Chapter 4: The Foreland to Lynton

Part 4.1: Introduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start Point:</th>
<th>The Foreland (grid reference: SS 7593 5033)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End Point:</td>
<td>Lynton (grid reference: SS 7280 4955)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant Maps:</td>
<td>4a to 4c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps:

The Trail:

4.1.1 Follows the existing South West Coast Path as currently walked and managed between the Foreland and North Walk on the western side of Lynton (sections MCM-4-S001 to MCM-4-S020). The existing South West Coast Path mainly follows public rights of way or public highways along this length. See maps 4a to 4c and associated table 4.2.1 below for more details.

4.1.2 Mainly follows the coastline quite closely (apart from at the Foreland where the trail goes slightly inland rather than out towards Foreland Point) and maintains good views of the sea.

4.1.3 We propose to adopt the walked line of the South West Coast Path along this section of coast. There are places where the walked line differs slightly from the route originally approved by the Secretary of State, as the path has evolved over time to cope with coastal erosion and other processes. As explained at part 5a of the Overview, assuming these proposals are approved we intend to use a separate variation report to the Secretary of State to change the route of the existing national trail to reflect the approved line of the England Coast Path insofar as the two are different.

4.1.4 This part of the coast includes the following sites, designated for nature conservation or heritage preservation (See map C of the Overview):

- Exmoor Heaths Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Exmoor Coastal Heaths Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Countisbury Castle promontory fort earthwork defences Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM).
4.1.5 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. 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.

See part 5b of the Overview ‘Natural environment’ for more information.

Accessibility:

4.1.6 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 suitable for people with reduced mobility because:

- The trail would follow an uneven grass or bare soil path along the cliff top between the Foreland and Lynmouth (MCM-4-S001 to MCM-4-S014);

- There are steep gradients in places for example at Foreland Point and Countisbury Hill or steps where it would be necessary to ascend or descend steep slopes.

See part 5a of the Overview ‘Recreational issues’ for more information.

Where we have proposed exercising our discretion:

4.1.7 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.

4.1.8 At Butter Hill and Barna Barrow, south of the Foreland and adjacent to the A39 at Wind Hill east of Lynmouth (sections MCM-4-S001 to MCM-4-S007 and MCM-4-S009 to MCM-4-S011), we have used our discretion to propose the inclusion of additional, more extensive landward areas of Open Access land within the coastal margin. This will secure or enhance public enjoyment of this part of the coast. The owners of these areas of land are content for us to propose this. See maps 4a to 4c and the associated table 4.2.1 below for more detail.

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’.

4.1.9 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. We have not used our discretion to propose any additional restrictions or exclusions on this part of the coast.

See part 9 of the Overview - ‘Restrictions and exclusions’ - for details.
Establishment and ongoing management of the trail:

4.1.10 Where the trail follows the existing South West Coast Path as currently walked and managed, there are no additional measures that we consider necessary to improve the safety or convenience of the trail on this length of coast.

4.1.11 Ongoing management and maintenance would be necessary in accordance with the general approach described in part 7 of the Overview. The overall need for this is likely to be greater than on some other parts of the stretch, recognising that it will be necessary for the route to roll back from time to time in response to coastal processes, as described below.

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

Future Change:

4.1.12 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 4.2.1 below for details of the sections that may be affected in the foreseeable future.

4.1.13 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 4.2: Commentary on the maps

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

Table 4.2.1 includes sections of the trail that follow the existing South West Coast Path as currently walked and managed. There are no sections of the trail in this chapter that differ from the existing South West Coast Path.

4.2.1 Details for sections that follow the existing South West Coast Path: Maps 4a to 4c, The Foreland to North Walk, Lynton

