

Chapter 3:

Aldwick Bay to Elmer

England Coast Path: East Head to Shoreham by Sea - Natural England's Proposals

Part 3.1: Introduction

Start Point:	Aldwick Bay shingle beach (grid reference: 489553 97573)
End Point:	Elmer (grid reference: 499448 100300)
Relevant Maps:	3a to 3f

Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps:

The Trail:

- 3.1.1 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 Includes three sections of new path upon the shingle beach at Aldwick, Middleton on Sea and at Elmer. See maps 3.a, 3.e and 3.f with associated tables below for details.
- 3.1.4 In some areas an inland diversion is necessary to take the trail past sea defence structures between Aldwick and Bognor Regis (sections EHS-3-S042 to EHS-3-S052 map 3.b) and at Middleton Point (sections EHS-3-S075 to EHS-3-S078 map 3.e) which are currently inaccessible at high tides (See Future Change, below and Part 8 of the Overview).

Protection of sensitive features:

- 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):
 - Bognor Reef Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geological/ wildlife interest

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 With input from specialists we considered the sites involved and the relevant design options and concluded that for this section of the coast our proposals will not have a detrimental effect. In reaching this conclusion we have identified that it would be necessary to align the route at Bognor Reef SSSI on the landward side of the shingle beach in order to avoid increased trampling of the vegetated shingle. This proposal is explained further in parts 6 & 10 of the Overview.
- 3.1.7 In addition to this measure, we have also identified a requirement to provide appropriate signage at key locations. These signs will explain the importance of these habitats, promote responsible dog behaviour and advise walkers where the best underfoot conditions can be found.

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

See part 6b of the Overview - Protection of sensitive features - for a description of our overall approach and a summary of our conclusions.

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.
- 3.1.9 However, there are places where it may not be entirely suitable for people with reduced mobility because:
- The trail will follow an uneven surface on sections of shingle beach in places.
 - The trail follows a sea defence with a raised concrete step at the entrance to the alleyway leading to Elmer Road.

See part 6a 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 the introduction of the Overview.

- 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, promenade, pavement or track edge to make the extent of the new access rights clearer. See Table 3.2.1.

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'.

- 3.1.11 Restrictions and exclusions: No directions to restrict or exclude access are proposed on this length of coast. However, 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 10 of the Overview - 'Restrictions and exclusions' - for details.

Establishment and ongoing management of the trail:

3.1.12 Some physical establishment of the trail would be necessary, in accordance with the general approach described in part 7 the Overview. In the main this will be signage and waymarking.

3.1.13 Ongoing management: Ongoing management and maintenance would be necessary in accordance with the general approach described in part 8 of the Overview.

See parts 7 - 'Physical establishment of the trail' and 8 - 'Maintenance of the trail' of the Overview for more information.

Future Change:

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

See parts 6e - 'Coastal processes' and 9 - '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 3.a to 3.f: Aldwick Bay to Elmer

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.

Column 6a - certain specific coastal land types are included automatically in the coastal margin where they fall landward of the trail, or connect indirectly with it by touching another part of the coastal margin that itself touches the foreshore at some point.

1	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	6c	7
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of this section	Current surface of this section	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 9 of Overview)	Default landward coastal margin?	Landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary discretion	Proposed exclusions or restrictions (see Part 10 of Overview)
3a	EHS-3-S001	Public footpath	Gravel	No	No	Hedgerow	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-3-S002	Other existing walked route	Concrete	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S003	Other existing walked route	Block paving	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S004 to EHS-3-S005	Other existing walked route	Concrete	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S006 to EHS-3-S007	Other existing walked route	Grass	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S008 to EHS-3-S012	Other existing walked route	Shingle	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S013 to EHS-3-S014	Other existing walked route	Grass	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S015 to EHS-3-S016	Other existing walked route	Shingle	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S017	Other existing walked route	Grass	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S018 to EHS-3-S025	Other existing walked route	Shingle	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S026 to EHS-3-S029	Other existing walked route	Grass	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S030 to EHS-3-S041	Other existing walked route	Shingle	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
3.b	EHS-3-S042	Public footpath	Shingle	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S043	Public footpath	Tarmac	No	Yes	Various	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-3-S044 to EHS-3-S046	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	No	Road edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-3-S047 to EHS-3-S051	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-3-S052	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None

