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England Coast Path Stretch: Amble to Bamburgh

NATURAL ENGLAND

Report ABB 4: Linkhouse, Beadnell to Bamburgh

Part 4.1: Introduction

Start Point:	Linkhouse, Beadnell (Grid reference NU2288 3013)
End Point:	Bamburgh Castle Golf Course (Grid reference NU1722 3589)
Relevant Maps:	ABB 4a to ABB 4f

4.1.1 This is one of a series of linked but legally separate reports published by Natural England under section 51 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, which make proposals to the Secretary of State for improved public access along and to this stretch of coast between Amble and Bamburgh.

4.1.2 This report covers length ABB 4 of the stretch, which is the coast between Linkhouse, Beadnell and Bamburgh. It makes free-standing statutory proposals for this part of the stretch, and seeks approval for them by the Secretary of State in their own right under section 52 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

4.1.3 The report explains how we propose to implement the England Coast Path ("the trail") on this part of the stretch, and details the likely consequences in terms of the wider 'Coastal Margin' that will be created if our proposals are approved by the Secretary of State. Our report also sets out:

- any proposals we think are necessary for restricting or excluding coastal access rights to address particular issues, in line with the powers in the legislation; and
- any proposed powers for the trail to be capable of being relocated on particular sections ("rollback"), if this proves necessary in the future because of coastal change.

4.1.4 There is also a single Overview document for the whole of this stretch of coast, explaining common principles and background. This and the other individual reports relating to the stretch should be read in conjunction with the Overview. The Overview explains, among other things, how we have considered any potential environmental impacts of improving public access to this part of the coast, and this report, and other separately published assessments we refer to, then provides more detail on these aspects where appropriate.

Part 4.2: Proposals Narrative

The trail:

4.2.1 Generally follows existing walked routes, including public rights of way, along most of this length.

4.2.2 Mainly follows the coastline quite closely through dune habitat and the settlement of Seahouses, maintaining good views of the sea.

4.2.3 Includes two sections of new path at St Aidan's Dunes (ABB-4-S032) and Greenhill Links (ABB-4-S039). See maps ABB 4c, ABB 4d and associated tables below for details.

4.2.4 Follows a route similar to the existing Northumberland Coast Path and St Oswald's Way, but departs from these in places in order to comply with the scheme.

Protection of the environment:

In this part of the report, we explain how we have taken account of environmental protection objectives in developing our proposals for improved coastal access.

4.2.5 The following designated sites affect this length of coast:

- Northumbria Coast Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Northumberland Marine SPA
- Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- North Northumberland Dunes SAC
- Berwick to St Mary's Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)
- Northumbria Coast Ramsar
- Northumberland Shore Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Bamburgh Dunes SSSI
- Bamburgh Coast and Hills SSSI

Maps ABB C and ABB D in the Overview shows the extent of designated areas listed.

4.2.6 We consider that the coastal environment, including features of the sites listed above, along this length of coast is unlikely to be sensitive to the improvements to coastal access envisaged and that no special measures are needed in respect of our proposals.

4.2.7 Natural England is satisfied that the proposals for coastal access in this report are made in accordance with relevant environmental protection legislation. For more information about how we came to this conclusion; see the following assessments of the access proposals that we have published separately:

- A Habitats Regulations Assessment relating to any potential impact on the conservation objectives of European sites.
- Our Nature Conservation Assessment, in which we document our conclusions in relation to other potential impacts on nature conservation.

Part 6b of the Overview includes some contextual information about protecting the environment along this length of coast.

Accessibility:

4.2.8 There are few artificial barriers to accessibility on the proposed route. However, the natural coastal terrain is often challenging for people with reduced mobility and this is the case on sections of our proposed route because:

• The majority of the trail follows uneven terrain through the dune habitat of Annstead Dunes, St Aidan's Dunes, Greenhill Links and Bamburgh Dunes.

4.2.9 At Annstead Dunes and Seahouses (ABB-4-S003 FW), the existing back-filled steps and a length of trail surface will be improved, so as to make them easier to use. On a steep slope at Bamburgh Dunes (ABB-4-S044) back-filled steps will be installed to make them easier to use. We envisage this happening as part of the physical establishment work described below.