Notes on table:
Column 2 – an asterisk (*) against the route section number means see also table 4.2.2: Other options considered.
Column 3 – “Yes – normal” means roll-back approach is likely to follow the current feature (e.g. cliff edge/beach) for the foreseeable future.
Column 3 – “Yes – see table 4.2.3” means refer to that table below about our likely approach to roll-back on this part of the route.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map(s)</th>
<th>Route section number(s)</th>
<th>Roll-back proposed? (See part 8 of Overview)</th>
<th>Landward boundary of margin (See maps)</th>
<th>Reason for landward boundary discretion</th>
<th>Proposed exclusions or restrictions (see part 9 of Overview)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4a</td>
<td>MCM-4-S001* to MCM-4-S004*</td>
<td>Yes - Normal</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Additional landward area</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4b</td>
<td>MCM-4-S005*</td>
<td>Yes - Normal</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Additional landward area</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MCM-4-S006* and MCM-4-S007*</td>
<td>Yes - Normal</td>
<td>Fence line</td>
<td>Additional landward area</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MCM-4-S008*</td>
<td>Yes - Normal</td>
<td>Fence line</td>
<td>Clarity and Cohesion</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MCM-4-S009*</td>
<td>Yes - Normal</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td>Additional landward area</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MCM-4-S010*</td>
<td>Yes - Normal</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Additional landward area</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4c</td>
<td>MCM-4-S011*</td>
<td>Yes - Normal</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Additional landward area</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MCM-4-S012</td>
<td>Yes - Normal</td>
<td>Landward edge of trail</td>
<td>Not used</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MCM-4-S013 and MCM-4-S014</td>
<td>Yes - Normal</td>
<td>Path</td>
<td>Clarity and Cohesion</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MCM-4-S015</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Road</td>
<td>Clarity and Cohesion</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MCM-4-S016 to MCM-4-S019</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Path</td>
<td>Clarity and Cohesion</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MCM-4-S020</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Road</td>
<td>Clarity and Cohesion</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2.2 Other options considered: Maps 4a to 4c, The Foreland to Lynton

4.2.3 Roll-back implementation – more complex situations

In relation to all other sections where roll-back has been proposed, the trail is likely to be adjusted to follow the current feature (e.g. cliff edge/beach) for the foreseeable future.
Part 4.3: Chapter 4 - Formal Proposals

Below are our formal proposals to the Secretary of State for the length of coast shown on maps 4a to 4c.

They should be read in conjunction with the relevant maps.

The commentary above explains the practical effect of these proposals.

Formal Proposals – The Foreland to Lynton

Proposed route of the trail

4.3.1 In relation to route sections MCM-4-S001 to MCM-4-S014, the route, as initially determined at the time the report was prepared, is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps 4a to 4c as the proposed route of the trail.

4.3.2 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.

4.3.3 In relation to route sections MCM-4-S015 to MCM-4-S020, the route is to be at the centre of the line shown on map 4c as the proposed route of the trail.

Landward boundary of coastal margin

4.3.4 Adjacent to route sections MCM-4-S001 to MCM-4-S005, MCM-4-S010 and MCM-4-S011, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with various boundary features, as indicated by the coastal margin landward of the trail on maps 4a to 4c.

4.3.5 Adjacent to route sections MCM-4-S006 and MCM-4-S007, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the existing fence line, as indicated by the coastal margin landward of the trail on map 4b.

4.3.6 Adjacent to route section MCM-4-S008, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the fence line shown as the trail on map 4b.

4.3.7 Adjacent to route section MCM-4-S009, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the existing wall, as indicated by the coastal margin landward of the trail on map 4b.

4.3.8 Adjacent to route sections MCM-4-S013 to MCM-4-S014 and MCM-4-S016 to MCM-4-S019, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the path shown as the trail on map 4c.

4.3.9 Adjacent to route sections MCM-4-S015 and MCM-4-S020, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the road shown as the trail on map 4c.

Local restrictions and exclusions

4.3.10 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

4.3.11 There are no proposals for alternative routes in relation to this length of coast.
**PROPOSALS**

- Trail using existing South West Coast Path
- Trail shown on other maps
- Coastal margin landward of the trail
- Coastal margin landward of the trail which is existing access land

**Other access rights and routes**

- Public bridleways
- Public footpaths

**Other information**

- Existing access land
- Sea below mean low water

**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.
This map shows sections of the trail that follow the existing South West Coast Path as currently walked and managed. Information on the existing status and infrastructure is not shown.

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

Other information:
- Existing access land
- Sea below mean low water
- Coastal margin landward of the trail which is existing access land
- Public bridleways
- Public footpaths

Other access rights and routes:
- Sea below mean low water
- Existing access land

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