

Coastal Access Southend-on-Sea to Wallasea Island, lengths SWI1, SWI2, SWI3, SWI5 and SWI6



Representations with Natural England's comments

April 2020

1. Introduction

This document records the representations Natural England has received on lengths SWI1, SWI2, SWI3, SWI5 and SWI6 of this report from persons or bodies. It also sets out any Natural England comments on these representations.

Where representations were made that relate to the entire stretch for Newquay to Penzance they are included here in so far as they are relevant to lengths SWI1, SWI2, SWI3, SWI5 and SWI6.

2. Background

Natural England's compendium of reports setting out its proposals for improved access to the coast from Southend-on-Sea to Wallasea Island, comprising an overview and six separate length reports, was submitted to the Secretary of State on 16 October 2019. This began an eight-week period during which representations and objections about each constituent report could be made.

In total, Natural England received five representations pertaining to length reports SWI1, SWI2, SWI3, SWI5 and SWI6 of the Southend-on-Sea to Wallasea Island stretch, of which one was made by organisations or individuals whose representations must be sent in full to the Secretary of State in accordance with paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 1A to the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. These 'full' representations are reproduced in Section 3 in their entirety, together with Natural England's comments. Included in Section 4 is a summary of the four representations made by other individuals or organisations, referred to as 'other' representations. Section 5 contains the supporting documents referenced in the representations.

3. Record of ‘full’ representations and Natural England’s comments on them

Representation number:	<i>MCA/SWI Stretch/R/9/SWI0019</i>
Organisation/ person making representation:	[REDACTED] , <i>Ramblers Association</i>
Route section(s) specific to this representation:	<i>Whole stretch</i>
Other reports within stretch to which this representation also relates:	<i>SWI 2, SWI 3, SWI 4, SWI 5, SWI 6</i>
Representation in full	
<p>We broadly welcome the proposals. We are pleased that some limited access to Wallasea Island is proposed, even if part of it will be seasonal. This will give new opportunities for walkers to explore the Essex coast.</p> <p>We are disappointed that the proposed route passes the access slope onto Potton Island but the opportunity to create new access here could not be taken.</p>	
Natural England’s comments	
<p>We welcome the supportive comments received from [REDACTED] and the Ramblers Association and the positive engagement we had with them during the development process.</p> <p>Reference is made to Potton Island which is land forming part of the wider MOD Shoeburyness site and is subject to a Military Byelaw. As such the island, although connected to the mainland by a bridge, is excepted from the coastal access rights under paragraph 13 of Schedule 1 of the CROW Act.</p> <p>Natural England did consult with Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) during the early stages of development to explore opportunities for increasing public access to the MOD Shoeburyness site, but DIO concluded that increased access would not be compatible with the use of the site as a weapons testing facility for reasons of public safety and security.</p>	
Relevant appended documents: none	

4. Summary of ‘other’ representations making non-common points, and Natural England’s comments on them

Representation ID:	MCA/SWI Stretch/R/10/SWI0697
Organisation/ person making representation:	Disabled Ramblers, [REDACTED]
Name of site:	Whole Stretch

Report map reference:	
Route sections on or adjacent to the land:	
Other reports within stretch to which this representation also relates	SWI 2, SWI 3, SWI 4, SWI 5, SWI 6
Summary of representation:	
<p>The Disabled Ramblers urge Natural England to take fuller account of the needs of mobility scooter users.</p> <p>The Disabled Ramblers make several general remarks on this theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural England has not recognised that there is a significant and steadily increasing number of people with reduced mobility who use off-road mobility scooters and other mobility vehicles to enjoy routes on more rugged terrain including uneven grass and bare soil paths. - Much of the trail along this stretch is on sea banks, which in most instances are sufficiently wide for use by riders of all-terrain mobility vehicles. Natural England assesses how this group of people will be able to access the sea banks along this stretch, and makes suitable adjustments to the proposals to achieve this, or where such adjustments are not possible Natural England should identify short diversions from the path to allow these users to reach alternative access points to the seawall - Natural England should take all reasonable steps needed to make the trail as easy as possible for disabled people and those with reduced mobility and be mindful of British Standard BS5709: 2018 Gaps Gates and Stiles to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010. - In doing so it should reconsider the suitability of new and existing infrastructure that it has indicated in the report should be retained because in many cases this may bar access for this group of people. There are places where a different choice of infrastructure will open up access to those with limited mobility to the England Coast Path. 	
Natural England's comment:	
<p>We thank the Disabled Ramblers for their representations and in particular welcome the suggestions they have made for adjustments to allow for mobility scooter users.</p> <p>The suggestions made by them concern the choice and design of existing and new structures along the proposed routes, should it be approved by the Secretary of State: they do not propose any modification of the proposed routes or the extent of the associated margin and the access rights within it.</p> <p>We recognise that there have been recent innovations in the design of mobility scooters and that as a result mobility scooters are more versatile and capable of exploring routes on rugged terrain.</p>	

