

Assessment of King Charles III England Coast Path
proposals between **Rye Harbour and Camber
Sands** on sites and features of nature
conservation concern





Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Rye Harbour and Camber Sands

About this document

This document should be read in conjunction with the published Report for the Rye Harbour to Camber Sands Stretch (Report EBC 8) and the associated Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/king-charles-iii-england-coast-path-from-rye-harbour-to-camber-sands-ebc8-comment-on-proposals>

A HRA is required for European sites (SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites). The HRA is published alongside the Coastal Access Report.

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 Nature Conservation Assessment Site Map shows designated sites along this stretch of coast.

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



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

Rye Harbour to Camber Sands EBC8 proposals affect a small proportion of the large Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI – namely Rother Estuary and Camber Sands. Rye Harbour SSSI is also affected. See Annex 1, Map A for the designated sites between Rye Harbour and Camber Sands. The assessment below focusses on the notified habitats and species found here as well as other species of local importance.

Is this site also part of a European site? **Yes**

This part of the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI lies mostly within the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar. The areas not covered by these international designations are: the majority of Rye Golf Club playing area, some of the sand dunes south of the golf course, and a small area within Rye Harbour Industrial area on the west bank of the Rother (Rye Harbour SSSI). A small portion of the SSSI on Rye Harbour Local Nature Reserve also lies within Dungeness Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

This assessment only covers the reportable features of the relevant SSSI units affected by EBC8 proposals. These units are: 156, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162 & 187 and the one unit of Rye Harbour SSSI. Notified SSSI features that *also* qualify as features of the European sites (see Annex 2) are omitted from this assessment including: shingle habitats (including drifts line and vegetated shingle); shingle wetlands and wetland/saltmarsh plant, bryophyte and invertebrate assemblages; large numbers of non-breeding waterbirds; wintering hen harrier; breeding marsh harrier, terns and Mediterranean gull. Watervole and great crested newt are also of European significance. The assessment of possible impacts on the qualifying features of the European sites are made in the accompanying Habitats Regulation Assessment.

In the vicinity of EBC8, Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI contains a diverse range of notified habitats and species, see Annex 1. Rye Harbour SSSI is only notified for saltmarsh. The main groups of notified habitat and species present between Rye Harbour and Camber Sands (and not notified as European features) are:

- **Coastal geomorphology**, including eroding and accreting coastline, exposed and buried shingle ridges
- **Sand dunes** – including beach strandlines along with embryo, mobile and fixed dunes & associated plant and invertebrate communities.
- **Grasslands** – including grazing marshes and fixed dune grassland & associated plant and invertebrate communities
- **Saltmarsh** – within Rye Harbour SSSI only
- **Wintering and breeding birds** – including wintering teal and an assemblage of breeding birds of open water, grazing marsh & saltmarsh.

There are also some **non-designated sites and features of importance in the area:**

- Camber dunes, designated as a Local Geological Site, due to being probably the largest remaining dune area in Sussex (Sussex Biological Records Centre¹).
- Scheduled Monument: Martello tower no 28 at Rye Harbour
- Scheduled Monument: Martello tower no 30, 300m east of Gate Borough Cottage
- A population of Common Seal that haul out on the mud of Rye Harbour and Camber Sands (pers. comm.^{2,6}).
- Common Lizards and badger activity have been seen near Brede sluice, where vegetation clearance is required (pers. comm.⁷).

The condition of the site features in this SSSI assessment indicate they are in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition (Natural England Designated Site information³), except the semi-fixed dune grassland along Camber beach (southern limit of unit 161) and the saltmarsh within Rye Harbour industrial area (unit 13). The reasons given are as follows:

Unit 161 (semi-fixed dune grassland) – Camber Sands

- It is currently still in unfavourable declining condition due to the coverage by invasive species. Sea buckthorn being the most prevalent and widespread across the unit. Hottentot-fig, rosa rugosa and Canadian fleabane also present in localised areas but increasing in coverage.
- The sand dune system is pushed up against the housing and the road and is unable to develop in a more natural way.

