

# Essex Coastal Path Access Guide: Clacton to Jaywick (part of the Jaywick to Harwich coastal stretch)

Created by Rowena Macaulay on behalf of Essex Local Access Forum. Last surveyed 30th June 2023

View these images mapped here: <https://tinyurl.com/2rmstcyj>



This short, well-maintained section of the coastal path runs along Essex Sunshine Coast from the iconic seaside town of Clacton-on-Sea, on the Tendring Peninsular, to the pristine beaches of Jaywick Sands just over 2 miles away heading south-west to Colne Point beyond. Miles of sea wall, beach huts, seaweed-covered breakwaters, dunes and marram grass characterize this route. Jaywick's Martello Tower marks the end point, a Napoleonic fort, built in the early nineteenth century to protect the coastline from French invasion (wheelchair access to the 1st floor and accessible toilets). Today, it is open to the public as an arts, heritage and community space.

**Distance:** 3.6 km / 2.2 miles (one-way, excluding approach/exit)

**Start point:**

what3words: ///hunter.hairpin.stylists; Grid Ref TM 17664 14503; Lat/Long **51.786823** , **1.1545142**

The start point is given from the path itself at Clacton Pier (840 m / 0.5 miles from Clacton railway station).

**Facilities at start:** The route passes a sea-front Changing Places facility (//rounds.wizard.ideals).

**Facilities at end:** **Snack Bar adjacent car park Café at Public toilets** (incl. accessible) are located at Meadow Way, Jaywick.

**Public transport and parking:**

Clacton Railway Station (///kinds.paths.causes) has direct rail links to Colchester and London Liverpool Street. Bus route 4 runs between Jaywick and Clacton (for a one-way walk, return by bus). Alternatively a full route map can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc332ycc> ; live departures here: <http://www.essexbus.info/map.html>.

At Jaywick, there is a small car park on Tamarisk Way (4 accessible spaces; 3 hours free parking for Blue Badge holders).

**Access features:** the route is hard-surfaced, well-maintained, and mostly level, save for access/exit to the promenade (ramped) and series of short up/down ramps. It runs alongside but mostly segregated from a newly revamped cycle path, which also provides solar-powered lighting.

It is well-populated (at times crowded) with regular rest points and eating places, including a café with extensive vegan options (///river.narrowest.press), and a Changing Place toilet facility, part-way along.

The route described could be started at either end. Clacton is chosen as the start point here as offering more transport options, as well as easy, accessible walking in both directions. (Holland-on-Sea and Frinton-on-Sea sit to the north-east).

**Suitability for chair/scooter users:** this route section has a high level of accessibility. It is self-evidently much in use by mobility-scooter users and older walkers. It is likely also to be easily accessible to independent chair users, with occasional assistance on account of the intermittent ramps.

## Route description: from Clacton



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The route sets off along the West Beach seafront from the town's historic pleasure pier (built 1871), beneath the beautiful gardens of the upper promenade. The lower promenade is always well-populated, but bear in mind can be very crowded on weekends in summertime (the walk shown was a weekday).



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The promenade is wide and smooth, with a friendly, safe feel. There are regular rest and refreshment stops, including vegan choices ([river.narrowest.press](http://river.narrowest.press)); likewise frequent information points and good signage. A tiny art gallery towards the Clacton end is an unexpected pleasure (5).



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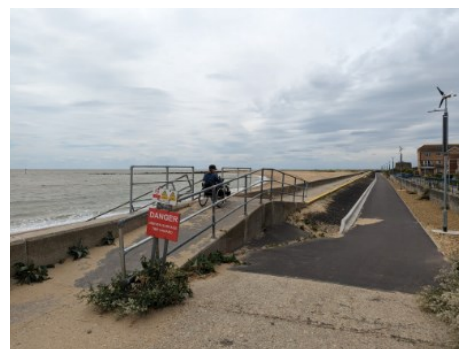
Further away from the pier, the route passes the familiar landscape of multicoloured beach huts with regular access points onto the beach. Where stepped, most are well-provided for with handrails to either side.



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After approximately one mile, West Bay merges with Martello Bay, named after the tower (1809) which dominates the landscape. The promenade is close to beach level here, which makes for easy access but also means some drifting sand (11). Mobility scooter users, chair users and older walkers, are however all highly visible path users.

## Route description: from Clacton...



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Just beyond the tower, a fantastic, newly surfaced and signed cycle path commences. This runs parallel to the walkway for the remaining mile along Martello Bay to Jaywick Sands, and most of the way is set significantly down below it, should chair users want a more protected ride on blustery days.