In finalising the schedule and specification of establishment works for any route approved by the Secretary of State, both Natural England and Essex County Council, the local access authority which will undertake the works, will take all reasonable steps needed to make the trail as accessible as possible for disabled people and those with reduced mobility, having regard to British Standard BS5709: 2018 Gaps Gates and Stiles.

Relevant appended documents: none

Representation ID:	MCA/SWI1/R/6/SWI0631
Organisation/ person making representation:	[REDACTED], Port of London Authority
Name of site:	Barge Pier to Shoeburyness
Report map reference:	MAP 1a
Route sections on or adjacent to the land:	SWI-1-S001 to SWI-1-S011
Other reports within stretch to which this representation also relates	

Summary of representation:

The Port of London Authority (PLA) confirmed that they had no specific observations to make, stating that the land along this stretch falls outside of the PLA's land ownership and navigational jurisdiction (but did however fall within the exempt area for Estates or River Works Licenses for the PLA).

The PLA are keen to continue to be involved in the development of proposals for the adjoining Tilbury to Southend-on-Sea stretch where their land ownership and jurisdiction is greater.

Natural England's comment:

We thank PLA for their representation and confirmation that they have no specific observations to make.

Natural England will continue to engage with PLA on the development of proposals for the adjoining Tilbury to Southend-on Sea stretch.

Relevant appended documents: none

Representation ID:	MCA/SWI2/R/8/SWI0197
Organisation/ person making representation:	[REDACTED]
Name of site:	Land between Landwick Cottages and Little Wakering
Report map reference:	Maps SWI 2a, SWI 2b, SWI 2c
Route sections on or adjacent to the land:	SWI-2-S001 to SWI-2-S031
Other reports within stretch to which this representation also relates	
Summary of representation:	
<p>The landowners, [REDACTED], support NE's decision not to make proposal for roll-back provisions for the trail between Landwick Cottages and Little Wakering as they felt roll-back would be detrimental to the farming business.</p> <p>They also support the decision to exclude under S25A access all year round to the saltmarsh and mudflat in the seaward margin along the coastline covered by this report.</p>	
Natural England's comment:	
<p>We welcome the comments from the landowners in support of our proposals for this section of coast.</p>	
Relevant appended documents : none	

Representation ID:	MCA/SWI3/R/7/SWI0050
Organisation/ person making representation:	[REDACTED], Enovert South Limited
Name of site:	Enovert South Limited landfill site, Mucking Hall Lane, Barling Magna, Great Wakering, SS3 0NR.
Report map reference:	Maps SWI 3b
Route sections on or adjacent to the land:	SWI-3-S015
Other reports within stretch to which this representation also relates	

Summary of representation:

Plan SWI 3b shows 'tracks' across the operational landfill site. Enovert would like to clarify that these are operational internal access roads and not public rights of way. A copy of a plan showing the planning consent boundary for the landfill is attached to this representation (Figure 1).

Page 22 of the overview document refers to the site as "an ex-landfill undergoing active restoration". For the avoidance of doubt, the site no longer receives municipal and commercial and industrial non-hazardous wastes, but is still operational, and receives significant quantities of restoration soils. This will continue until the site restoration is complete. The restoration of the site is expected to be complete by the beginning of 2023.

Natural England's comment:

We welcome the representation from Enovert and note the comments in relation to private access roads on the site and ongoing restoration works. The site falls entirely landward of the trail (which follows the existing public right of way on top of the sea bank), so will be unaffected by the proposals.

Relevant appended documents :

- 5A MCA/SWI3/R/7/SWI0050: Figure 1 – Site Location, Barling Landfill Site

5. Supporting documents

- 5A MCA/SWI3/R/7/SWI0050: Figure 1 – Site Location, Barling Landfill Site