1	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	6c	7
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of this section	Current surface of this section	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 9 of Overview)	Default landward coastal margin?	Landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary discretion	Proposed exclusions or restrictions (see Part 10 of Overview)
3b	EHS-3-S053	Public footpath	Tarmac	No	Yes - barrier	Promenade edge	Not used	None
3b and 3c	EHS-3-S054 to EHS-3-S060	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	No	Yes - barrier	Promenade edge	Not used	None
3c and 3d	EHS-3-S061 to EHS-3-S063	Other existing walked route	Concrete	No	Yes - barrier	Promenade edge	Not used	None
3d	EHS-3-S064	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	No	Yes - barrier	Promenade edge	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S065 to EHS-3-S067	Public footpath	Tarmac	No	Yes - barrier	Promenade edge	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S068	Public footpath	Concrete	No	Yes - barrier	Promenade edge	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S069	Public footpath	Tarmac	No	Yes - barrier	Promenade edge	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S070	Public footpath	Bare soil: Compacted	No	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
3e	EHS-3-S071	Public footpath	Shingle	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S072 to EHS-3-S073	Public footpath	Grass	No	Yes	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S074 to EHS-3-S075	Public footpath	Gravel	No	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-3-S076	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-3-S077	Public highway	Tarmac	No	No	Landward edge of road	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-3-S078	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	No	No	Path edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-3-S079 to EHS-3-S085	Other existing walked route	Shingle	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
	EHS-3-S086 to EHS-3-S088	Other existing walked route	Gravel	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach	Not used	None
3f	EHS-3-S089	Public footpath	Gravel	No	No	Various	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-3-S090	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-3-S091 to EHS-3-S094	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-3-S095	Other existing walked route	Concrete	No	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	EHS-3-S096 to EHS-3-S103	Other existing walked route	Gravel	No	No	Various	Clarity and cohesion	None

3.2.2 Other options considered: Maps 3a to 3f : Aldwick Bay to Elmer

Map(s)	Section number(s)	Option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option as the route
3a	EHS-3-S006 to EHS-3-S041	At Aldwick Beach (part of Bognor Reef SSSI), we considered aligning the trail seaward of the proposed route, as requested by local residents due to privacy concerns.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It avoids the vegetated shingle habitat that is sensitive to trampling. ■ The existing informal path is along the landward boundary of the beach, adjacent to the properties. There is no clear, existing path seaward of the proposed route. ■ It avoids sections of unconsolidated shingle beach which is difficult to walk on for long distances. ■ Walkers are already using the proposed route and we believe that introducing another trail onto the beach would not change this established pattern of use.
3b	EHS-3-S042 to EHS-3-S052	We considered aligning the trail along the shingle beach at Aldwick.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The coastal defence structures prevent continuous access along the beach.
3f	EHS-3-S089 to EHS-3-S095	We considered aligning the trail along the shingle beach at Elmer.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The shingle beach is currently eroding at the two wave cusps along this section at Elmer, thereby limiting access at high tides, so the inland route has been chosen via Elmer Road and Manor Way using public footpaths.
3f	EHS-3-S094 to EHS-3-S103	We considered aligning the trail along the existing public footpath at Elmer, just inland of the coast, as shown on the map.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There are no seaward views from the public footpath. ■ The coastal defence structure is already used by the public, provides a good walking surface and offers seaward views.

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 3.a to 3.f.
- They should be read in conjunction with the relevant maps.
- The commentary above explains the practical effect of these proposals.

Formal Proposals – Aldwick Bay to Elmer

Proposed route of the trail

3.3.1 The route is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps 3.a to 3.f as the proposed route of the trail.

Landward boundary of coastal margin

- 3.3.2 Adjacent to route section EHS-3-S001, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the hedgerow, which is landward of the public footpath shown as the trail on map 3a.
- 3.3.3 Adjacent to route section EHS-3-S043, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the various boundary features, which are landward of the public footpath shown as the trail on map 3b.
- 3.3.4 Adjacent to route sections EHS-3-S044 to EHS-3-S045 and EHS-3-S047 to EHS-3-S051 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of the pavement shown as the trail on map 3b.
- 3.3.5 Adjacent to route section EHS-3-S046, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the road, which is landward of the pavement shown as the trail on map 3b.
- 3.3.6 Adjacent to route section EHS-3-S052, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the fence line, which is landward of the pavement shown as the trail on map 3b.
- 3.3.7 Adjacent to route section EHS-3-S074 and S075, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the fence line which is landward of the public footpath shown as the trail on map 3e.
- 3.3.8 Adjacent to route section EHS-3-S076, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the pavement shown as the trail on map 3e.
- 3.3.9 Adjacent to route section EHS-3-S077, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the road shown as the trail on map 3e.
- 3.3.10 Adjacent to route section EHS-3-S089, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with various boundary features which are landward of the public footpath shown as the trail on map 3f.
- 3.3.11 Adjacent to route sections EHS-3-S090 to EHS-3-S094, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the pavement shown as the trail on map 3f.

