

INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE WISHING TO USE THE BROOMWAY

The Broomway is a unique public right of way (PROW) which requires both caution and specialist knowledge to negotiate safely. It crosses foreshore that is part of the MOD estate and which is under the control of the MOD and its site managers, QinetiQ. There are byelaws¹ in force which enable the PROW network to be closed, without provision of alternative routes, whilst the Range is active.

Red flags are flown at key locations to indicate when the Range is active and the PROW network on MOD Shoeburyness is closed. Before attempting to use The Broomway it's advisable to research and plan the journey to ensure that you understand the restrictions and hazards associated with the route.

You may wish to contact Essex Highways or HM Coastguard for any special instructions or advice that may apply at that time, or for guidance on tide times. You should also note the following:

1. The Broomway is not way-marked nor is it maintained for vehicles. It is soft, wet mud, not sand.
2. The legal designation of The Broomway is:
 - Byway - can be used by all traffic types between Wakering Stairs headway and Rugwood Head and;
 - Bridleway - can be used by pedestrians, horses and pedal bikes only from Rugwood Head to Fisherman's Head. Please note: **Rugwood Head is not passable by vehicles, the last accessible land access on the byway is at Asplins Head.**

It is illegal to drive a motorised or e-powered vehicle the full length of The Broomway.

3. The tides are unpredictable and the route is not always accessible for the amount of time that tide tables suggest. The intertidal time can be shortened by an on-shore wind or the tide height.
4. The Broomway crosses a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and anyone whose activity is in breach of permitted activity and thereby damages the area is liable to prosecution. Further information can be obtained from Natural England.
5. The sands on the seaward side may appear to be a more favourable route than the actual Broomway route as the ground appears firmer. However, this should not be used because of the potential for unexploded ordnance and soft sand shell craters which are not marked.
6. Due to the nature of Range operations, the establishment makes no guarantee that the PROW network will be open on any given dates and times.

Unusual closures of the network are notified on www.qinetiq.com/shoeburyness

7. Users should ensure that they have sufficient time to return to Wakering Stairs via The Broomway, as other exit routes from Foulness Island are not open to unsponsored recreational visitors.

8. Users of any part of the PROW network should not deviate from the designated routes. Users should also ensure that they have a means of calling for assistance in the event of an emergency (i.e a mobile phone).

9. Neither MOD or QinetiQ accepts any responsibility for the recovery of any vehicle which may become stranded in the sands, this is the sole responsibility of the vehicle owner. Vehicle recovery can only be undertaken when Range operations permit.

¹ Shoeburyness Artillery Range Byelaws 1936