See part 6a of the Overview - 'Recreational issues' - for more information.

Where we have proposed exercising statutory discretions:

4.2.10 **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 4.3.1 below.

4.2.11 At ABB-4-S039 to ABB-4-S040 we have used this discretion to limit the landward extent of the coastal margin to the existing boundary fence. This has had the effect of reducing the amount of coastal margin that would have otherwise been available by default.

At ABB-4-S039 to ABB-4-S040 this option provides the most clarity because the existing boundary fence, which separates the dune from the road verge provides an easily identifiable boundary for access users.

4.2.12 The Proposals Tables show where we are proposing to alter the default landward boundary of the coastal margin. These proposals are set out in columns 5b and 5c of table 4.3.1. Where these columns are left blank, we are making no such proposals, so the default landward boundary applies. See the note relating to Columns 5b & 5c (above Table 4.3.1) explaining what this means in practice.

See also part 3 of the Overview - 'Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps', for a more detailed 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.

4.2.13 **Coastal erosion:** Natural England is able to propose that the route of the trail would be able to change in the future, without further approval from the Secretary of State, in response to coastal change. This would happen in accordance with the criteria and procedures for 'roll-back' set out in part 7 of the Overview.

Natural England may only propose the use of this roll-back power:

- as a result of coastal erosion or other geomorphological processes or encroachment by the sea, or
- in order to link with other parts of the route that need to roll back in direct response to such changes.

4.2.14 Column 4 of Table 4.3.1 indicates where roll-back has been proposed in relation to a route section. Where this is the case, the route, as initially determined at the time the report was prepared, is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps ABB 4a to ABB 4f as the proposed route of the trail.

4.2.15 If at any time in the future any part of a route section upon which roll-back has been specified needs, in Natural England's view, to change 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 7 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.

On sections for which roll-back is <u>not</u> proposed in table 4.3.1, the route is to be at the centre of the line shown on map ABB 4b as the proposed route of the trail.

Other future change:

4.2.16 At this point we do not foresee any other need for future changes to the access provisions that we have proposed within this report.

See parts 7 - 'Future changes' of the Overview for more information.

Establishment of the trail:

4.2.17 Below we summarise how our proposed route for the trail would be physically established to make it ready for public use before any new rights come into force.

Establishment works will only start on this length of coast once these proposals have been approved by the Secretary of State. The works may therefore either precede or follow the start of establishment works on other lengths of coast within the stretch, and detailed in their separate reports.

4.2.18 Our estimate of the capital costs for physical establishment of the trail on the proposed route is $\pounds 29,095.00$ and is informed by:

- information already held by the access authority, Northumberland County Council, in relation to the management of the existing Northumberland Coast Path;
- information gathered while visiting affected land and talking to the people who own and manage it about the options for the route.

4.2.19 There are two main elements to the overall cost:

- A significant number of new signs would be needed on the trail to ensure the trail is clearly marked for users.
- Any signs and information boards with outdated information about the existing route of the Northumberland Coast Path would require replacement.
- The surfaces and access furniture of the existing paths and footways on the proposed route are generally of a suitable standard for the trail, but there are some places where new steps, graded paths, surfaces, footbridges and kissing gates would enhance the convenience of the trail. More significant items of establishment works are shown on the relevant maps accompanying this report.

Table 1 shows our estimate of the capital cost for each of the main elements of physical establishment described above.

Table 1: Estimate of capital costs

Item	Cost
Signs & interpretation	£ 9,100.00
Boundary crossing	£500.00
Project management	£ 3,795.00
Surfacing works	£15,700.00
Total	£29,095.00 (Exclusive of any VAT payable)

4.2.20 Once the Secretary of State's decision on our report has been notified, and further to our conversations with land managers during the route planning stage, Northumberland County Council will liaise with affected land owners and occupiers about relevant aspects of the design, installation and maintenance of the new signs and infrastructure that are needed on their land. Prior to works being carried out on the ground, all necessary permissions, authorisations and consents will be obtained. All such works would conform to the published standards for National Trails and the other criteria described in our Coastal Access Scheme.