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A feature of the route, toward the Jaywick end in particular, is a series of intermittent ramped sections (12, 16 and 21); mostly only of medium gradients over a short going of 2-3 m. These are relatively easy to negotiate with assistance but nonetheless may compromise fully independent route access by manual chair users.



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At the end of the dual walk/cycle path, the route reaches Jaywick. Here it continues along between the wide, gentle sloping bays of Jaywick Sands, and the distinctive architecture and character of the town's seafront abodes. In 2 or 3 places there are ramped exits from the sea wall (20) down into the town.



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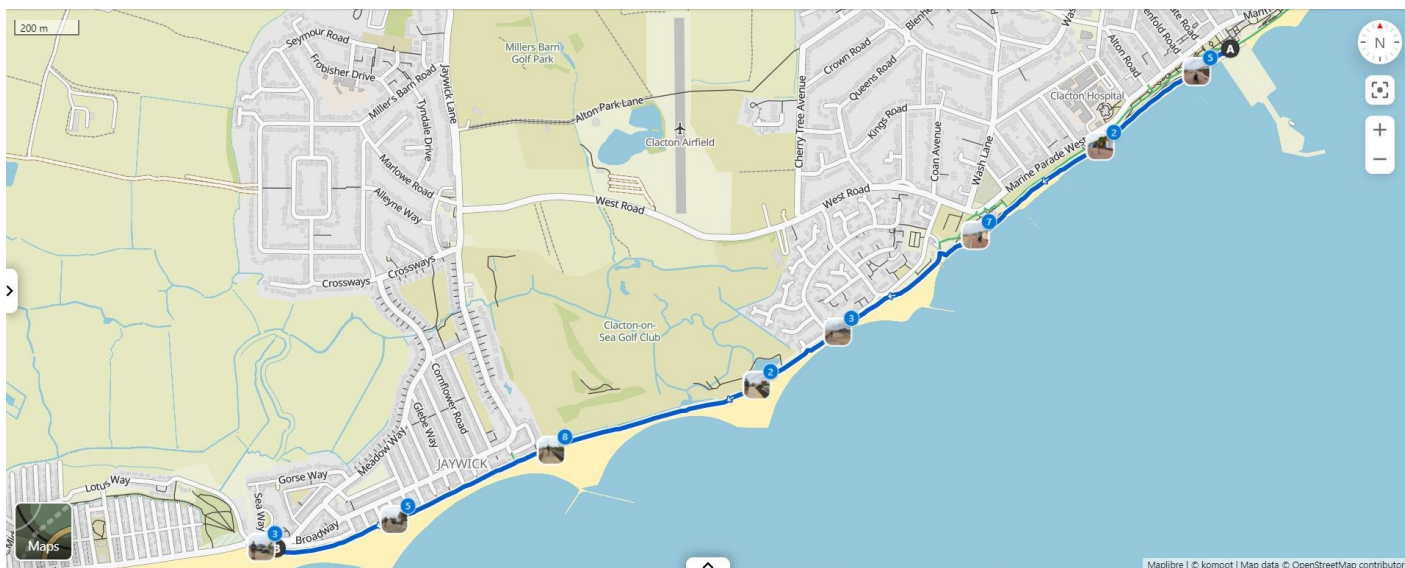


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A car park immediately adjacent to the coastal path at Tamarisk Way marks the end point of this route guide (23). There is ramped access down to it at the far end. Information Boards also sited there tell the recent history of this unique settlement.

## The route trajectory mapped: from Clacton to Jaywick and beyond...

The map shows the close proximity of these two coastal towns with their different but related characters and histories; likewise the open space between them and the constructed beaches of Martello Bay and Jaywick Sands.



Coastal Path section: Clacton-on-Sea (right) to Jaywick (left)

The map shows the close proximity of these two coastal towns with their different but related characters and histories; likewise the open space between them and the constructed beaches of Martello Bay and Jaywick Sands.

To the north, Holland-on-Sea, Frinton-on-Sea and Walton-on-the-Naze offer other excellent, equivalent and mostly very accessible walking/pushing possibilities (with train connections at Frinton and Walton linking to Colchester and London). Heading out of Jaywick in the other direction, hard-surfaced (concrete) path continues to Seawick on the western edge of the town. The route then continues towards Colne Point, barrier-free, but along a more rural stretch with natural/hoggin terrain. This section is however yet fully audited (to be continued!).

### Further information

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Find out more about the work of Essex Local Access Forum :

<https://www.essexhighways.org/getting-around/public-rights-of-way/essex-local-access-forum>

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