</p>	<p>not exceed the footprint of the existing path.</p> <p>No vegetation removal is planned as part of the works. So it is considered unlikely that there will be any interaction with this feature.</p>	
Bats pipistrelle bat, brown long-eared bat,	Hastings Country Park LNR ⁴	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>A negligible change in access is expected to these features in the margin. The existing paths provide a surface that is easier to walk over than the</p>	Not considered sensitive, as based on the establishment works planned here there is unlikely to be any interaction with this feature.	<p>Known to occur within Hastings Country Park LNR.</p> <p>The network of PRoW and existing walked routes through Hastings Country Park is already well used and publicised, with</p>	<p>The construction of infrastructure includes some additional waymarking, as well as one replacement and one new set of steps.</p> <p>These will be situated on or adjacent to an existing walked route. The new and</p>	No likely impact on these features

		<p>surrounding area. People tend to stick to this path as the adjacent habitat is difficult to walk over.</p> <p>Access to the margin seaward of the route is also limited along much of the route by existing scrub and fencing.</p> <p>The main route of the trail follows Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and existing walked routes.</p> <p>Walkers are expected to continue their current patterns of access using these routes.</p>		<p>maps of the main routes available on line and at the visitors' centre⁴.</p> <p>There is an existing system of marked bollards on footpaths that orientate the walker and alert them to the footpaths available to them⁴.</p> <p>In addition to this map boards are situated at key junctions and entrances⁴.</p>	<p>replacement steps will not exceed the footprint of the existing path.</p> <p>No vegetation removal is planned as part of the works. So it is considered unlikely that there will be any interaction with this feature.</p>	
<p>Bird Species Including, but not limited to species such as: dove, woodlark, skylark, song thrush, spotted</p>	Hastings Country Park LNR ⁴	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>A negligible change in access is expected to these features in the margin. The existing</p>	<p>Loss of habitat due to installation of new infrastructure.</p> <p>Disturbance to roosting, feeding or ground nesting birds.</p>	<p>Known to occur within Hastings Country Park LNR.</p> <p>The network of PRoW and existing walked routes through Hastings</p>	<p>The trail follows existing public footpaths and walked routes.</p> <p>The construction of infrastructure includes some additional waymarking, as well as</p>	No likely impact on these features.

<p>flycatcher, tree sparrow, linnet, bullfinch, corn bunting</p>		<p>paths provide a surface that is easier to walk over than the surrounding area. People tend to stick to this path as the adjacent habitat is difficult to walk over.</p> <p>Access to the margin seaward of the route is also limited along much of the route by existing scrub and fencing.</p> <p>The main route of the trail follows Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and existing walked routes.</p> <p>Walkers are expected to continue their current patterns of access using these routes.</p>		<p>Country Park is already well used and publicised, with maps of the main routes available on line and at the visitors' centre⁴.</p> <p>There is an existing system of marked bollards on footpaths that orientate the walker and alert them to the footpaths available to them⁴.</p> <p>In addition to this map boards are situated at key junctions and entrances⁴.</p> <p>There is some existing climbing interest in the margin at a crag landward of Ecclesbourne Glen. However, due to the instability of the cliffs in the area, the further opportunities</p>	<p>one replacement and one new set of steps.</p> <p>These will be situated on or adjacent to an existing walked route. The new and replacement steps will not exceed the footprint of the existing path.</p> <p>The additional waymarking will make the route of the Coast Path clear on the ground and encourage people to follow the route of the trail.</p> <p>Existing scrub limits access to the cliffs in the margin along much of the route and climbing interest is limited. The cliffs also suffer from slumping over much of the area. Therefore there is unlikely to be much interaction between users of coastal access</p>	
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				for climbing are limited.	rights and birds nesting on the cliffs.	
Black-headed gull and Herring gull	Large numbers of birds are known to congregate at Glyne Gap. WeBs data (2018/19): black-headed gull (750 birds) and Herring gull (1100).	<p>The route of the trail is along an existing concrete path, set back from the foreshore.</p> <p>The existing path has a compacted surface that is easy to walk over. People are likely to stick to this path as the adjacent shingle is difficult to walk over.</p>	Disturbance to roosting and feeding birds.	Glyne Gap is a popular recreational site used by walkers and dog walkers. In the summer the site attracts tourists and beach users. There are beach huts along the frontage which are rented out by the council.	<p>The trail follows existing public footpaths and walked routes.</p> <p>Clear waymarking will be installed to encourage people to follow the route of the trail.</p>	No likely impact on these features
Seals (Common and Grey Seal)	Shore at Pett and Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, and the River Rother (either swimming up the River Rother or hauled out on the shore at the	<p>A small increase is expected along the route.</p> <p>Negligible change in access is predicted in the margin. The existing track provides a surface that is easier to walk over than the surrounding area. People tend to stick to this path as the adjacent habitat is difficult to walk over.</p>	Disturbance could impact natural behaviour of these species.	<p>At Pett Level and Rye Harbour Nature Reserve there is existing use of the main walked route along the top of the seawall / the access track through the nature reserve, and the beach – all year.</p> <p>The main route of the trail offers a hard surface to walk along, off the (hard</p>	<p>At Pett Level the trail will be aligned along existing, surfaced route and well signed.</p> <p>Access is excluded too much of the saltmarsh and mudflat in the coastal margin this is because it is to be excluded all year-round by direction under Section 25A the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) as it</p>	No likely impact on these features.