Maintenance of the trail:

4.2.21 Because the trail on this length of coast will form part of the National Trail being created around the whole coast of England called the England Coast Path, we envisage that it will be maintained to the same high quality standards as other National Trails in England (see The New Deal; Management of National Trails in England from April 2013: details at Annex A of the Overview).

4.2.22 We estimate that the annual cost to maintain the trail will be £4,722.00 (exclusive of any VAT payable). In developing this estimate we have taken account of the formula used to calculate Natural England's contribution to the maintenance of other National Trails.

Part 4.3: Proposals Tables

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

4.3.1 Section Details – Maps ABB 4a to ABB 4f: Linkhouse, Beadnell to Bamburgh

Key notes on table:

- 1. Column 2 an asterisk (*) against the route section number means see also table 4.3.2: Other options considered.
- Column 4 'No' means no roll-back is proposed for this route section. 'Yes normal' means rollback is proposed and is likely to follow the current feature (e.g. cliff edge/beach) for the foreseeable future as any coastal change occurs.
- 3. Column 5a Certain coastal land types are included automatically in the coastal margin where they fall landward of the trail if they touch it at some point. The relevant land type (foreshore, cliff, bank, barrier, dune, beach, flat or section 15 land see Glossary) is shown in this column where appropriate. "No" means none present on this route section.
- 4. Columns 5b and 5c Any entry in these columns means we are proposing to align the landward boundary of the coastal margin on this route section with the physical feature(s) shown in 5b, for the reason in 5c. No text here means that for this route section the landward edge of the margin would be that of the trail itself or if any default coastal land type is shown in 5a, that would be its landward boundary instead.

1	2	3	4	5a	5b	5c	6
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of route section(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
4a	ABB-4-S001 FW	Public footway (pavement)	Yes - Normal	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and Cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4a	ABB-4-S002	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4a	ABB-4-S003 FW*	Public footway (pavement)	Yes - Normal	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S004 FP*	Public footpath	Yes - Normal	No	Track	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S005 FP *	Public footpath	Yes - Normal	No	Track	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S006 FP*	Public footpath	Yes - Normal	No	Path	Clarity and Cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S007 FP*	Public footpath	Yes - Normal	No	Path	Clarity and Cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA

1	2	3	4	5a	5b	5c	6
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of route section(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
4b	ABB-4-S008	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	No	Path	Clarity and Cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S009 FP	Public footpath	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S010 FP	Public footpath	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S011 FP	Public footpath	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S012 FP	Public footpath	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S013 FP	Public footpath	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S014 FP	Public footpath	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and Cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S015 FW	Public footway (pavement)	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and Cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S016 FW	Public footway (pavement)	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and Cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4- S017*	Other existing walked route	No	No	Path	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S018 FW*	Public footway (pavement)	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S019 RD*	Public highway	No	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S020 FW*	Public footway (pavement)	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and Cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S021	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S022	Other existing	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA

1	2	3	4	5a	5b	5c	6
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of route section(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
		walked route					
4b	ABB-4-S023	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
4b	ABB-4-S024	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4c	ABB-4- S025*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4c	ABB-4- S026*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4c	ABB-4- S027*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4c	ABB-4- S028*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4c	ABB-4- S029*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4c	ABB-4- S030*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4c	ABB-4- S031*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4c	ABB-4- S032*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4c	ABB-4- S033*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4c	ABB-4- S034*	Other existing	Yes - Normal	No	Road	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA

1	2	3	4	5a	5b	5c	6
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of route section(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
		walked route					
ABB 4c	ABB-4-S035	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	No	Road	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4c	ABB-4-S036	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	No	Road	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4c	ABB-4-S037	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	No	Road	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4c	ABB-4-S038	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4d	ABB-4-S039	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4d	ABB-4-S040	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4d	ABB-4-S041	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4d	ABB-4-S042	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4e	ABB-4-S043 *	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4e	ABB-4-S044 *	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4e	ABB-4-S045 *	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4e	ABB-4-S046 *	Other existing	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA

1	2	3	4	5a	5b	5c	6
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of route section(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
		walked route					
ABB 4e	ABB-4-S047 FP	Public footpath	Yes - Normal	No	Various	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4e	ABB-4-S048 FP	Public footpath	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
ABB 4f	ABB-4-S049 RD	Public highway	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA

4.3.2 Other options considered: Maps ABB 4a to ABB 4f: Linkhouse, Beadnell to Bamburgh

Map(s)	Route section numbers(s)	Other option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option
ABB 4b	ABB-4-S003 to ABB-4- S007	We considered aligning the trail on the seaward side of Seahouses Golf Course and using the other existing public footpath that run through the course, as shown on the map	 We opted for the proposed route because: it does not obstruct the play this proposal is made with the support of the landowner and the golf course 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 public footpath would remain available for people to use as part of the spreading room, but would not form part of the designated trail
	ABB-4-S017 to ABB-4- S020	We considered aligning the trail along the front of Seahouses harbour	 We opted for the proposed route because: 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

Map(s)	Route section numbers(s)	Other option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option
ABB 4c	ABB-4-S025 to ABB-4- S034	 We considered aligning the trail landward of St Aidan's dunes: along the B1340 roadside verge through the landward paddocks 	 We opted for the proposed route because: it is closer to the sea and maintains views of the sea 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
ABB 4e	ABB-4-S043 to ABB-4- S046	We considered following the public right of way landward of Bamburgh Castle which also coincides with the location of the Northumberland Coast Path and St Oswald's Way	 We opted for the proposed route because: it is closer to the sea and maintains views of the sea 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

Note: Any public rights of way not forming part of the proposed trail would remain available for people to use under their pre-existing rights.

Part 4.4: Proposal Maps

4.4.1 Map Index

Map reference	Map title
ABB 4a	Linkhouse to Seahouses Golf Course
ABB 4b	Seahouses Golf Course to St Aidan's Dunes
ABB 4c	St Aidan's Dunes to Monks House
ABB 4d	Monks House to Bamburgh Dunes
ABB 4e	Bamburgh Dunes to Bamburgh Castle
ABB 4f	Bamburgh Castle to Bamburgh Castle Golf Course



PROPOSALS

Trail Sections



Maps that show sections of the trail that follow the existing South West Coast Path as currently walked and managed use the following trail categories. Information on the existing status and infrastructure is not shown.



Trail using existing South West Coast Path

Q - D

Alternative or optional alternative route using existing South West Coast Path

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

- BW Public bridleway
- BY Public byway
- CP Cycletrack (pedestrian)
- CT Cycletrack (cycles only)
- FP Public footpath
- FW Public footway (Pavement)
- **RB** Restricted byway
- RD Public road

Coastal Margin

Explanatory note

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.

Coastal margin landward of the trail



Coastal margin landward of the trail which is existing access land

Other Information

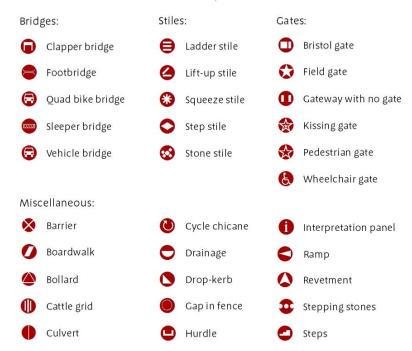
Other access rights and routes

- Public bridleways
- ► + + Public byways
- Public footpaths
- ··· Restricted byways
- South West Coast Path
- Sustrans national routes