Unit 13 (saltmarsh & plant assemblage) – Rye Harbour

- The banks on the riverward side of the site are still in place, preventing the area in front of the newly constructed EA flood defence from being subjected to tidal inundation.

Locations and impact of proposals:

The proposed trail alignment through the SSSI follows existing highways, public rights of way, permissive paths, existing walked routes and the beach at Camber. **There are no sections of new path in the proposals.**

Details of the current access situation, potential change arising from the proposals and likely impact on SSSI features and non-designated features of importance are listed below:

1. Rye Harbour (Rye Harbour Village to Rye Harbour SSSI)

The trail at Rye Harbour village follows a short section of existing walked path along the seawall, near the car park and the Martello Tower - adjacent to saltmarsh. The trail then follows Harbour Road, through the village, with a mix of industrial units, rough grassland and scrub, saltmarsh and mud flats in the coastal margin. New signs, as part of the proposals, will be installed to direct walkers from the trail near the car park towards the village facilities (pub, café, view point) near the river.

Within the coastal margin, there is existing de-facto access along the seawalls and harbourside at Rye Harbour village, whereas industrial compounds north of Harbour Road (near the church) prevent access to Rye Harbour SSSI unit 13 saltmarsh. The majority of saltmarsh and mudflats are



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proposed to be covered by a s25A direction, as they unsuitable to walk upon. One small area of salt marsh near Mary Stanford Green is not restricted, as it is regularly used for walkers.

Likely change: The access prediction in this area is for a small increase along the path, as these are already well used, especially near the car park. A negligible change is predicted in the coastal margin, as the area is very well used. The unit 13 salt marsh will remain inaccessible as it is within a fenced-off industrial compound.

Establishment works: Minimal signage works are planned along this part of the trail, within the SSSI. If necessary, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) will instigate the SSSI assent process for these minor works, with advice from Natural England.

Likely impact on SSSI features: Grassland (with associated invertebrates) and Unit 13 saltmarsh. Due to limited changes in current access patterns, there is not considered to be a significant impact on these SSSI features. See the HRA for assessment on saltmarsh & intertidal features. The current access to the Scheduled Monument (Martello Tower) is unlikely to change, given its location landward of the trail.

2. Rye Harbour Local Nature Reserve (Harbour Road to Brede Sluice)

The proposed trail passes through a part of a designated Local Nature Reserve (LNR), which is largely managed by Sussex Wildlife Trust as Rye Harbour Nature Reserve (RHNR)⁴. Here, the trail follows an existing nature trail through scrub and grassland, near to areas of wetland with breeding and wintering birds. Some sections of the path are wet and heavily poached by walkers – and, as part of the proposals, works are planned to improve these sections to reduce path side erosion and restore eroded habitat. The timing of works, surface material and width will be specified in the SSSI assent to reduce impact on the Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area and Ramsar features nearby (see HRA for details).

In the north-west section of the LNR, the trail follows an existing walked route along a raised, disused tram line through grazing marsh, with relic vegetated shingle ridges, and scrub. Near to Brede Sluice, the trail follows an existing public footpath.

In the coastal margin, on the west bank of Rye Harbour, there is rough grassland, grazing marsh, seawall, saltmarsh and mud flats, with associated breeding and wintering birds and invertebrate communities. The mudflats along the river also support regular Common seal haul out areas (pers. comm².), which would be sensitive to significant increases of walkers/dogs in the vicinity, and wintering birds are recorded on the intertidal and in the adjacent grazing marsh. This area is not readily publicly accessible, although several boats are moored near the seawall. All the saltmarsh and mudflats are proposed to be covered by a s25A direction, as they unsuitable to walk upon.