- 3.3.12 Adjacent to route section EHS-3-S095, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the fence line which is landward of the existing walked route shown as the trail on map 3f.
- 3.3.13 Adjacent to route sections EHS-3-S096 to EHS-3-S103, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with various boundary features which are landward of the existing walked route shown as the trail on map 3.f.

Local restrictions and exclusions

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

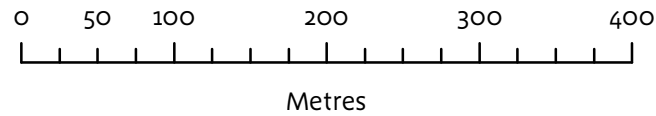
Refer to Part 10 of the Overview for further details.

Alternative routes

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

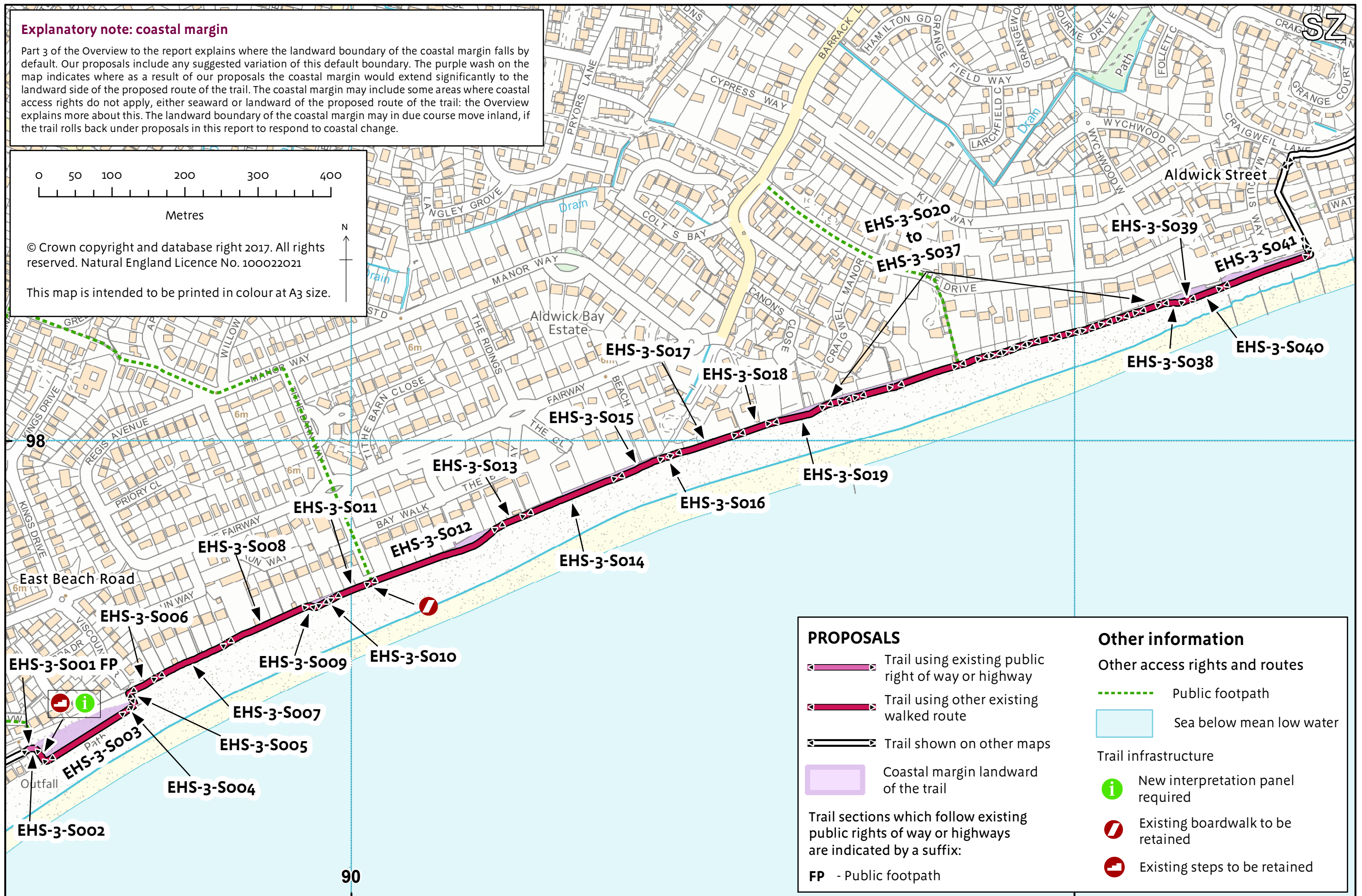
Explanatory note: coastal margin

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.