Existing access land

Infrastructure types

For status of each, where shown on map, see colour codes below



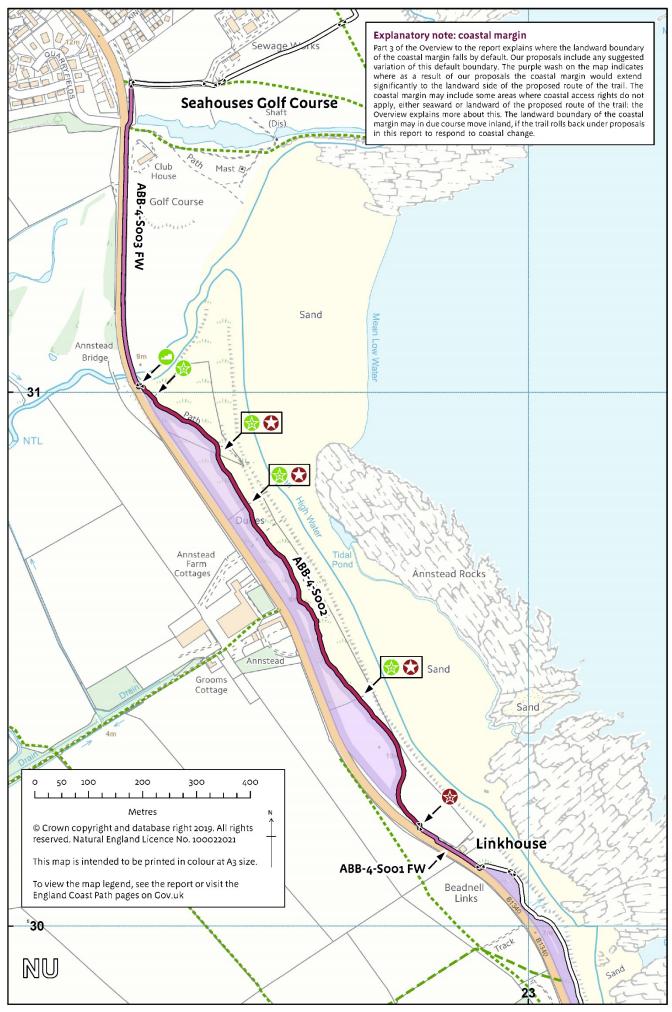
Infrastructure status

Each symbol shown on the map is colour coded as appropriate, as in this example for a set of steps:

 Existing steps to be retained
 New steps required
 Existing steps to be removed

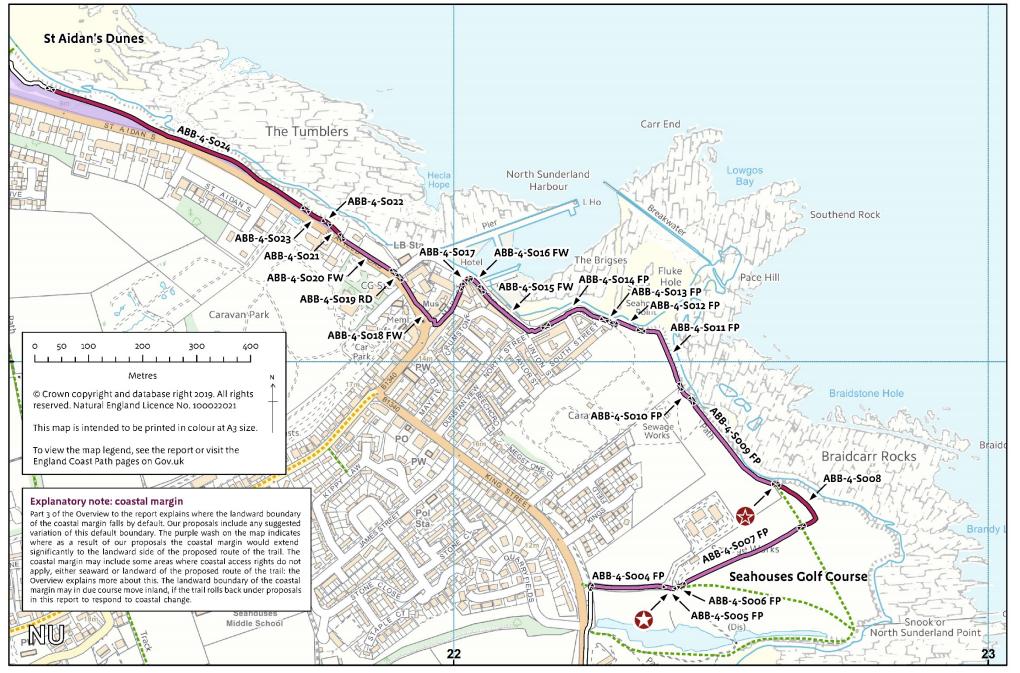


Coastal Access - Amble to Bamburgh - Natural England's Proposals Report ABB 4: Linkhouse, Beadnell to Bamburgh Map ABB 4a: Linkhouse to Seahouses Golf Course