	River Mouth) ¹²¹³ .			<p>to walk along) shingle.</p> <p>Rye Harbour Nature Reserve (RHNR) is a popular visitor location and access is managed, by Sussex Wildlife Trust, to concentrate access to main paths and hides, using fencing and shingle bunds.</p> <p>The provision of a surfaced path through the Reserve reduces access to and across the shingle to reduce trampling and erosion.</p> <p>Site management has also resulted in a good awareness of wildlife here, amongst visitors⁷.</p>	<p>is unsuitable for public access.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures are not required.</p>	
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¹² Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Annual Report 2013. Available at: <https://assets.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/Files/2013-annualreport.pdf>

¹³ Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Annual Report 2012. Available at: <https://assets.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/Files/2012-annualreport.pdf>

Vegetated Shingle	<p>Shingle vegetation occurs in areas throughout this stretch both within the designated sites previously mentioned in this assessment and outside of them.</p>	<p>The route of the trail generally follows existing established walked routes where it passes in close proximity to shingle vegetation.</p> <p>It is expected walkers will continue to use the existing tracks as it is not thought likely people would change their existing established patterns of access.</p>	Trampling of vegetation	<p>The beaches along this stretch of coast are generally already well accessed, particularly where they occur in proximity to major settlements. This has led to existing trampling pressure.</p>	<p>Clear waymarking will be installed across the stretch to encourage people to follow the route of the trail.</p> <p>We have taken advice from East Sussex County Council in relation to shingle vegetation. Where it has been feasible we have looked to install new interpretation panels to raise awareness of the sensitivity of vegetated shingle habitat.</p> <p>In addition to the measures previously mentioned in this assessment, we also propose replacing the existing interpretation board, south of Sea Road Car Park in Pevensey Bay.</p>	No likely impact on this feature.
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Conclusion

We, Natural England, are satisfied that our proposals to improve access to the English coast between Eastbourne and Camber are fully compatible with our duty to further the conservation and enhancement of the notified features of Pevensey Levels SSSI, Hastings Cliff to Petts Beach SSSI, Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI, Prince William Parade Local Wildlife Site, Sovereign Harbour Beach Local Wildlife Site, Shingle Beach at Normans Bay Local Wildlife Site, Cooden Cliffs Local Wildlife Site, Bulverhythe Shingle Beach and Cliffs Local Wildlife Site, Rock-a-Nore Shingle Beach Local Wildlife Site, Shingle Beach Dogs Hill Local Wildlife Site, Camber Sands Local Wildlife Site, Rye Harbour Local Nature Reserve, and Hastings Country Park Local Nature Reserve consistent with the proper exercise of our functions¹⁴.

In respect of any duties that may arise under section 125 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Natural England has concluded for Beach Head East MCZ that the access proposal (including any mitigation measures specified) is the one that, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions under section 296 of the same Act, is least likely to hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives for the Marine Conservation Zone - and accordingly may proceed.