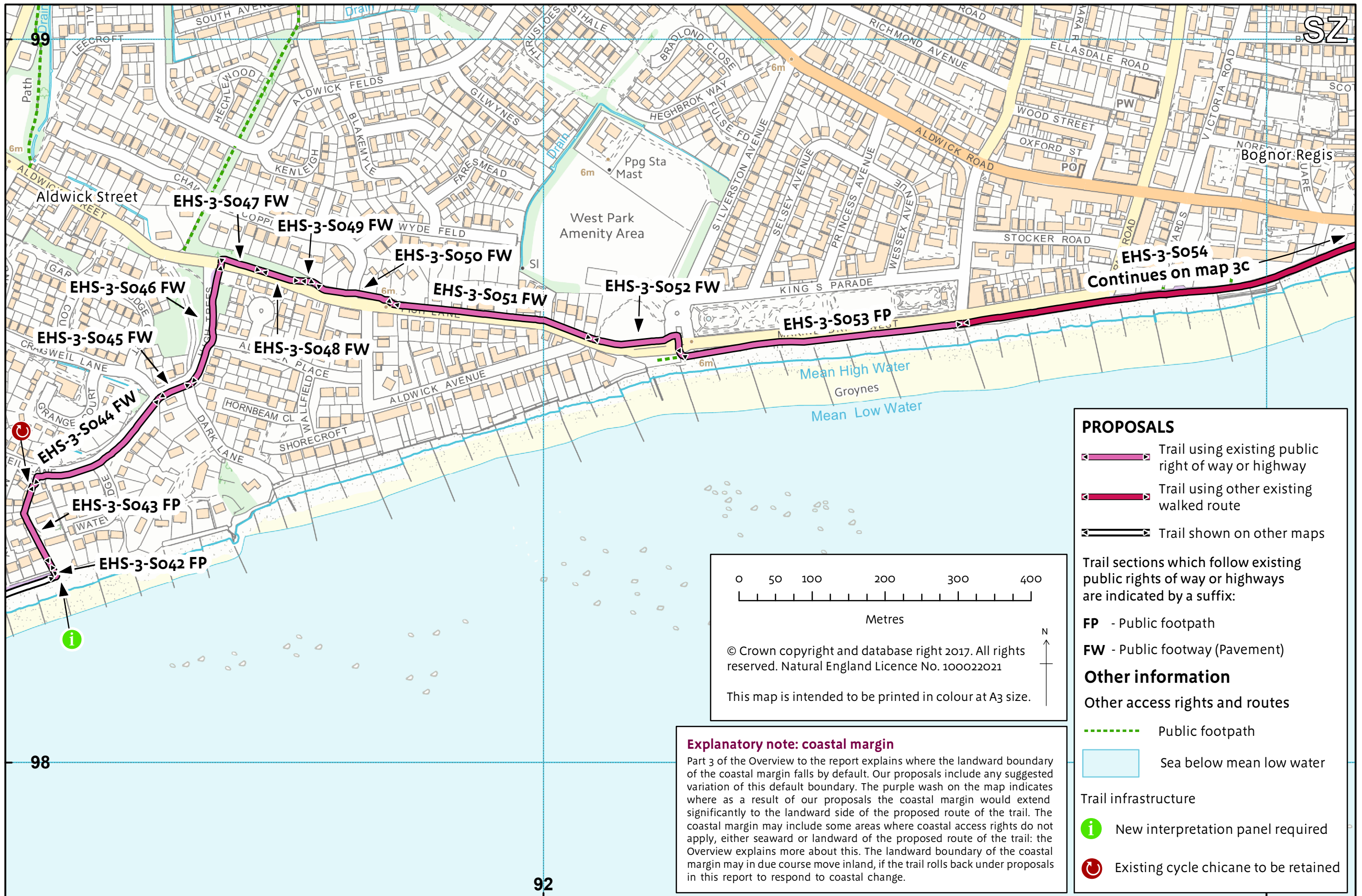
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PROPOSALS		Other information	
	Trail using existing public right of way or highway		Public footpath
	Trail using other existing walked route		Sea below mean low water
	Trail shown on other maps	Trail infrastructure	
	Coastal margin landward of the trail		New interpretation panel required
Trail sections which follow existing public rights of way or highways are indicated by a suffix:			Existing boardwalk to be retained
FP - Public footpath			Existing steps to be retained

