

Chapter 3:

Old Hartley to Kitty Brewster Bridge

England Coast Path: South Bents to Amble - Natural England's Proposals

Part 3.1: Introduction

Start Point:	Old Hartley (grid reference: NZ 3439 7574)
End Point:	Kitty Brewster Bridge (grid reference: NZ 2823 8224)
Relevant Maps:	3a to 3f

Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps:

The Trail:

- 3.1.1 Generally follows existing walked routes, including public rights of way, along most of this length.
- 3.1.2 Mainly follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea.
- 3.1.3 Sections SBA-3-S016 MU, SBA-3-S017 MU, SBA-3-S018 MU, SBA-3-S019 MU, SBA-3-S020 FW and SBA-3-S021 RD, follow a significant inland route to take the trail past the Port of Blyth industrial areas.
- 3.1.4 Follows the Eve Black Way at section SBA-3-S013 MU.
- 3.1.5 This part of the coast includes the following sites, designated for nature conservation or heritage preservation (See map C of the Overview):
 - Northumbria Coast Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Northumbria Coast Ramsar site
 - Northumberland Shore Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geological /wildlife interest
 - Coquet to St Mary's (MCZ)

We have assessed the potential impacts of access along the proposed route (and over the associated spreading room described below) on the features for which the affected land is designated and on any which are protected in their own right.

- 3.1.6 The levels and patterns of public access along this length of coast would be unlikely to change significantly as a result of our proposals and we have therefore concluded that our proposals would not be likely to have any significant impact on these features.

In relation to those nature conservation sites listed above, refer to our published Access and Sensitive Features Appraisal for more information.

- 3.1.7 At Ridley Park in Blyth there is a desire by the landowner, Northumberland County Council, to route the trail through the park. This will give trail users direct access to the park facilities. Because the legislation treats parks as excepted land, which the trail would not be able to pass through, the Council has made an undertaking to dedicate a route through them for access in perpetuity. Dedication will remove excepted land status along the line of the route in order that it may be included as part of the proposed route of the trail (see glossary entry for 'dedication' in the Overview).

See part 5b of the Overview - 'Natural environment' - for more information.

Accessibility:

- 3.1.8 Generally, there are few artificial barriers to accessibility on the proposed route, which makes use of existing surface paths wherever these meet the criteria in the Coastal Access Scheme.

However, there are places where it may not be entirely suitable for people with reduced mobility because:

- There are steps where it would be necessary to gain access to Kitty Brewster Bridge at section SBA-3-S038 BW.

See part 5a of the Overview - 'Recreational issues' - for more information

Where we have proposed exercising our discretion:

The discretions referred to below are explained in more detail in 10 of the Overview.

- 3.1.9 Estuary: This report proposes that the trail should include a route around the estuary of the River Blyth, extending upstream from the open coast as far as Kitty Brewster Bridge, which is the first public foot crossing point over the river. See part 10b of the Overview. The trail covered by this chapter includes part of this estuary route.
- 3.1.10 Landward boundary of the coastal margin: We have used our discretion on some sections of the route to map the landward extent of the coastal margin to an adjacent physical boundary such as a fence line, pavement or track to make the extent of the new access rights clearer. See Table 3.2.1 below.
- 3.1.11 In Hartley Links and Blyth Links, we have used our discretion to propose the inclusion of additional, more extensive landward areas within the coastal margin, to secure or enhance public enjoyment of this part of the coast. The owner of this land is content for us to propose this.

See also part 3 of the Overview - 'Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps', for an explanation of the default extent of the coastal margin and how we may use our discretion to adjust the margin, either to

add land or to provide clarity. See also Annex C of the Overview - 'Excepted land categories'.

3.1.12 Restrictions and/or exclusions: Access rights to the spreading room would be subject to the national restrictions on coastal access rights listed in Annex D of the Overview. These restrictions would not apply to public rights of way.

See part 9 of the Overview - 'Restrictions and exclusions' - for details.

3.1.13 Establishment: Some physical establishment of the trail would be necessary, in accordance with the general approach described in part 6 the Overview:

- At section SBA-3-S038 BW a flight of steps will be required to gain access to Kitty Brewster Bridge via the embankment.

3.1.14 Ongoing management: Ongoing management and maintenance would be necessary in accordance with the general approach described in part 7 of the Overview.

See parts 6 - 'Physical establishment of the trail' and 7 - 'Maintenance of the trail' of the Overview for more information.