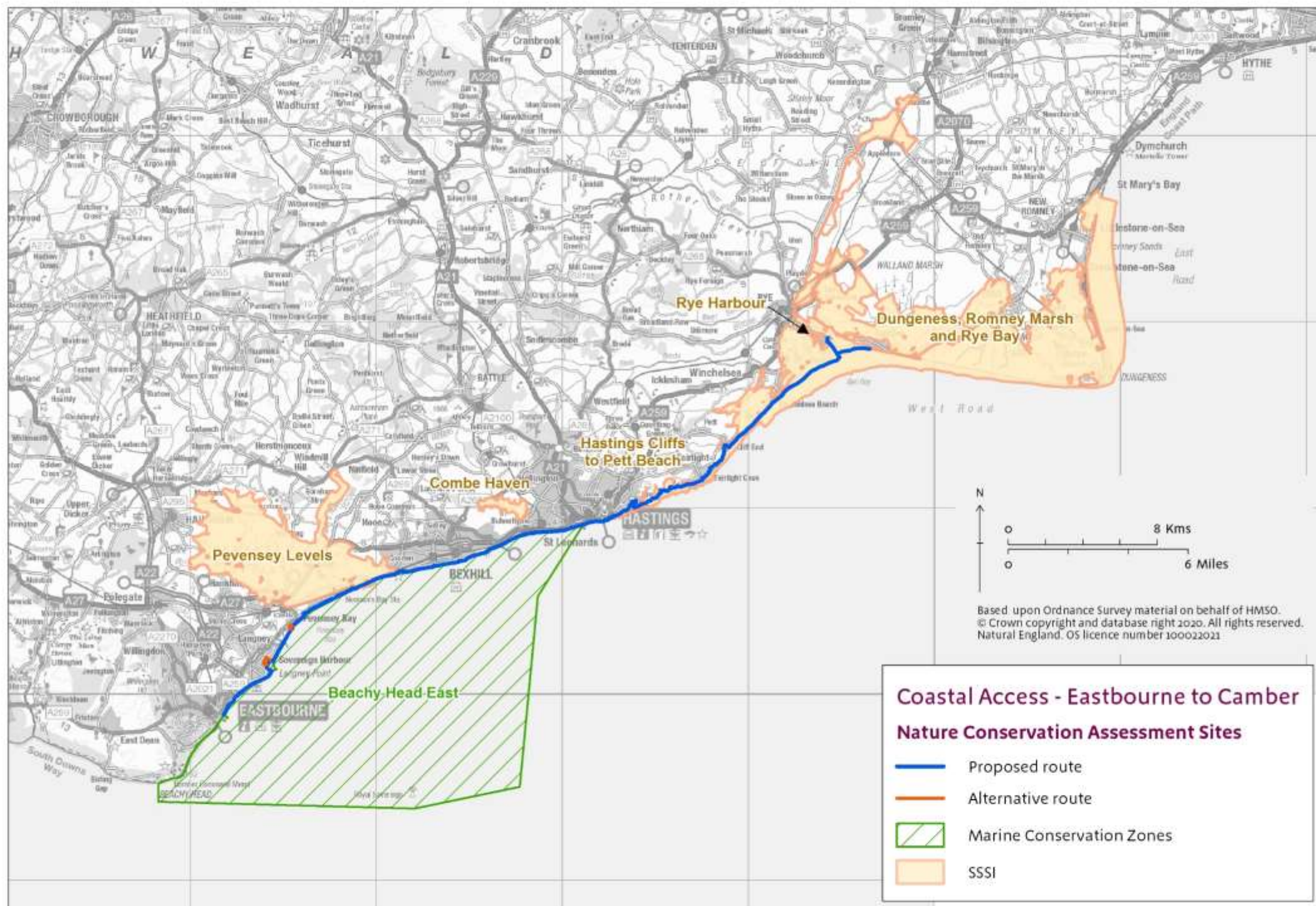
In respect of important features discussed in the other features section we are satisfied that in developing the new access proposals the appropriate balance has been struck between Natural England's conservation and access objectives, duties and purposes.

See also, where relevant, the conclusions of the separate HRA relating to common features.

The conclusions of this assessment have been checked by:

David Pearce	12/02/2019	On behalf of the Coastal Access Programme Team
Kristoffer Hewitt	12/02/2019	Senior Officer with responsibility for protected sites

¹⁴ Natural England's functions includes its balanced general purposes for access, nature conservation and landscape under the NERC Act 2006, any specific statutory duties it may have to deliver specific improvements to public access, and the access-related policies and priorities it periodically agrees with Defra.



Annex 1. Index to designated sites and features

Qualifying feature	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	Dungeness SAC	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI	Pevensey Levels SAC	Pevensey Levels Ramsar	Pevensey Levels SSSI	Hastings Cliffs SAC	Hastings Cliff to Petts Beach SSSI	Beachy Head East MCZ
Geology & geomorphology										
EC - Jurassic - Cretaceous Reptilia									x	
EC - Mesozoic Mammalia									x	
EC - Mesozoic Palaeobotany									x	
EC - Post-Variscan Structures									x	
EC - Wealden									x	
ED - Wealden									x	
IA - Coastal Geomorphology				x						
IS - Coastal Geomorphology				x						
Habitats										
Littoral chalk communities										x