Map 3a: East Beach Road to Aldwick Street



PROPOSALS

- Trail using existing public right of way or highway
- Trail using other existing walked route
- Trail shown on other maps

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

- FP** - Public footpath
- FW** - Public footway (Pavement)

Other information

- Public footpath
- Sea below mean low water

Trail infrastructure

- New interpretation panel required
- Existing cycle chicane to be retained

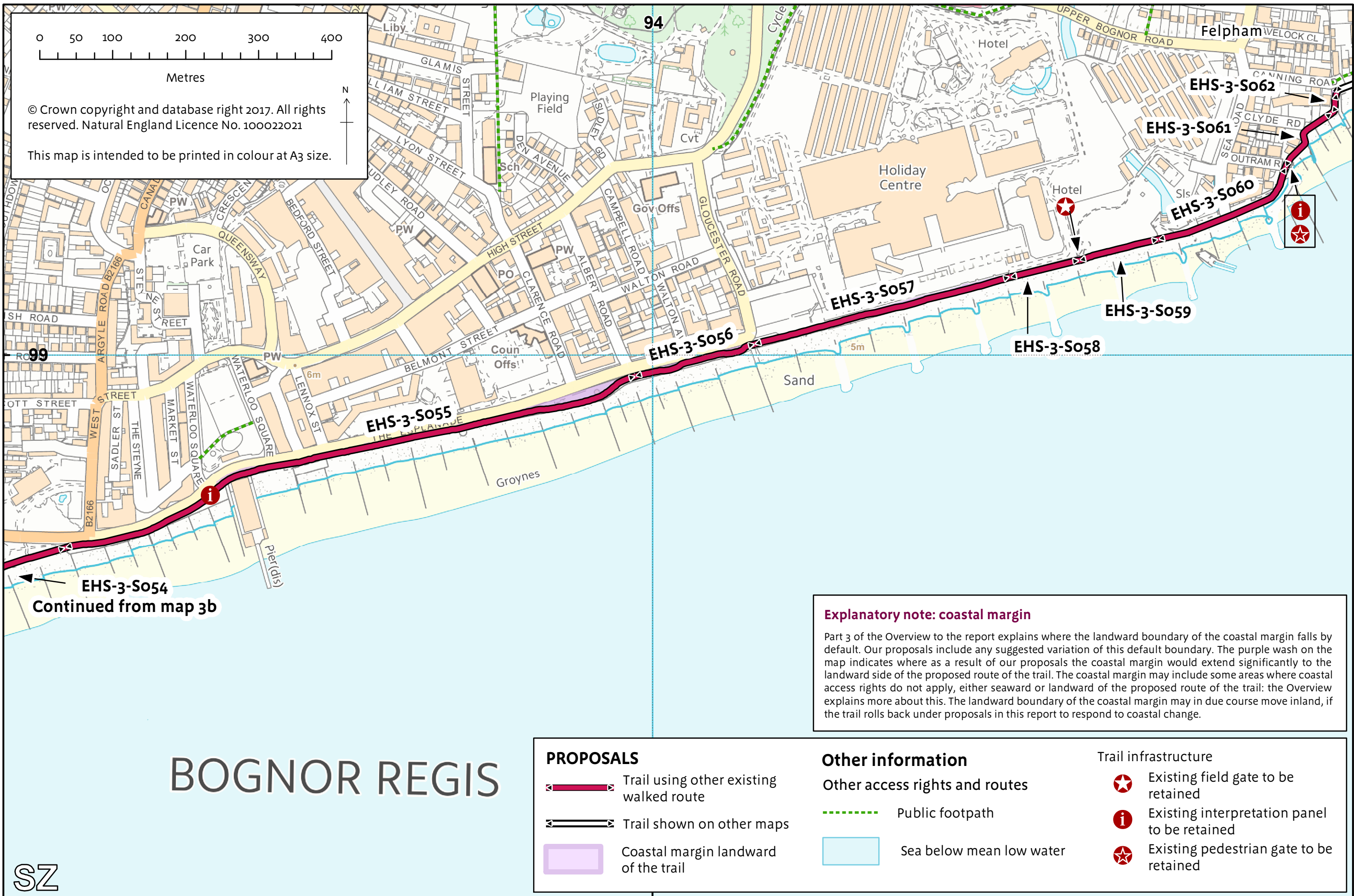
0 50 100 200 300 400
Metres

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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.