Future Change:

3.1.15 Part of the route of the trail on this length of coast would be able to change without further approval from the Secretary of State in response to coastal erosion or other geomorphological processes, or encroachment by the sea. This would happen in accordance with the criteria and procedures for 'roll back' set out in part 8 of the Overview. See table 1.2.1 below for details of the sections likely to be affected in the foreseeable future.

3.1.16 At the time of preparing the report, we do not foresee any other need for future changes to the access provisions proposed for the length of coast described in this chapter.

See parts 5e - 'Coastal processes' and 8 - 'Future changes' of the Overview for more information.

Part 3.2: Commentary on Maps

See Part 3 of Overview for guidance on reading and understanding the tables below

3.2.1 Section Details – Maps 3a to 3f: Old Hartley to Kitty Brewster Bridge

Notes on table:

Column 2 – an asterisk (*) against the route section number means see also table 3.2.2: Other options considered.

Column 5 – ‘Yes – normal’ means roll-back approach is likely to follow the current feature (e.g. cliff edge/beach) for the foreseeable future.

1	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	7
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of this section	Current surface of this section	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 8 of Overview)	Landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary discretion	Proposed exclusions or restrictions (see Part 9 of Overview)
3a	SBA-3-S001 FP	Public footpath	Gravel	Yes: Normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S002 FP	Public footpath	Gravel	Yes: Normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	SBA-3-S003 FP	Public footpath	Gravel	Yes: Normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S004 FP	Public footpath	Gravel	Yes: Normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	SBA-3-S005 FW	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	Wall	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S006 FW	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	SBA-3-S007 FW	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	Wall	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S008 RD	Public highway	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	SBA-3-S009 FW	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S010 RD	Public highway	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	SBA-3-S011 FW*	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S012 BW	Public bridleway	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of dune	Not used	None
3b	SBA-3-S013 MU	Multi-use route	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of dune	Not used	None
3c	SBA-3-S013 MU	Multi-use route	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of dune	Not used	None
	SBA-3-S014	Other existing walked route	Concrete	No	Various	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S015 MU	Multi-use route	Tarmac	No	Wall	Clarity and cohesion	None
3d	SBA-3-S016 MU	Multi-use route	Tarmac	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S017 MU	Multi-use route	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	SBA-3-S018 MU	Multi-use route	Tarmac	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S019 MU*	Multi-use route	Tarmac	No	Path	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S020 FW	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S021 RD	Public highway	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	SBA-3-S022 FW	Public footway (pavement)	Block paving	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S023 RD	Public highway	Block paving	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None

1	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	7
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of this section	Current surface of this section	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 8 of Overview)	Landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary discretion	Proposed exclusions or restrictions (see Part 9 of Overview)
3d	SBA-3-S024	Other existing walked route	Block paving	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
3e	SBA-3-S025	Other existing walked route	Block paving	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	SBA-3-S026	Other existing walked route	Block paving	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S027 MU	Multi-use route	Block paving	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S028 MU	Multi-use route	Block paving	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	SBA-3-S029 MU	Multi-use route	Stone flags	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S030 MU	Multi-use route	Stone flags	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	SBA-3-S031 MU	Multi-use route	Stone flags	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S032 MU	Multi-use route	Tarmac	No	Track	Clarity and cohesion	None
3f	SBA-3-S033 MU	Multi-use route	Tarmac	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S034 FW	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S035 RD	Public highway	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	SBA-3-S036 FW	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	SBA-3-S037 BW	Public bridleway	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	SBA-3-S038 BW	Public bridleway	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None

3.2.2 Other options considered: Maps 3a to 3f: Old Hartley to Kitty Brewster Bridge

Map(s)	Section number(s)	Option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option as the route
3a	SBA-3-S011 FW	We considered aligning the trail along the existing public footpath that runs down to the small harbour area at Seaton Sluice, as shown on the map.	We opted for the proposed route because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It maintains views of the sea and small harbour area. ■ Under our proposals, the public footpath would remain available for people to use as part of the spreading room, but would not form part of the designated trail. ■ Our proposals were supported by the Local Access Authority.
3d	SBA-3-S019 MU	We considered aligning the trail along Belgrave Crescent (B1329) and Park View, as shown on the map.	We opted for the proposed route because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It's a more pleasant route. ■ This proposal is made with the support of the landowner. ■ We concluded that overall the proposed route struck the best balance in terms of the criteria described in chapter 4 of the Coastal Access Scheme. ■ Our proposals were supported by the Local Access Authority.
3f	SBA-3-S034 FW to SBA-3-S036 FW	We considered aligning the trail along the existing bridleway that follows the bank of the River Blyth.	We opted for the proposed route because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It's more direct and convenient. ■ We concluded that overall the proposed route struck the best balance in terms of the criteria described in chapter 4 of the Coastal Access Scheme. ■ Under our proposals, the bridleway would remain available for people to use as part of the spreading room, but would not form part of the designated trail. ■ Our proposals were supported by the Local Access Authority.

