



The Kent Coast

Coastal Access Report

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4.8 Shepway's Coast

4.8.1 Description

4.8.1.1 Shepway's coast starts at TR243371 at the Warren just to the northeast of Folkestone. It extends for 40 km to end at TR007177 to the east of Jury's Gap.

4.8.1.2 Approximately 17 km is on PRowS and a further 5 km on a cycle route. The remainder is de facto access. 6km of the PRow is across Lydd Ranges where access is limited. At the time of the survey a further 2 km was closed/restricted due to sea defence work. Apart from the Ranges there were no restrictions to accessing the coast.

4.8.1.3 The scenery is initially the seaside towns of Folkestone and Hythe. Folkestone has a fishing harbour. From Hythe the land is flat with the Romney Marsh on the landward side. There are holiday villages at Dymchurch, St Mary's Bay, Littlestone-on-Sea and Greatstone-on-Sea to Dungeness with its unique shingle landscape and dominant power station.

There are two firing ranges at Hythe and Lydd.

4.8.1.4 From the start, the majority of the route is along promenade past the harbour town of Folkestone to Hythe and then from Dymchurch to Greatstone-on-Sea. From Greatstone to Dungeness it is possible to walk along the beach but the easier route is along the road.

At Hythe Ranges the route is along a shingle sea defence bank and at Lydd Ranges there is no option but to walk across soft shingle. Access to the coast is limited to some days at weekends when firing is not taking place.

4.8.1.5 There are two coastal parks at Folkestone – the East Cliff & Warren Coastal Park and the Lower Leas Coastal Park.

4.8.2 The Route

4.8.2.1 The Warren to Dymchurch



The start is at TR243371 at The Warren just to the northeast of Folkestone. There is a short stretch of sandy beach leading to Copt Point.



It is not possible to walk around the point when the tide is in but there are paths and steps up from the beach.



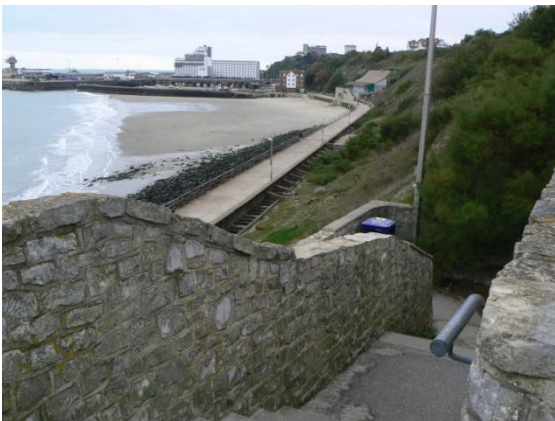
These lead to a grassed area around the Martello Tower.



There are several paths down to the sea but not along the shore. At TR241365 there is a tarmac path.



This leads to steps down at TR238364 to an elevated promenade along Folkestone's sandy beach.



This progresses to the harbour



The route follows roads past the Hotel Burstin.



To the old Rotunda site at TR100350 where there is access to the shingle beach.



At the end of the site there is a car park leading to a promenade.



The promenade progresses along the bottom of The Leas.



And Seabrook



It goes past Sandgate



The promenade ends at the Fishermans Beach at Hythe at TR158340.



This short stretch of shingle beach leads to Martello Towers which mark the beginning of Hythe Ranges.



The Dymchurch Redoubt is at the far end of the ranges.



These ranges are busy and it is only possible to walk along the coast when firing is not taking place (on this case a Sunday). There is an easy clamber over a few rocks to a broad shingle track along the top of the sea defences.



Here the exit is confusing as the path leads to locked gates. The only way out is across a slippery sloping apron on the seaward side of the Redoubt leading to a concrete ramp. This would not be possible at high tide.



On the other side of the Redoubt at TR129320 there is a very broad concrete promenade along the new sea defences to Dymchurch.



4.8.2.2 Dymchurch to Jurys Gap



At Dymchurch, sea defence construction work was still going on and there were temporary closures to the promenade.



The beach was firm sand and easy to walk on.



Access to the promenade was possible where work was not going on.



At TR091272 the promenade narrows and follows along the top of the shingle beach.



It ends at LittlestoneTR086249 and becomes grass.



It is heavy going across the beach and easier to walk behind the fishermen's huts.



This leads to a sand beach without a promenade. It is possible to walk along the beach or dunes from Littlestone to Greatstone but it is slow going.



The grass leads to shingle.





The option is to follow the coast road without views of the sea.



From Greatstone to The Pilot is a very wide shingle beach which is hard walking and it is easier to continue along the road though it is well back from the sea. The road turns inland at The Pilot.



Dungeness Point is a large open area of shingle. There is no problem keeping to the coastline other than it is heavy going over the shingle. There are PROWs.



At TR087166 there is the option to walk along a concrete road behind the power station or along the top of a huge manmade shingle bank.



The road stops at the limit of the power station complex and the shingle bank gets smaller.



There is no option but to progress across soft shingle to the start of the Lydd Ranges at TR064167.



Again it is only possible to walk when firing is not taking place (again on a Sunday) and it is heavy going because of the shingle.

Going around the seaward side of the watch tower the route is along the shingle beach



The end of the Kent coastline is at TR007177 to the east of Jury's Gap.



4.8.4 Access Issues

4.8.4.1 Copt Point

TR2431 to TR239363

1 km

This is not really a problem but consideration should be given to the best route across this area and improved waymarking.

4.8.4.2 Hythe Ranges

TR156338 to TR130321

3 km

Access obviously needs to be limited to when firing is not taking place but notices indicating when access is possible would help. Also, a gate in the security fence at the Dymchurch Redoubt end is needed.

4.8.4.3 Lydd Ranges

TR065166 to TR007177

6 km

As above for Hythe Ranges. However, there is an information board at the far end at Jury's Gap at TQ 991179.