Map 3c: Bognor Regis to Felpham

0 50 100 200 300 400
Metres

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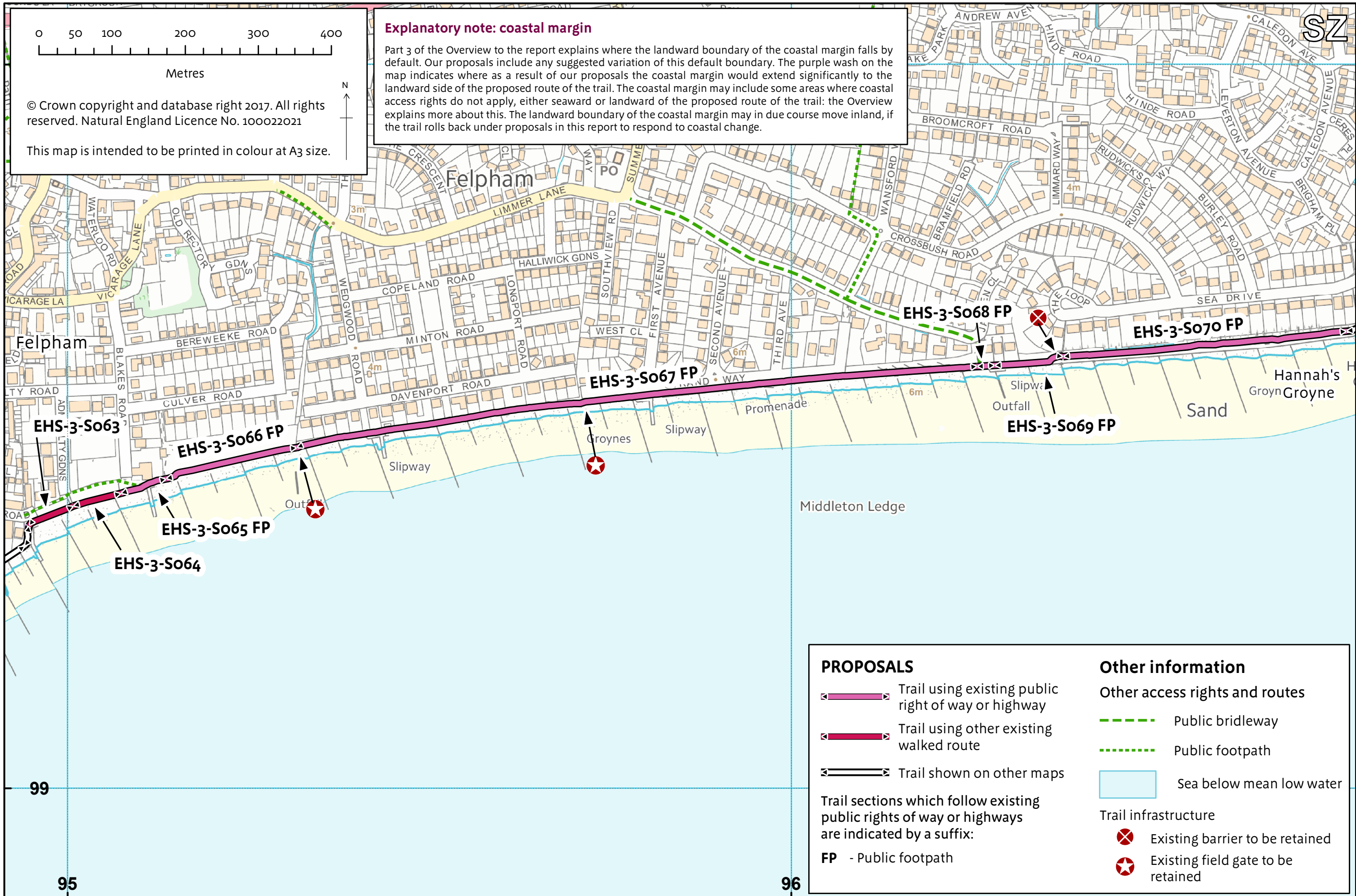
Explanatory note: coastal margin

