



The Kent Coast

Coastal Access Report

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4.2 Gravesham's Coast

4.2.1 Description

4.2.1.1 Gravesham's coast starts at TQ609765 on the Broadness Salt Marsh. It extends for 14 km to TQ709765 on Higham Marshes just before Cliff Fort. It is the second shortest coastline in Kent.

4.2.1.2 Approximately 7 km is on PRowS. The majority of the remainder is on roads with limited or no access to the coast.

The Saxon Shore Way starts at Gravesend. There is also a short Gravesend Riverbank Walk.

4.2.1.3 The view to seaward is the river Thames. A short section at the beginning is reclaimed salt marsh then the scenery becomes industrial with major redevelopment around Northfleet. Gravesend has a short riverbank walk. Some of the industrial areas are very run down. From Gravesend to Cliff the scenery is flat with views over reclaimed saltmarsh. There is a firing range on the marshes.

4.2.1.4 The start of the route is on reclaimed salt marsh with no easily identifiable path. It is not far to a rather overgrown PRow behind the aggregate works. This leads to roads past Northfleet to Gravesend where the Saxon Shore Way starts and there is a riverside walk. Here there is limited access to the river bank. From Gravesend the path is along the top of the sea defence bank which is shingly in places which does not affect access.

4.2.1.5 There is a Riverside Leisure Area at Gravesend. The route also includes part of the South Thames Estuary and Marshes SSSI.

4.2.2 The Route



The coast starts at TQ609765 on Broadness Salt Marsh. While it is quite easy to walk along the river bank to this point from the west it is not possible to continue south eastwards because of large aggregate works and associated jetty.



There is no option but to walk around the back of the aggregate works.

There are vehicle tracks in the grass behind the works to join a footpath at TQ611758.





This footpath is quite overgrown but leads to the A276.



This area is due for redevelopment but it is possible to follow the river bank along roads before cutting through apartments to steps at TQ645745 where the riverside walk becomes more pleasant.



There was extensive redevelopment of this area of Northfleet and it was not possible to get back to the river as the footpaths were temporarily closed. It was necessary to follow roads to eventually rejoin the river at TQ633743.



This is the start of the Saxon Shore Way.

The Gravesend River Bank Walk is relatively short before the path deviates inland at Royal Terrace Pier TQ651744.





It follows roads to rejoin the river at Gravesend Rowing Club TQ653744.



There is a new esplanade before the path leads across the marina lock gates to a very run down industrial area of warehouses and wharves.



Views of the river are regained at the Ship and Lobster TQ66743 where there is a concrete path on the inside of the sea wall.



At TQ668743 there are steps over the wall to a stone faced grass sea defence bank.



It goes under a conveyor.



The route, at times, is over shingle and the surface not particularly good.



It continues past Shornmead Fort.



Gravesham's coast ends at TQ710758, just before Cliffe Fort



At TQ699751 the Saxon Shore Way loops inland although there is a path along the raised bank albeit with ladder styles.



4.2.3 Access Issues

4.2.3.1 Northfleet

TQ612762 to TQ633743 3 km

Much of this section is being redeveloped and the existing footpaths were closed. It may be that when the redevelopment is complete there will be some access to the river.

4.2.3.2 Royal Terrace Pier

TQ651744 to TQ653744 0.2 km

There is a short deviation away from the river around the pier. This would appear to be excepted land

4.2.3.3 Milton

TQ657743 to TQ667743 0.8 km

This is an industrial area with wharves. This would appear to be excepted land.