Somerset's Accessible Coast:

Accessibility ratings

To create the Somerset's Accessible Coast system we have assessed each of the featured paths based on surfaces, path width, gradients, cross slopes and barriers. Each section of path has an overall path rating using one of the categories below.

The following tables provide detailed descriptions of the criteria we have used to rate path sections and the users those categories are suitable for.

Path rating	Suitable for
1 Green **For All**	Almost all scooters and buggies, power-chairs and users of manual chairs. For manual chair users this may depend on upper body strength or whether you have assistance, and how far you intend to travel.
2 Purple **For Many**	For very many scooters and buggies (class 2 or higher), and some electric wheelchairs. Some manual chair depending on upper body strength or whether you have assistance, and how far you intend to travel.
3 Orange **For Some**	Users of heavy duty and powerful all-terrain mobility scooters / trampers (class 3 or higher). Long slopes and steeper cross slopes make it advisable to get familiar with the terrain before you head out and ensure your scooter is suitable for the route.
4 Blue **For the Adventurous**	Adventurous users of heavy-duty all-terrain mobility scooters / trampers, which will need to have the stability to cope with steeper hills and cross slopes and the battery power to travel in tougher conditions for longer. It is advisable to get familiar with the terrain before you head out and ensure your scooter is suitable for the route.
5 Pink **For Walkers**	In places we are unable to recommend a section of path as suitable for mobility vehicles. Reasons for this might be unstable path surfaces such as moving pebbles or shingle ridges, path widths narrower than 800mm with no alternative route, cross slopes too great for mobility vehicles to remain stable, barriers such as steps, stiles and inaccessible gates that cannot be avoided.

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Path rating	Path surface	Path width
1 Green **For All**	Smooth, high quality, all weather surfaces, usually tarmac or smooth compacted stone. There may be sections of rougher path, but only for short distances.	Paths generally at least 1.5m wide.
2 Purple **For Many**	Generally good quality, well drained surfaces, usually tarmac, smooth compacted stone, beaten earth or grass tracks. There may be short sections of softer ground or ruts in the path, especially after wet weather.	Paths generally at least 1.2m wide.
3 Orange **For Some**	More varied surfaces including stony tracks, grass or softer ground for longer stretches. Paths may be rutted, uneven or have loose stones or tree roots in the surface. Wet weather may result in standing water or very soft surfaces.	Paths generally at least 1.1m wide.
4 Blue **For the Adventurous**	Paths will have a distinct surface, but this could be without major change to the surrounding area. Paths may be rough and rocky in places and may have muddy sections and standing water following wet weather.	Path widths can vary greatly down to 800mm and may be reduced further by vegetation in narrow sections.
5 Pink **For Walkers**	Path surfaces are unsuitable for wheeled mobility vehicles or walkers with reduced mobility. Pushchairs may be carried where these sections are for short distances.	Path widths are too narrow (less than 800mm) for mobility vehicles to pass safely without damaging the surrounding environment.

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Path rating	Gradient	Cross slopes
1 Green **For All**	Gradients up to 8% (1 in 12) Possibly very short (< 5m) sections up to 10% (1 in 10)	Cross slopes no more than 8% (1 in 12)
2 Purple **For Many**	Gradients up to 10% (1 in 10), which may occur over longer stretches. Possibly with short (< 10m) sections up to 12.5% (1 in 8)	Cross slopes no more than 10% (1 in 10), though occasional short sections (< 5m) up to 12.5% (1 in 8) may occur.
3 Orange **For Some**	Gradients up to 12.5% (1 in 8), which may occur over longer stretches. Short stretches up to 20% (1 in 5) may be encountered.	Cross slopes no more than 12.5% (1 in 8).
4 Blue **For the Adventurous**	These paths may have arduous climbs and steep sections. including long slopes exceeding 12.5% (1 in 8) and sections that may be as steep as 25% (1 in 4).	Cross slopes may be steep and unavoidable.
5 Pink **For Walkers**	Hills may be very steep and over long stretches of terrain.	Unavoidable very steep cross slopes.

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Path rating	Barriers
1 Green **For All**	No stiles, steps or physical barriers. Accessible gates and pinch points no less than 1.2m wide.
2 Purple **For Many**	No stiles, steps or physical barriers. Accessible gates and pinch points no less than 1.1m wide. Small step changes up to 25mm may be encountered.
3 Orange **For Some**	No stiles, steps or physical barriers. Accessible gates and pinch points no less than 800mm wide. Small step changes up to 40mm may be present.
4 Blue **For the Adventurous**	Natural and other obstacles are likely, including large or irregular step changes and stiles or gates. Often with no available route to avoid them. Obstacles may include large rocks, areas of moving pebbles or shingle, runs of more than five steps, stiles and inaccessible gates.
5 Pink **For Walkers**	Natural and other obstacles are present with no route to avoid them. Obstacles may include large rocks, areas of moving pebbles or shingle, runs of more than five steps, stiles and inaccessible gates.