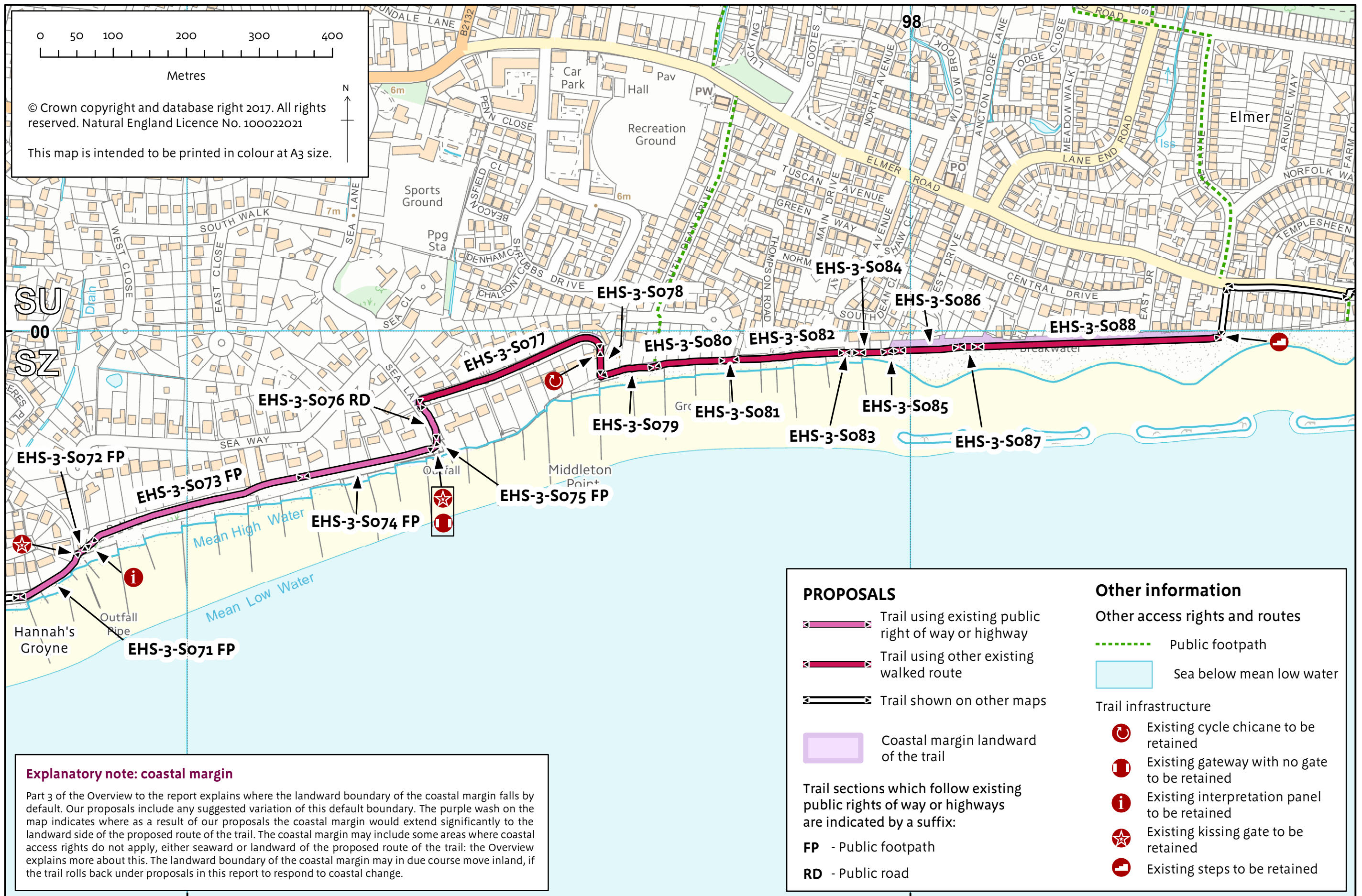
Part 3 of the Overview to the report explains where the landward boundary of the coastal margin falls by default. Our proposals include any suggested variation of this default boundary. The purple wash on the map indicates where as a result of our proposals the coastal margin would extend significantly 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.

<p>PROPOSALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail using other existing walked route Trail shown on other maps Coastal margin landward of the trail 	<p>Other information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public footpath Sea below mean low water 	<p>Trail infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing field gate to be retained Existing interpretation panel to be retained Existing pedestrian gate to be retained
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BOGNOR REGIS

SZ





Map 3e: Hannah's Groyne to Elmer

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

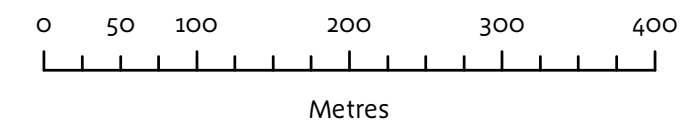
- Trail using existing public right of way or highway
 - Trail using other existing walked route
 - Trail shown on other maps
 - Coastal margin landward of the trail
- Trail sections which follow existing public rights of way or highways are indicated by a suffix:
- FP** - Public footpath
 - RD** - Public road