Likely change: The access prediction along the trail in this area is for a small increase in visitors, as the paths are already well used by locals and visitors. The SWT nature trail directs people along a scrub edged path and away from any sensitive wetland habitats in the RHNR. Where the trail follows the raised tramway, this creates a clear route to follow. There is no immediate and visible



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'draw' to create a route seaward or landward of the trail, across the shingle ridges and grazing marsh, although local dog walkers and birders are known to go this way.

In the coastal margin on the west bank of Rye Harbour and along the River Brede, the access prediction is for a negligible increase. This area will be distant from the promoted/signed trail and separated from the nearby Harbour Road by fences and hedges, with locked gates preventing easy ingress. Therefore, it is unlikely that significant numbers of walkers / dog walkers will enter these grazing marsh fields or access the seawall near the seals and birds.

Establishment works: As part of the proposals, works are planned to improve the muddy section of the RHNR trail, which will reduce trampling and enhance the habitat in the Local Nature Reserve. See the HRA for details of the mitigation which includes timing, surface type and path width.

In addition, some minor vegetation clearance is planned along the public footpath near Brede Sluice, to widen this section of the path. The Access Authority will be advised of potential protected species (badger and common lizard) activity here – in order to consider the need for works best practice / licence requirements. Where necessary, East Sussex County Council will instigate the SSSI assent process and Natural England will provide further advice.

Likely impact on SSSI features: grazing marsh; exposed shingle ridges (coastal geomorphology); wintering teal; breeding birds & invertebrates. Due to limited changes in current access patterns, there is not considered to be a significant impact on these SSSI features. See the HRA for assessment on shingle habitats, wetland features, saltmarsh & wintering birds.

Likely impact on non-designated features of interest: Common seal (Priority Species); common lizard and badgers: In relation to the common seal, the planned promoted path is significantly set back from the river's edge, and it is unlikely that walkers would venture along the seawall near the seal haul out areas due to lack of clear access points and existing fences, hedges and gates. With negligible change predicted in the margin – there is not likely to be any significant impact on the Common seal population. In relation to the impacts of planned establishment works on non-designated features, the planned mitigation (outlined in the HRA) and the consideration of protected species will reduce any temporary effects.

3. Rye town (Brede Sluice to Monk Bretton Bridge)

Through the town, the trail follows highway, existing public rights of way and informal path and does not cross the SSSI. The coastal margin contains a small area of intertidal mud and salt marsh. Common seals have been seen hauled out on the mud flats (pers. comm.²). The mudflats and saltmarsh are proposed to be covered by a s25A direction, as they are unsuitable to walk upon.

Establishment works along this part of the trail are wholly outside of the SSSI and will not affect any features of interest.



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Likely change and impact: the trail uses existing walked routes and is mainly located away from the rivers' edge, and away from the Scheduled Monument (Martello Tower). No likely impact is expected from the proposals through Rye town.

4. East bank of Rye Harbour (Monk Bretton Bridge to mouth of Rye Harbour)

The trail follows existing public rights of way; permissive and informal paths along the Harbour edge, including a section of seawall public footpath around the soon to be completed managed realignment near Monk Betton Bridge. There are a number of public footpaths and a Sustrans route that branch inland and some disused footpaths that lead along/to the river's edge near Rye Golf Course.

Habitats in the coastal margin include saltmarsh and intertidal mud flats where some winter bird feed. Common seals haul out on the intertidal mud, beside the river (pers. comm.²). Landward of the trail is scrub, Northpoint lake (breeding and wintering birds) and dune grassland (Rye Golf Course), with its many specialised plant and invertebrate species. All the saltmarsh and mudflats are proposed to be covered by a s25A direction, as they are unsuitable to walk upon.

Likely change: The access prediction in this area is for a medium increase in visitors along the existing seawall paths. The prediction for access into the coastal margin is negligible, as the trail follows established paths which provide good views of the river. Walkers are unlikely to venture across the saltmarsh near Rye Golf Course, due to the unsuitable / flooded habitat. Landward of the trail, the fences, scrub and golf course would deter new access in the vicinity Northpoint Lake and on to the dune grassland of Rye Golf Course.