Part 3.3: Chapter 3 - Formal Proposals

- Below are our formal proposals to the Secretary of State for the length of coast shown on maps 3a to 3f.
- They should be read in conjunction with the relevant maps.
- The commentary above explains the practical effect of these proposals.

Formal Proposals – Old Hartley to Kitty Brewster Bridge

Discretion to include an estuary

- 3.3.1 Natural England proposes to exercise its functions as if the sea included the estuarial waters of the River Blyth as far as Kitty Brewster Bridge as indicated by the extent of the trail shown on map 3f.

Proposed route of the trail

- 3.3.2 In relation to route sections SBA-3-S001 FP to SBA-3-S004 FP, the route is to be at the centre of the line shown on map 3a as the proposed route of the trail.
- 3.3.3 If at any time any part of a route section listed in the previous paragraph needs, in Natural England's view, to change as a result of coastal erosion or other geomorphological processes or encroachment by the sea, in order for the overall route to remain viable, the new route for the part in question will be determined by Natural England without further reference to the Secretary of State. This will be done in accordance with the criteria and procedures described under the title 'Roll-back' in part 8 of the Overview and section 4.10 of the Coastal Access Scheme. If this happens, the new route will become the approved route for that section for the purposes of the Order which determines where coastal access rights apply.

Landward boundary of coastal margin

- 3.3.4 Adjacent to route sections SBA-3-S001 FP, SBA-3-S003 FP and SBA-3-S033 MU the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the existing boundary fence which, at the time of writing this report, is landward of the trail on maps 3a and 3f.

Adjacent to route sections SBA-3-S005 FW, SBA-3-S007 FW and SBA-3-S015 MU the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the existing boundary wall which, at the time of writing this report, is landward of the trail on maps 3a and 3c.

- 3.3.5 Adjacent to route sections SBA-3-S009 FW, SBA-3-S011 FW, SBA-3-S016 MU, SBA-3-S018 MU, SBA-3-S020 FW, SBA-3-S022 FW, SBA-3-S024, SBA-3-S026, SBA-3-S027, SBA-3-S029 MU, SBA-3-S031 MU, SBA-3-S034 FW and SBA-3-S036 FW the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of the pavement shown as the trail on map 3a, 3d, 3e and 3f.

Adjacent to route section SBA-3-S019 MU the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of the path shown as the trail on map 3d.

Adjacent to route section SBA-3-S032 MU the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of the track shown as the trail on map 3e.

- 3.3.6 Adjacent to route section SBA-3-S014, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of various features shown as the trail on map 3c.
- 3.3.7 Adjacent to route sections SBA-3-S012 BW and SBA-3-S013 MU, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the dune, as indicated by the coastal margin landward of the trail on maps 3b and 3c.

Local restrictions and exclusions

- 3.3.8 At the time of writing this report, there are no proposals for local restrictions or exclusions in relation to this length of coast.

Alternative Routes

- 3.3.9 There are no proposals for alternative routes in relation to this length of coast.

Explanatory note: coastal margin
 Part 3 of the Overview to the report explains where the landward boundary of the coastal margin falls by default. Our proposals include any suggested variation of this default boundary. The purple wash on the map indicates where as a result of our proposals the coastal margin would extend significantly to the landward side of the proposed route of the trail. The coastal margin may include some areas where coastal access rights do not apply, either seaward or landward of the proposed route of the trail: the Overview explains more about this. The landward boundary of the coastal margin may in due course move inland, if the trail rolls back under proposals in this report to respond to coastal change.