Other information

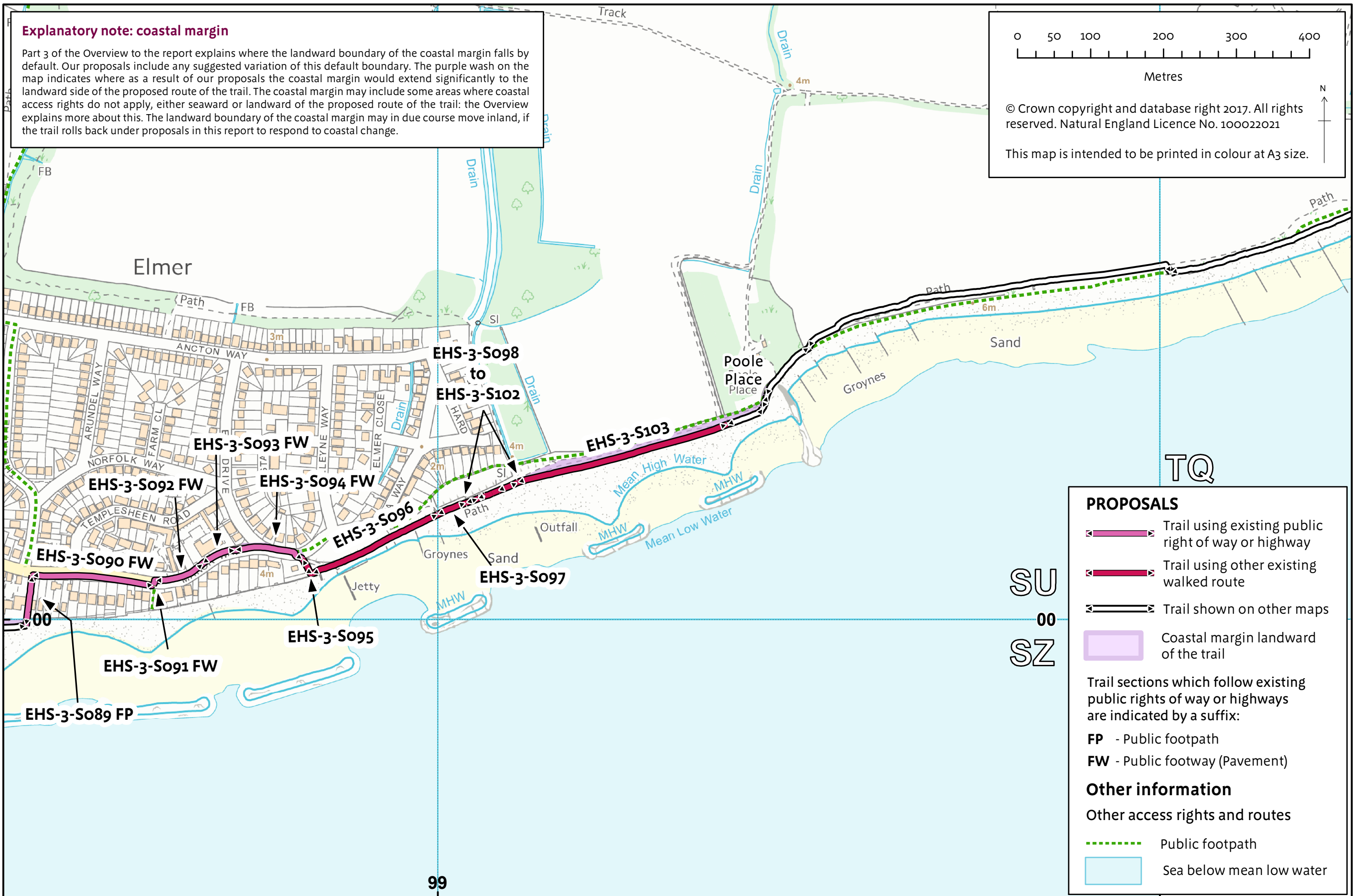
- Other access rights and routes**
- Public footpath
 - Sea below mean low water
- Trail infrastructure**
- Existing cycle chicane to be retained
 - Existing gateway with no gate to be retained
 - Existing interpretation panel to be retained
 - Existing kissing gate to be retained
 - Existing steps to be retained

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.



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PROPOSALS

- Trail using existing public right of way or highway
- Trail using other 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:

- FP** - Public footpath
- FW** - Public footway (Pavement)

Other information

- Public footpath
- Sea below mean low water

Map 3f: Elmer to Poole Place