

Why a sea wall route?

The Tidal Trail is intended to be a coastal walk. The coast between Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare has very few public rights of way and is isolated by the sea, the motorway and the rivers Yeo and Blind Yeo. The sea walls offer the best opportunity for walking as they are flat, easy to follow, offer the best views and are traffic free.

There is some history of past and continuing low-level usage of the sea walls by walkers, showing that there is a latent demand for walking along this stretch of coast.

Use of the sea walls would also create the minimum impact on farmers. There will inevitably be some land management issues to address, but we believe that the sea wall route offers the best all round solution.

Tell us what you think.

Were there any special considerations?

Water related issues have been important to the choice of route:

- The **Severn Estuary** is an internationally important area for birds and is designated a 'Special Protection Area' (SPA). We have assessed the likely impact of walkers on the birdlife of the Estuary and our 'ideal' route has been altered to protect the birds.

- Getting across the **River Yeo** is a major constraint. A crossing near the sea was considered but ruled out on the grounds of the effect on the SPA and the likely cost. Tutshill sluice is the only practical option.

- The **tides** along this coast are the second highest in the world. A shoreline route would be flooded twice a day, and even the route chosen may be flooded on very high tides. So tide tables will need to be on site to advise walkers.

Are there other issues we should consider?

What is the Tidal Trail?

The Tidal Trail will be a missing link in what is otherwise an almost continuous coastal route from Dorset, around the Lizard Peninsular and back up the Severn Estuary to Bristol.

What will it provide?

With the addition of the Tidal Trail, long-distance walkers will be able to explore the whole North Somerset coast, bringing some of the amenity and economic benefits enjoyed by the South West Coast Path to North Somerset. But, even more importantly, it will be a resource for local walkers wanting to explore their coastline.

Will the full walk or circular walks from it be of most use to you? Will your visitors/guests/customers use the Trail?

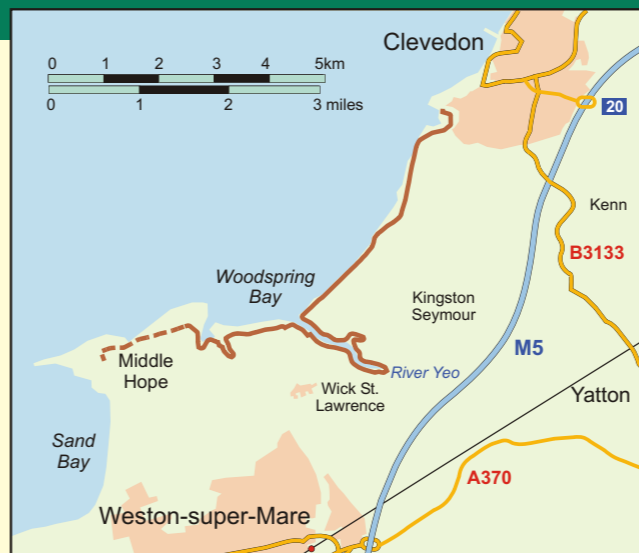
Who is it for?

The Tidal Trail will be as much for local users as it is for long-distance walkers. We expect that local users will outnumber visitors and long-distance walkers, especially on the stretches near to each end of the route at Clevedon and Middle Hope.

The Trail will be a great facility for local schools wishing to study the coast, its biology, its geography, land use and tidal processes. Because the route follows the flat sea walls, it will generally be accessible for people who find steps or stiles difficult. Some sections will have their surfaces improved to provide access for all users, including those in wheelchairs or those with small children in pushchairs. As much as possible of the route will be made accessible to personal mobility 'buggies'.

The Tidal Trail is not intended for cyclists or horse riders. But it is hoped that cyclists will soon have their own route between the towns. The cycling route will share the Tutshill sluice crossing and will cut down the 14 miles on busy roads between the towns to a commutable journey on quiet lanes.

Motorcycles will **NOT** be allowed on the Tidal Trail.



How can I get to the Tidal Trail?

The Tidal Trail will be a 'linear' footpath, it will be a long walk there and back (about 17 miles). However, an easier and fun way to do the full walk will be to use buses to and from Clevedon or Weston-super-Mare to get to the far end of the Trail and simply walk one way back again. A descriptive leaflet will have more information when the route is launched.

If you really have to use a car, you will be able to use the car parks shown on the map overleaf. But there will not be any car parking provided between Clevedon and Woodspring Priory.

Will there be alternative routes?

This leaflet is concerned mainly with the sea wall route of the Tidal Trail, however, it is expected that shorter circular routes will be possible from each end of the Trail. These will be illustrated when the walk is launched.

For further information or to send your comments:

Contact Gareth Withers at North Somerset Council.

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Photographs: Blueskybirds.com Cover: redshank and curlew (inset) gadwall (above) with dunlin (over)



shelduck



redshank



curlew



a new coastal footpath

The Tidal Trail

Clevedon to Middle Hope



Public Consultation

The Tidal Trail: a new coastal footpath

Please note, this leaflet is for consultation purposes only. The route shown below is the proposed route but it is not yet a public right of way and it crosses private land. You currently have no right of access at any time.

The Tidal Trail is only a concept at this stage and is NOT yet open to the public.

The Tidal Trail will enable walkers to explore the currently hidden shoreline of the Severn Estuary between the towns of Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare. It will offer access to a remote seascape with extensive views stretching to the far horizon in all directions.