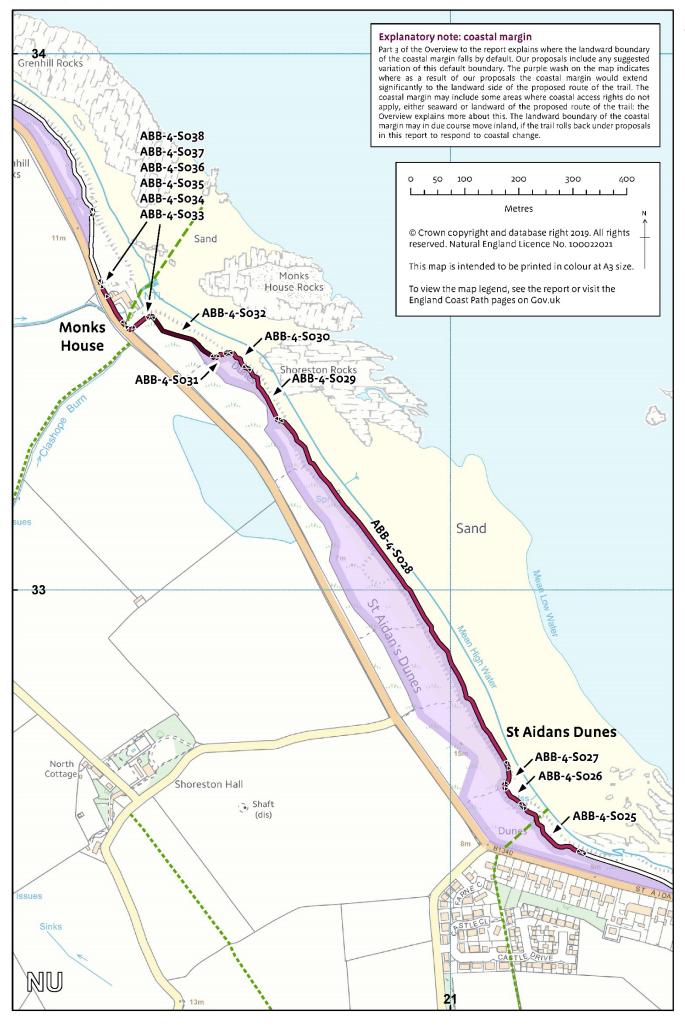


Coastal Access - Amble to Bamburgh - Natural England's Proposals Report ABB 4: Linkhouse, Beadnell to Bamburgh Map ABB 4b: Seahouses Golf Course to St Aidan's Dunes