Establishment works: Limited establishment works are planned on the SSSI, bar signage. Where necessary, East Sussex County Council will instigate the SSSI assent process for proposed works along the trail. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.

At the time of the report, the Environment Agency is considering plans for signage near Monk Bretton Bridge to explain the wildlife of the harbour as part of their managed realignment project.

Likely impact on SSSI features: dune grassland & associated plants and invertebrates, breeding birds, wintering teal. As the paths along the riverside seawalls are already well used, the proposals are not likely to significantly impact these designated habitats and species. See the HRA for assessment on saltmarsh, wetland features and wintering birds.

Likely impact on non-designated features of interest: Common seal (Priority Species): With a negligible increase in predicted access in the coastal margin – there is not likely to be any significant impact on the Common seal population in this area, as they are well separated from the seawall by saltmarsh. If the Environment Agency's signage is installed near Monk Bretton Bridge, this could also help raise awareness of sensitivities – eg keeping dogs away from the river's edge.

5. Camber Sands

The trail passes along Camber Sands beach, with the intertidal **sandflats**, strandline, a **common seal** haul out (15-20) and **wintering birds (sanderling)** in the seaward margin and embryo, mobile and fixed **dunes** and **dune grassland** with associated **flora** and **invertebrate assemblages**, in the landward margin. Camber Sands is hugely popular, especially on sunny days and in the summer – with up to 25,000 visitors each day in the peak season. Rother District Council manages access across most of the beach and dunes (informed by the Sustainable Access Management Strategy⁵) including path clearance, signage, beach patrols in the peak periods and a Coastal Officer to help reduce access, trampling and erosion of sensitive geological and biological dune features and the associated birds, flora and invertebrate communities. There is also a summer exclusion of dogs on part of the beach for health & safety, and access management to stop visitors disturbing the seals (pers. comm.⁶).

Occasional tidal flooding will occur across the trail, at the western end of the beach, which will temporarily block the trail onto the beach. As part of the proposals, new signage at Camber Sands (see proposals for approximate locations) will inform and advise walkers of the wildlife interests and vulnerabilities of the dunes and the beach - and by the western end, will direct them to wait or use other existing walked paths to avoid the development of additional desire lines through the dunes.

Likely change: the access prediction is for a medium increase along the trail and negligible increase in the coastal margin (sandflat) and landward margin (dune). The beach is very popular, especially on sunny days and in summer – and therefore the presence of the trail is unlikely to make a significant difference to visitor numbers.

Establishment works: Some new directional signage as well as signs to promote the wildlife sensitivities of the dunes are part of the proposals. Where necessary, East Sussex County Council will apply for Assent for these works where they fall in the SSSI, and Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.

Likely impact on SSSI features: dune / dune grassland and associated flora and invertebrates. The beach is very well used, with erosion and trampling management already in place. With enhanced information, especially at the western end of the beach (near the tidal flooding area) and at the car parks, the proposals are not likely to impact the designated habitats and species. See the HRA for assessment on intertidal features and wintering birds.



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Conclusion

We, Natural England, are satisfied that our proposals to improve access to the English coast between Rye Harbour and Camber Sands are fully compatible with our duty to further the conservation and enhancement of the notified features of Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI and Rye Harbour SSSI, consistent with the proper exercise of our functions¹.

In respect of Camber Sands geological features (Local Geological Site), the Martello Scheduled Monuments, common seal, common reptile and badgers 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:

Jenny Bowen, Senior Officer KCIIECP	31/05/2024	On behalf of the Coastal Access Programme Team
Ken Obbard	31/05/2024	Senior Officer with responsibility for protected sites

¹ 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.