PROPOSALS

- Trail using existing public right of way or highway
- Trail shown on other maps
- Coastal margin landward of the trail

Trail sections which follow existing public rights of way or highways are indicated by a suffix:

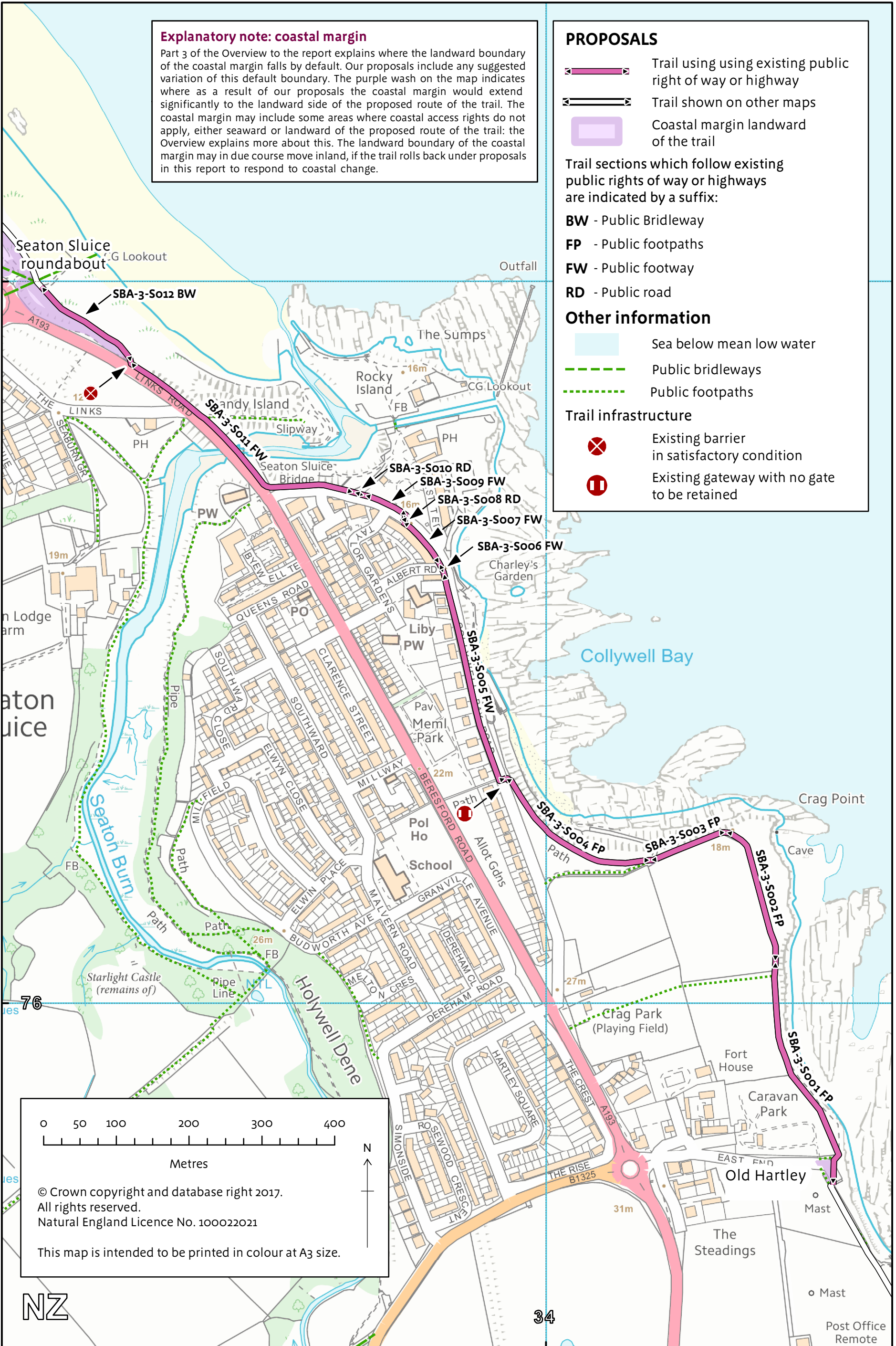
- BW** - Public Bridleway
- FP** - Public footpaths
- FW** - Public footway
- RD** - Public road

Other information

- Sea below mean low water
- Public bridleways
- Public footpaths

Trail infrastructure

- Existing barrier in satisfactory condition
- Existing gateway with no gate to be retained