Qualifying feature	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	Dungeness SAC	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI	Pevensey Levels SAC	Pevensey Levels Ramsar	Pevensey Levels SSSI	Hastings Cliffs SAC	Hastings Cliff to Petts Beach SSSI	Beachy Head East MCZ
Subtidal coarse sediment										x
Subtidal sand										x
High energy circalittoral rock										x
Moderate energy circalittoral rock										x
Peat and clay exposures										x
Subtidal chalk										x
H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines			x							
H1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks			x							
Saltmarsh communities (SM4-12, 13a, 16b, 16d, 17, 24, 28)				x						
Annual vegetation of sand, shingle and pebble shores	x									

Qualifying feature	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	Dungeness SAC	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI	Pevensey Levels SAC	Pevensey Levels Ramsar	Pevensey Levels SSSI	Hastings Cliffs SAC	Hastings Cliff to Petts Beach SSSI	Beachy Head East MCZ
Dune and shingle communities (SD1-2, SD4-9, SD11-12)				x					x	
Percolated saline lagoons				x						
Natural shingle wetlands	x									
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts								x		
Standing water				x						
Lowland ditch systems				x			x			
Swamp and reed bed communities (S4 and S27)				x						
Heath community (H7 - <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> - <i>Scilla verna</i>)									x	

Qualifying feature	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	Dungeness SAC	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI	Pevensey Levels SAC	Pevensey Levels Ramsar	Pevensey Levels SSSI	Hastings Cliffs SAC	Hastings Cliff to Petts Beach SSSI	Beachy Head East MCZ
Woodland and scrub communities (Quercus robur - Pteridium aquilinum - Rubus fruticosus woodland; Crataegus monogyna - Hedra helix scrub; Alnus glutinosa - Urtica dioica woodland)									x	
Plants										
Vascular plant assemblage				x			x		x	
Wetland plant assemblage	x					x				
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i> ; Lizard Orchid				x						
<i>Lactuca saligna</i> ; Least Lettuce				x						
Population of RDB plant - <i>Potamogeton acutifolius</i> ; Sharp-leaved Pondweed							x			
Gnaphalium luteoalbum, Jersey Cudweed				x						

Qualifying feature	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	Dungeness SAC	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI	Pevensey Levels SAC	Pevensey Levels Ramsar	Pevensey Levels SSSI	Hastings Cliffs SAC	Hastings Cliff to Petts Beach SSSI	Beachy Head East MCZ
Ophrys sphegodes, Early Spider-orchid				x						
<i>Sium latifolium</i> ; Greater water-parsnip	x									
Wetland bryophyte assemblage	x									
Outstanding assemblage of bryophytes									x	
<i>Bryum warneum</i> ; Warne's thread-moss	x			x						
Fauna										
<i>Arvicola amphibious</i> ; Water vole	x			x						
>20,000 Non-breeding waterbirds	x	x		x						
Assemblages of breeding birds - Lowland open waters and their margins				x						
Assemblages of breeding birds - Sand-dunes and saltmarshes				x						

Qualifying feature	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	Dungeness SAC	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI	Pevensey Levels SAC	Pevensey Levels Ramsar	Pevensey Levels SSSI	Hastings Cliffs SAC	Hastings Cliff to Petts Beach SSSI	Beachy Head East MCZ
<i>Cygnus olor</i> ; Mute swan (non-breeding)	x ¹⁵			x						
A037 <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> ; Bewick's swan (non-breeding)		x		x						
<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i> ; White Fronted Goose (non-breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding)			x						
<i>Anas Penelope</i> ; Wigeon (non-breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding)			x						
<i>Anas strepera</i> ; Gadwall (non-breeding and breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding) ¹⁵			x						
<i>Anas crecca</i> , Teal (non-breeding)				x						
<i>Anas querquedula</i> ; Garganey (breeding)				x						
<i>Anas clypeata</i> ; Shoveler (Wintering and non-breeding)	X ¹⁵			x						

¹⁵ Reference Habitats Regulation Assessment: disturbance to breeding features can have indirect effect on the non-breeding populations

Qualifying feature	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	Dungeness SAC	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI	Pevensey Levels SAC	Pevensey Levels Ramsar	Pevensey Levels SSSI	Hastings Cliffs SAC	Hastings Cliff to Petts Beach SSSI	Beachy Head East MCZ
<i>Aythya farina</i> ; Pochard (non-breeding and breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding) ¹⁵			x						
<i>Aythya fuligula</i> ; Tufted Duck (breeding)				x						
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ; Cormorant (non-breeding and breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding) ¹⁵			x						
A021 <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> ; Bittern (non-breeding)		x		x						
<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ; Little Grebe (breeding and non-breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding) ¹⁵			x						
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ; Great Crested Grebe (non-breeding and breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding) ¹⁵			x						
A082 <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ; Hen harrier (non-breeding)		x		x						
A081 <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> ; Marsh Harrier (breeding)		x								