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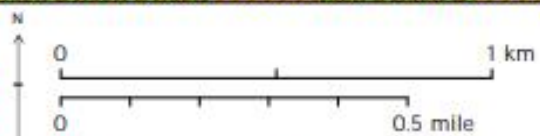
References

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2. Pers. comm. – Romney Area Internal Drainage Board 2023
3. Natural England. Designated site information on Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S2000533>.
Rye Harbour:
<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S1001954&SiteName=Rye%20harbour&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea>
4. Sussex Wildlife Trust. Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Management Plan 2012-2021. Available at: <https://assets.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/Files/management-plan-2012-2021-1.pdf>
5. Shepway District Council and Rother District Council. Sustainable Access and Recreation Management Strategy (SARMS) – DRAFT 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>
6. Pers. comm. – Rother District Council 2024
7. Pers. comm. – Local resident 2024

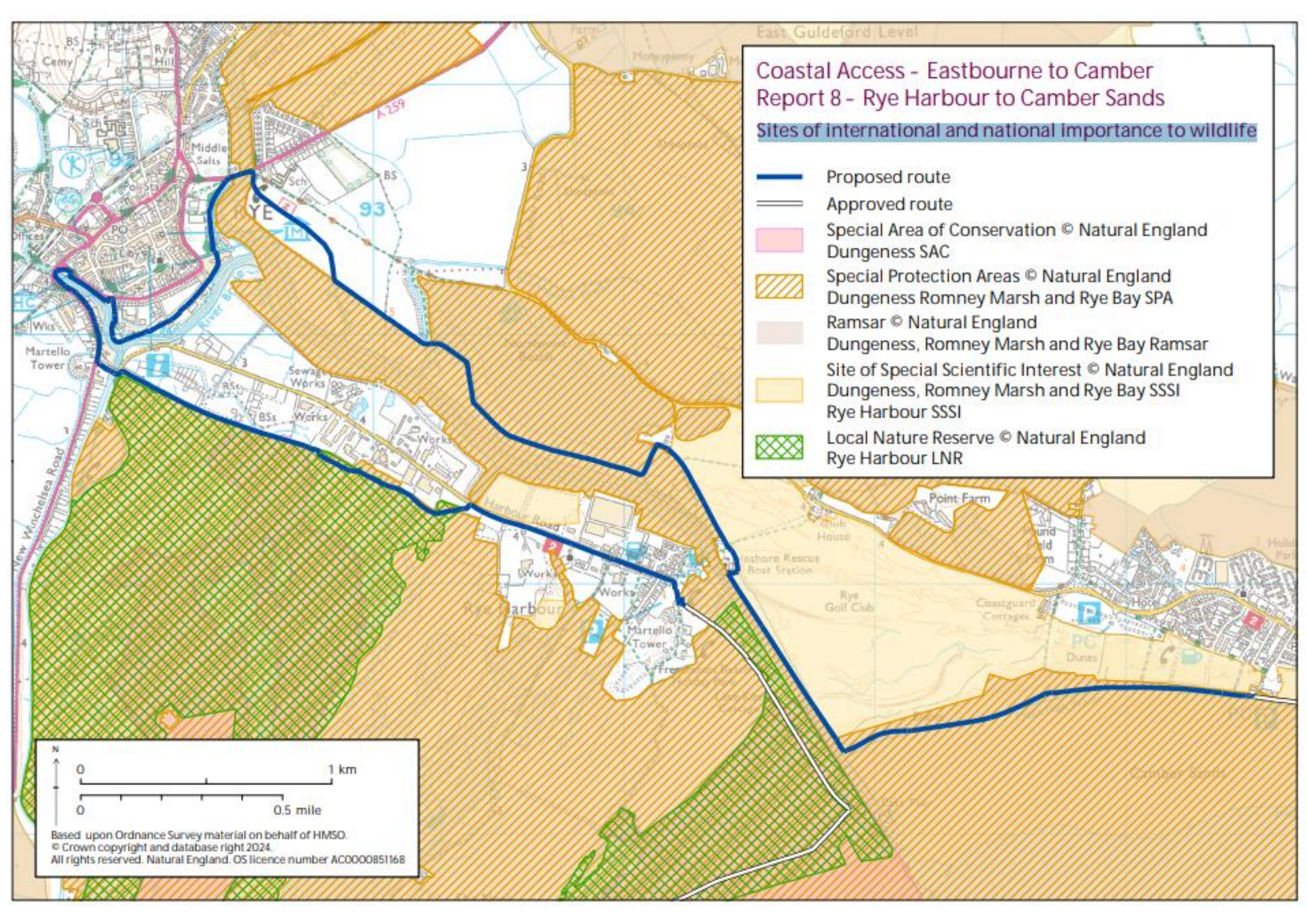
Coastal Access - Eastbourne to Camber Report 8 - Rye Harbour to Camber Sands