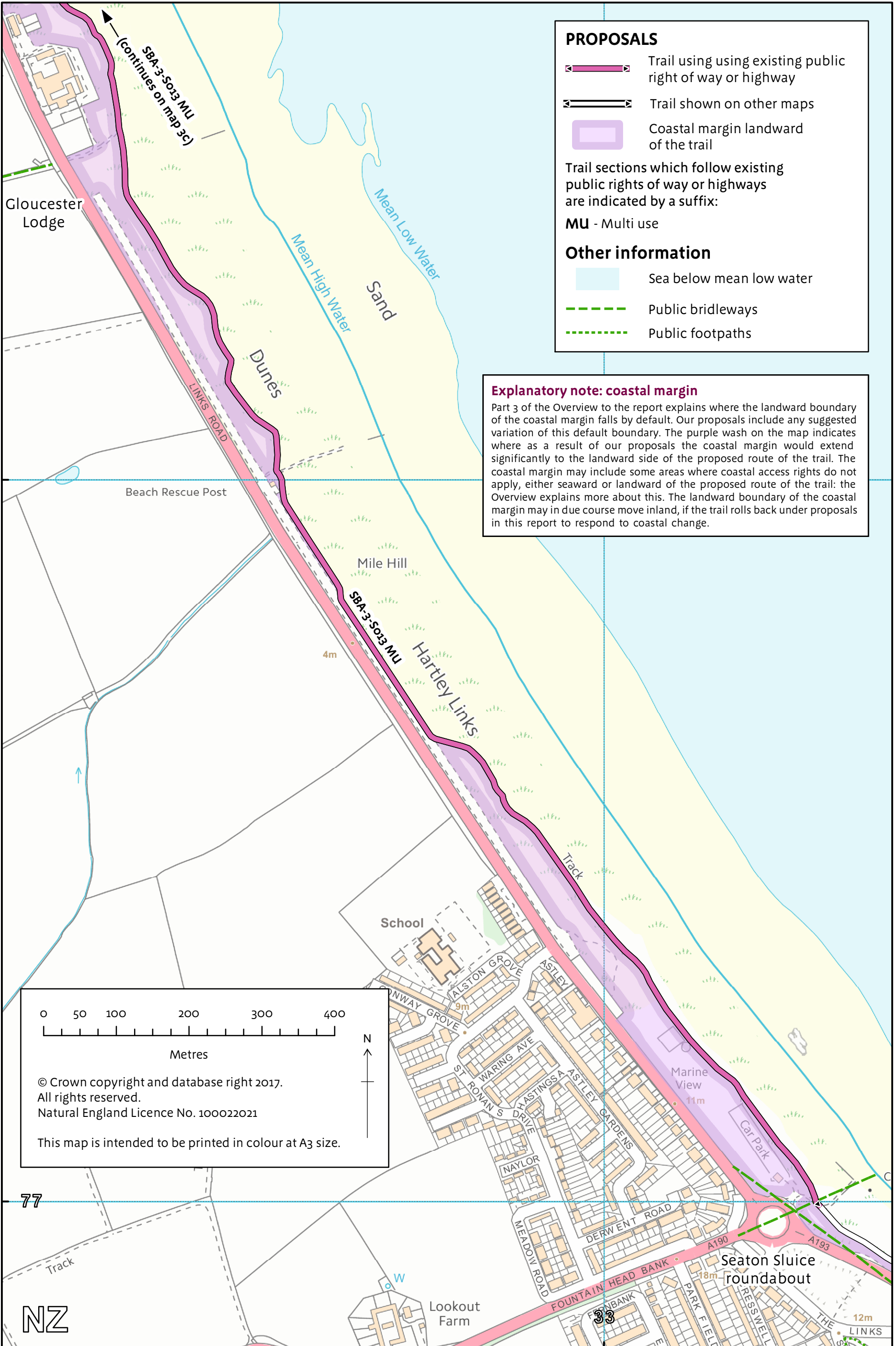


Map 3a Old Hartley to Seaton Sluice roundabout

0 50 100 200 300 400
 Metres




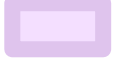
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This map is intended to be printed in colour at A3 size.



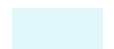

Explanatory note: coastal margin
 Part 3 of the Overview to the report explains where the landward boundary of the coastal margin falls by default. Our proposals include any suggested variation of this default boundary. The purple wash on the map indicates where as a result of our proposals the coastal margin would extend significantly to the landward side of the proposed route of the trail. The coastal margin may include some areas where coastal access rights do not apply, either seaward or landward of the proposed route of the trail: the Overview explains more about this. The landward boundary of the coastal margin may in due course move inland, if the trail rolls back under proposals in this report to respond to coastal change.

