

The Essex County Council (Footpath 1, East Mersea) (Prohibition of Pedestrians) Order 201*

Statement of Reasons

The section of Footpath 1, East Mersea between Coopers Beach Caravan Park and the Essex Youth Camp is subject to very serious erosion where the sea wall has collapsed. There are very significant lengths of the wall along the entire section between the Caravan Park and Youth Camp that have now completely disappeared. Other section, where the concrete appears to be intact is completely scoured out underneath. There is a high safety risk for members of the public.

The complexity of the challenging situation follows a decision by the Environment Agency to withdraw the maintenance from this section of the sea wall at East Mersea. The wall itself will not be repaired and therefore the public footpath will continue to deteriorate/disappear.

The decision to apply a Permanent Prohibition of Pedestrians Order is required to address the extreme issues relating to this section of the sea wall and such provisions are only used by the highway authority in exceptional circumstances. All options for diverting the public path have been investigated.

When the England Coastal Path is established along this section of Mersea Island it will take a route further inland and provide a safe alternative route to the sea wall footpath.

The Permanent Prohibition of Pedestrians on Footpath 1 will render Footpath 7, East Mersea a dead end path where it currently joins Footpath 1 at the sea wall.