The Trail will be accessible yet remote. It will be just a short stroll out of the towns at either end but will rapidly take you away from any roads or buildings on a walk where you will follow the boundary between sea and land.

The Trail will be flat but as challenging as you like. The sea walls offer a great opportunity for young families and the less-able, as well as those who think nothing of walking 10 miles in a morning. However far you want to walk, the scenery will reward with far reaching views over an ever-changing sea to the distant hills of St Thomas's Head and Worlebury Hill to the south or Wain's Hill to the north. Or, on a clear day, look out to Wales or back over the Levels.

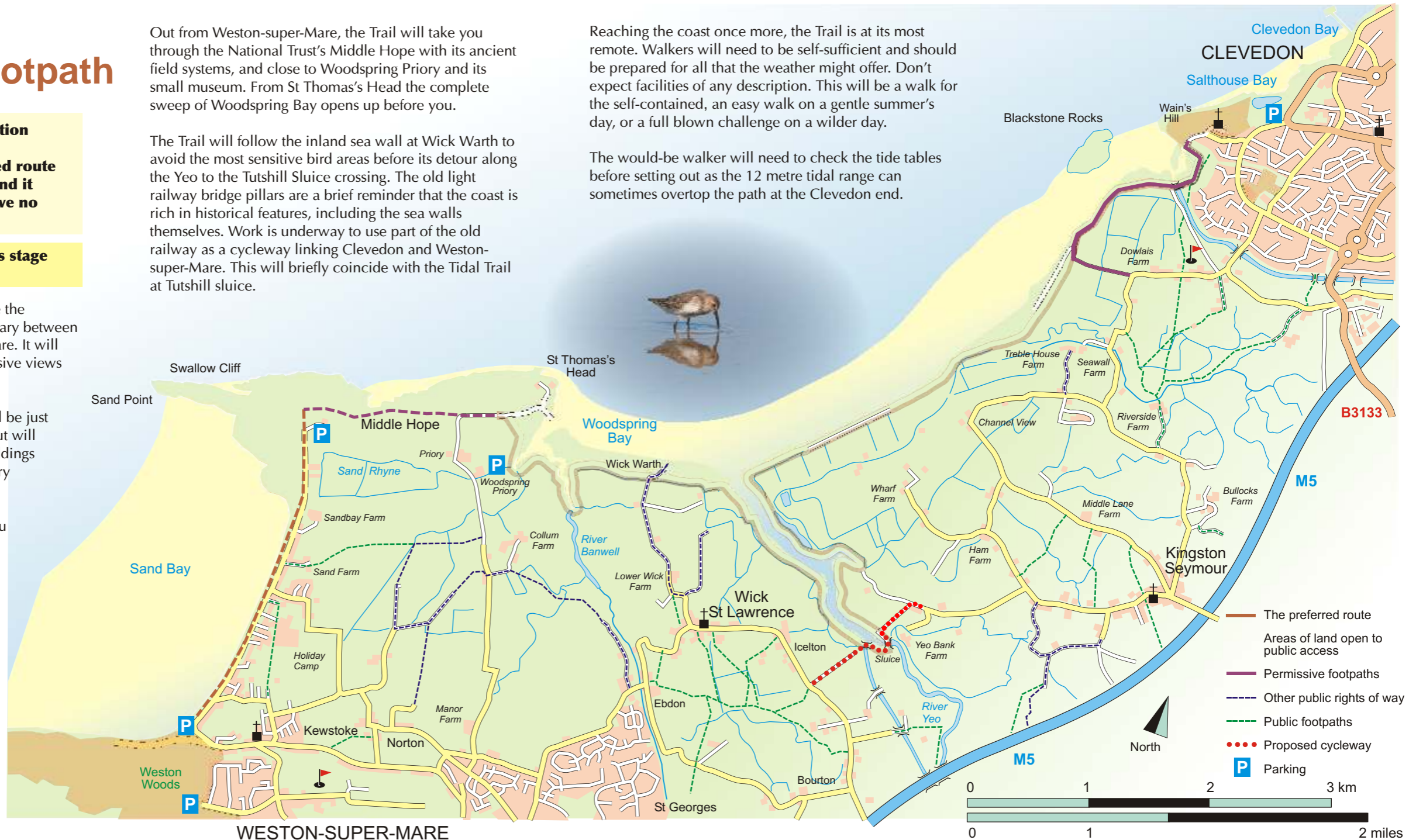
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Out from Weston-super-Mare, the Trail will take you through the National Trust's Middle Hope with its ancient field systems, and close to Woodspring Priory and its small museum. From St Thomas's Head the complete sweep of Woodspring Bay opens up before you.

The Trail will follow the inland sea wall at Wick Warth to avoid the most sensitive bird areas before its detour along the Yeo to the Tutshill Sluice crossing. The old light railway bridge pillars are a brief reminder that the coast is rich in historical features, including the sea walls themselves. Work is underway to use part of the old railway as a cycleway linking Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare. This will briefly coincide with the Tidal Trail at Tutshill sluice.

Reaching the coast once more, the Trail is at its most remote. Walkers will need to be self-sufficient and should be prepared for all that the weather might offer. Don't expect facilities of any description. This will be a walk for the self-contained, an easy walk on a gentle summer's day, or a full blown challenge on a wilder day.

The would-be walker will need to check the tide tables before setting out as the 12 metre tidal range can sometimes overtop the path at the Clevedon end.



WESTON-SUPER-MARE