PROPOSALS


-  Trail using existing public right of way or highway
-  Trail not using existing walked route
-  Trail shown on other maps
-  Coastal margin landward of the trail

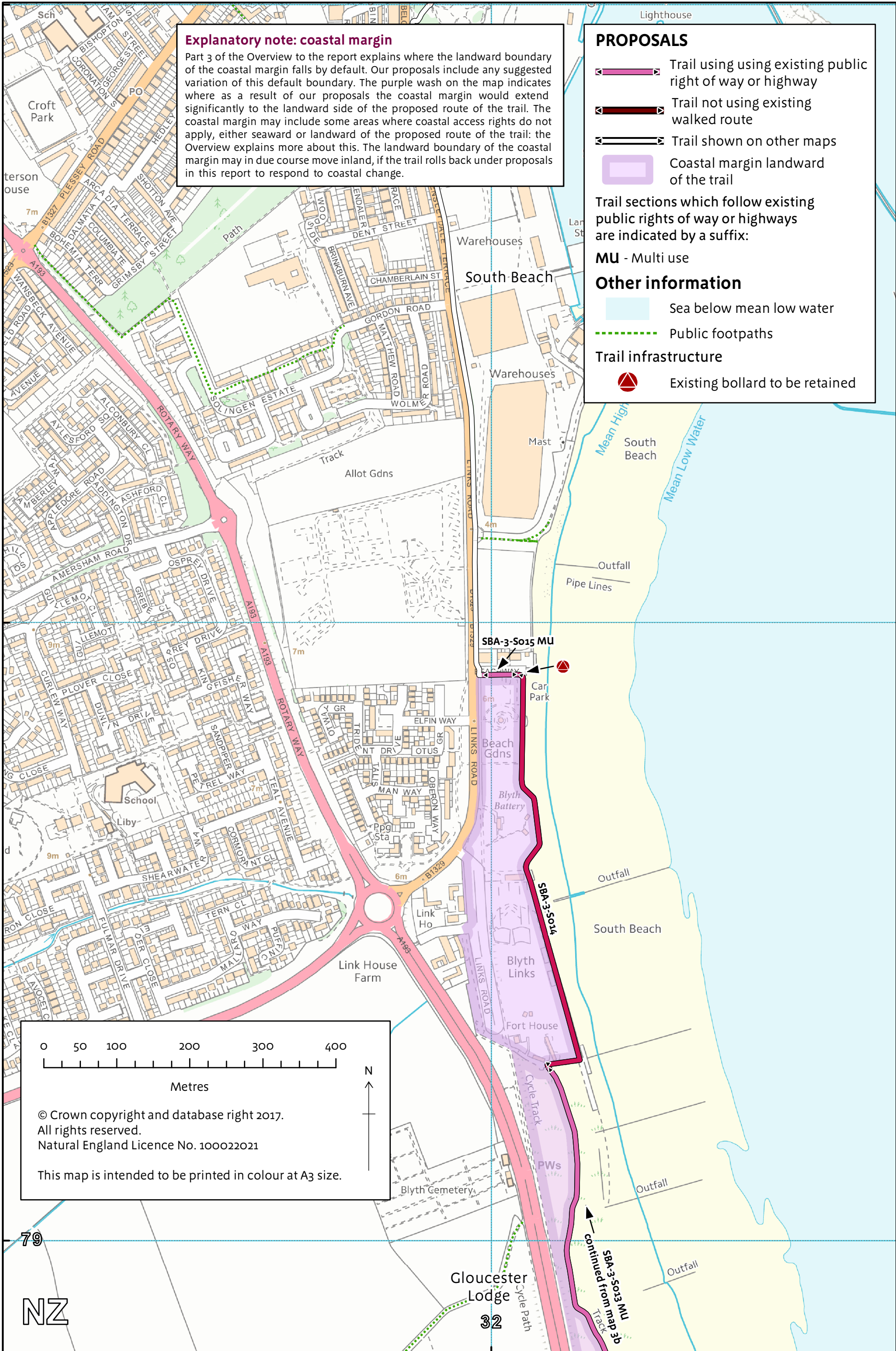
Trail sections which follow existing public rights of way or highways are indicated by a suffix:
MU - Multi use

Other information

-  Sea below mean low water
-  Public footpaths

Trail infrastructure

-  Existing bollard to be retained



0 50 100 200 300 400
 Metres

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This map is intended to be printed in colour at A3 size.

79

NZ

Gloucester Lodge 32

SBA-3-So15 MU
 SBA-3-So14
 SBA-3-So13 MU
 to be continued from map 3b