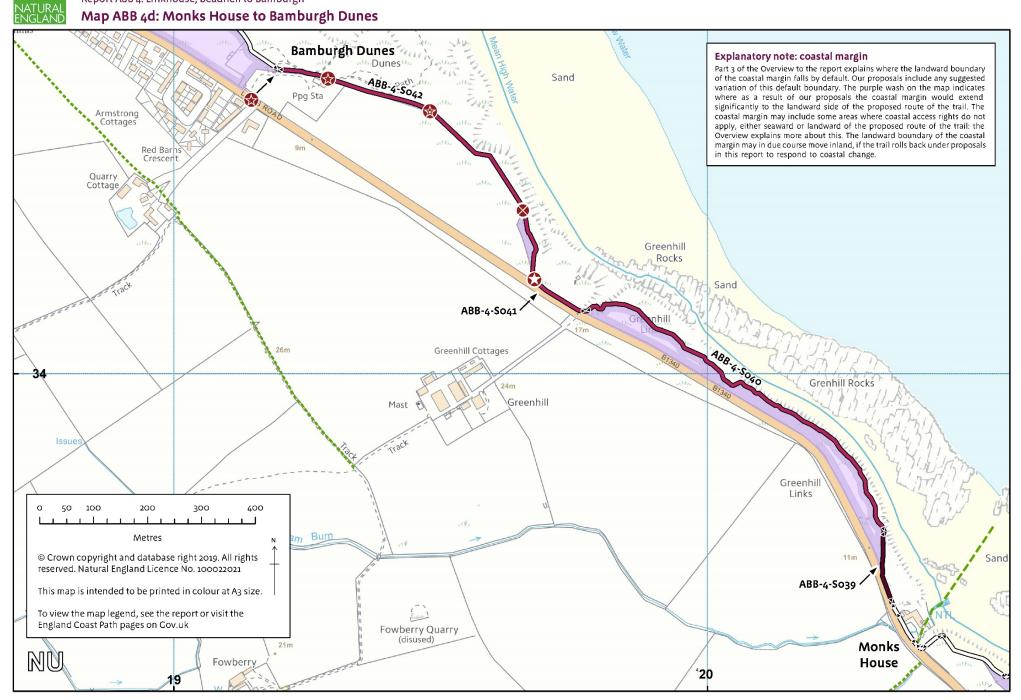


Coastal Access - Amble to Bamburgh - Natural England's Proposals Report ABB 4: Linkhouse, Beadnell to Bamburgh Map ABB 4c: St Aidan's Dunes to Monks House



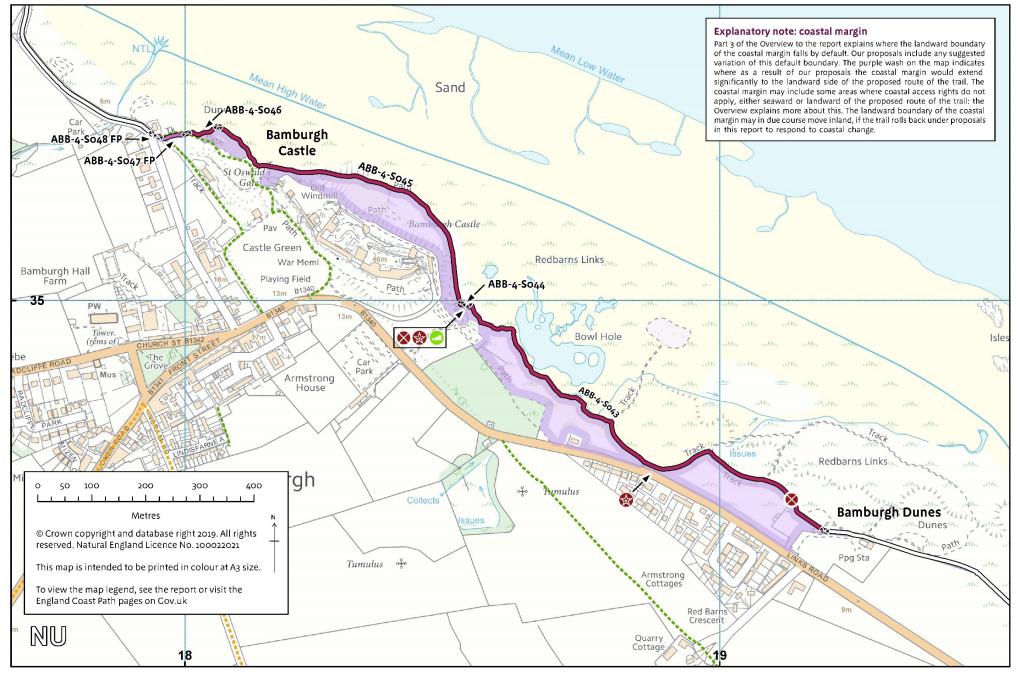
Coastal Access - Amble to Bamburgh - Natural England's Proposals Report ABB 4: Linkhouse, Beadnell to Bamburgh

Map ABB 4d: Monks House to Bamburgh Dunes



NATURAL ENGLAND Coastal Access - Amble to Bamburgh - Natural England's Proposals Report ABB 4: Linkhouse, Beadnell to Bamburgh

Map ABB 4e: Bamburgh Dunes to Bamburgh Castle





Coastal Access - Amble to Bamburgh - Natural England's Proposals Report ABB 4: Linkhouse, Beadnell to Bamburgh Map ABB 4f: Bamburgh Castle to Bamburgh Castle Golf Course