Qualifying feature	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	Dungeness SAC	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI	Pevensey Levels SAC	Pevensey Levels Ramsar	Pevensey Levels SSSI	Hastings Cliffs SAC	Hastings Cliff to Petts Beach SSSI	Beachy Head East MCZ
<i>Rallus aquaticus</i> ; Water rail (breeding)				x						
<i>Fulica atra</i> ; Coot (non-breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding) ¹⁵			x						
A132-A <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> ; Avocet (breeding)		x		x						
A140 <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ; Golden Plover (non-breeding)		x		x						
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ; Lapwing (non-breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding) ¹⁵						x			
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i> ; Whimbrel (non-breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding)			x						
A151 <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> ; Ruff (non-breeding)		x		x						
<i>Calidris alba</i> ; Sanderling (non-breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding)			x						

Qualifying feature	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	Dungeness SAC	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI	Pevensey Levels SAC	Pevensey Levels Ramsar	Pevensey Levels SSSI	Hastings Cliffs SAC	Hastings Cliff to Petts Beach SSSI	Beachy Head East MCZ
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> ; Common sandpiper (non-breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding)			x						
A195 <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ; Little tern (breeding)		x		x						
A191 <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ; Sandwich tern (breeding)		x		x						
A193 <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ; Common tern (breeding)		x		x						
<i>Larus ridibundus</i> ; Black-headed Gull (breeding)				x						
A176 <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> ; Mediterranean gull (breeding)		x		x						
<i>Panurus biarmicus</i> ; Bearded Tit (breeding)				x						
<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> ; Aquatic warbler (non-breeding and passage)	x	x		x						

Qualifying feature	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	Dungeness SAC	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI	Pevensey Levels SAC	Pevensey Levels Ramsar	Pevensey Levels SSSI	Hastings Cliffs SAC	Hastings Cliff to Petts Beach SSSI	Beachy Head East MCZ
<i>Cettia cetti</i> ; Cetti's Warbler (breeding)				x						
<i>Triturus cristatus</i> ; Great crested newt	x		x	x						
<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i> ; Short-snouted seahorse										x
<i>Anisus vorticulus</i> ; Little ram's-horn whirlpool snail					x					
<i>Caecum amoricum</i> ; De Folin's lagoon snail	x									
<i>Hirudo medicinalis</i> ; Medicinal leech	x			x						
<i>Saballaria spinulosa</i> ; Ross worm reefs										x
Invertebrate assemblage				x			x		x	
Wetland invertebrate assemblage	x					x				

Qualifying feature	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	Dungeness SAC	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI	Pevensey Levels SAC	Pevensey Levels Ramsar	Pevensey Levels SSSI	Hastings Cliffs SAC	Hastings Cliff to Petts Beach SSSI	Beachy Head East MCZ
Population of pRDB moth- <i>Coleophora galbulipennell</i> ; a micro moth; <i>Ethmia terminell</i> ; a micro moth; <i>Hadena albimacula</i> ; White-spot; <i>Lasiocampa trifolii flava</i> ; Pale Grass Eggar				x						
<i>Hydraecia osseola hucherardi</i> ; Marsh mallow moth	x			x						
<i>Thalera fimbrialis</i> ; Sussex Emerald				x						
Outstanding dragonfly assemblage							x			
Nationally rare and scarce dragonfly species - <i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i> ; Variable Damselfly							x			
Population of RDB spider - <i>Apostenus fuscus</i> ; a spider; <i>Euophrys browning</i> ; a jumping spider; <i>Pellenes tripunctatus</i> ; a jumping spider				x						
<i>Dibolia cynoglossi</i> ; a flea beetle				x						

Qualifying feature	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	Dungeness SAC	Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI	Pevensey Levels SAC	Pevensey Levels Ramsar	Pevensey Levels SSSI	Hastings Cliffs SAC	Hastings Cliff to Petts Beach SSSI	Beachy Head East MCZ
<i>Melanotus punctolineatus</i> ; a click beetle				x						
<i>Aphrodes duffieldi</i> ; a leafhopper				x						
<i>Omophron limbatum</i> , Ground beetle	x									

Front cover photo: Viewpoint at Cliff End looking eastwards overlooking Pett Level towards Camber
© David Pearce / Natural England

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