Sites of international and national importance to wildlife

- Proposed route
- Approved route
- Special Area of Conservation © Natural England
Dungeness SAC
- Special Protection Areas © Natural England
Dungeness Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA
- Ramsar © Natural England
Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar
- Site of Special Scientific Interest © Natural England
Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SSSI
Rye Harbour SSSI
- Local Nature Reserve © Natural England
Rye Harbour LNR



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Annex 2. Index to designated sites and features, and other features of importance

Green shaded rows are features only associated with SSSI features within the Proposals area.

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	Grouping
Geology & geomorphology					
IA - Coastal Geomorphology (active)				x	Coastal Geomorphology
IS - Coastal Geomorphology (fossil)				x	
Habitats					
H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines			x		
H1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks			x		
Saltmarsh communities (SM4-28)	x			x	Saltmarsh The one unit of Rye Harbour SSSI lies outside Ramsar. Elsewhere saltmarsh = Ramsar feature.
Annual vegetation of sand, shingle and pebble shores	x				
Dune and shingle communities (SD1-2, SD4-9, SD11-12) – including beach strandlines along with embryo, mobile and fixed dunes & associated plant and invertebrate communities.				x	Sand dunes
Percolated saline lagoons				x	Habitat not present in proposals area

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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	Grouping
Natural shingle wetlands	x				
Standing water	x			x	
Lowland ditch systems	x			x	
Swamp and reed bed communities (S4 and S27)	x			x	
Plants					
Vascular plant assemblage				x	Grassland Such as grazing marsh (Rye Harbour Local Nature Reserve) and fixed dune grassland (Rye Golf Course) where not within the SAC/Ramsar features.
Wetland plant assemblage	x				
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i> ; Lizard Orchid (Rye Golf Course)				x	Grassland
<i>Lactuca saligna</i> ; Least Lettuce (old seawalls, dry banks)				x	Grassland Rarity
<i>Gnaphalium luteoalbum</i> , Jersey Cudweed				x	Grassland Rarity
<i>Sium latifolium</i> ; Greater water-parsnip	x				
Wetland bryophyte assemblage	x				
<i>Bryum warneum</i> ; Warne's thread-moss	x			x	
Fauna					

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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	Grouping
<i>Arvicola amphibious</i> ; Water vole	x			x	
>20,000 Non-breeding waterbirds	x	x		x	
<i>Cygnus olor</i> ; Mute swan (non-breeding)	x ²			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 crecca</i> , Teal (non-breeding)				x*	Wintering and breeding birds
A021 <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> ; Bittern (non-breeding)		x		x*	
A082 <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ; Hen harrier (non-breeding)		x		x	
<i>Fulica atra</i> ; Coot (non-breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding) ²			x*	
A140 <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ; Golden Plover (non-breeding)		x		x*	
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ; Lapwing (non-breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding) ²			x*	
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i> ; Whimbrel (non-breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding)			x (Spring passage)	
A21 <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> ; Ruff (non-breeding)		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	Grouping
<i>Calidris alba</i> ; Sanderling (non-breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding)			x*	
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> ; Common sandpiper (non-breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding)			x (Autumn passage)	
<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i> ; Aquatic warbler (non-breeding and passage)	x	x		x (Autumn passage)	
<i>Anas strepera</i> ; Gadwall (non-breeding and breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding) ²			x (wintering & breeding assemblage)	
<i>Aythya farina</i> ; Pochard (non-breeding and breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding) ²			x (wintering & breeding assemblage)	
<i>Anas clypeata</i> ; Shoveler (<i>Wintering, non-breeding and breeding</i>)	x ²			x (wintering & breeding assemblage)	
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ; Cormorant (non-breeding and breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding) ²			x (wintering & breeding assemblage)	
<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ; Little Grebe (non-breeding and breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding) ²			x (wintering & breeding assemblage)	
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ; Great Crested Grebe (non-breeding)	Waterbird assemblage (non-breeding) ²			x*	
Assemblages of breeding birds - Lowland open waters and their margins				x	Wintering and breeding birds

