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Design and Access Statement for Northney Coastal Path.

The coastal path runs along the north shore of Hayling Island, westwards from the Langstone Hotel to the unofficial car park approximately half way towards the Langstone Bridge. The path sits on top of the existing bank and is well worn, of varying height, and almost impossible to walk safely along it. It always has been narrow, and is bordered by the sea on the north side, and on the south side bordering the road there is a drainage ditch and small bank. It has long been felt that it was unsafe and unsuitable in its present format, as a pedestrian access to the village and the hotel. This is detailed more in our accompanying statement from the village.

The design has evolved over a number of years following consultations with all the relevant bodies, which we held with the Solent Coastal Partnership team, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Using information supplied by the Solent Coastal Partnership, we have drawn up a typical section through the proposed bank and path. Starting from the existing road side, it is intended to install 450mm diameter drains, linked at one end to the existing weir drains and at the other to existing outlet flaps. A bank will be formed over this whole width, with a top level surface approximately 1200mm wide finished with gravel material in keeping with other paths on the perimeter of the Chichester Harbour. This would be wide enough to allow access for wheel chairs and buggies. The levels are to be raised and maintained to link with the existing higher bank levels by the hotel and the 'parking area'. The bank on the seaward side is to be landscaped in keeping with the existing bank, using thrift and other native species, and the road side to be grassed as existing to enable maintenance through mowing, as it is at present.

The construction will be carried out in the most sustainable way possible, using local materials, and with due care of the adjoining mudflats, to keep disturbance to the minimum. The work to be carried out from the road side of the site, and to a detailed specification of HBC and HCC in order that it can be adopted and maintained by them on completion.

By increasing the height of the bank and path, it will improve access to the village throughout the year, for all the people. It will protect the road from extra high tides, which affect this corner, at present. It could also become a major link in the proposed coastal path around Hayling as envisaged by Natural England.