² Reference Habitats Regulation Assessment: disturbance to breeding features can have indirect effect on the non-breeding populations

* part of SSSI aggregations of non-breeding birds

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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	Grouping
Assemblages of breeding birds - Sand-dunes and saltmarshes				x	Wintering and breeding birds
<i>Anas querquedula</i> ; Garganey (breeding)				x (part of assemblage)	Wintering and breeding birds
<i>Aythya fuligula</i> ; Tufted Duck (breeding)				x (part of assemblage)	Wintering and breeding birds
A081 <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> ; Marsh Harrier (breeding)		x			
<i>Rallus aquaticus</i> ; Water rail (breeding)				x (part of assemblage)	Wintering and breeding birds
A132-A <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> ; Avocet (breeding)		x		x (part of assemblage)	
A195 <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ; Little tern (breeding)		x		x (part of assemblage)	
A191 <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ; Sandwich tern (breeding)		x		x (part of assemblage)	
A193 <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ; Common tern (breeding)		x		x (part of assemblage)	
<i>Larus ridibundus</i> ; Black-headed Gull (breeding)				x (part of assemblage)	Wintering and breeding birds
A176 <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> ; Mediterranean gull (breeding)		x		x	
<i>Panurus biarmicus</i> ; Bearded Tit (breeding)				x (part of assemblage)	Wintering and breeding birds
<i>Cettia cetti</i> ; Cetti's Warbler (breeding)				x (part of assemblage)	Wintering and breeding birds

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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	Grouping
<i>Triturus cristatus</i> ; Great crested newt	x		x	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					
Invertebrate assemblage				x	Sand dune (bare sand assemblage) Grassland (open short sward)
Wetland invertebrate assemblage	x			x	
Population of pRDB moths (eg assemblages associated with viper's bugloss)				x	Sand dunes / Grassland
Invertebrates assemblage associated with sand dunes including range of bees, wasps and ants and click				x	Sand dunes
Marsh mallow moth <i>Hydraecia osseola hucherardi</i>	x			x	
Population of RDB spiders - <i>Apostenus fuscus</i> ; a spider; <i>Euophrys browningi</i> ; a jumping spider; <i>Pellenes tripunctatus</i> ; a jumping spider				x	Not associated with habitats within the proposals area
<i>Dibolia cynoglossi</i> ; a flea beetle (coastal shingle)				x	Not associated with habitats within the proposals area
<i>Melanotus punctolineatus</i> ; a click beetle				x	Dune

Nature Conservation Assessment for Coastal Access Proposals between Rye Harbour and Camber Sands

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	Grouping
<i>Aphrodes duffieldi</i> ; a leafhopper (vegetated shingle)				x	Not associated with habitats within the proposals area
<i>Omophron limbatum</i> , Ground beetle	x				
Non-designated features of importance					
Species	Importance			Location	
Common Seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.			Found throughout Rye Harbour, with key haul out locations	
Common lizard <i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	Protected species Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.			Present within Rye Local Nature Reserve	
Bager <i>Meles meles</i>	Protected species. Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981			Present within Rye Local Nature Reserve	

*part of SSSI aggregations of non-breeding birds

² Reference Habitats Regulation Assessment: disturbance to breeding features can have indirect effect on the non-breeding populations