

Chapter 4:

# Robin Hood's Bay to Whitby Abbey

Coastal Access: Filey to Newport Bridge - Natural England's Proposals

## Part 4.1: Introduction

<b>Start Point:</b>	<b>Robin Hood's Bay</b> (grid reference: NZ 952 048)
<b>End Point:</b>	<b>Whitby Abbey</b> (grid reference: NZ 403 113)
<b>Relevant Maps:</b>	<b>4a to 4f</b>

### Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps:

#### The Trail:

4.1.1 Our proposed alignment for the trail follows the existing route walked by users of the Cleveland Way. Usually this alignment coincides with an underlying public right of way but occasionally informal diversions have been established, marked out by the regular passage of feet. The main reason for this is that the cliffs along this length of coast are eroding and there are several places where the path people follow in practice along the cliff top has moved inland. Our proposed alignment follows the established walked route, and (subject to approval) would in due course secure it as the route of both National Trails, once we propose replacing the previously approved line of the Cleveland Way with that of the proposed line for England Coast Path.

Our proposed route through Robin Hood's Bay follows that currently recommended to people following the Cleveland Way. The original proposals made for the Cleveland Way in 1969 omitted this section of trail, so it does not formally form part of that route. We intend to remedy this using a varying report once the England Coast Path route is approved.

The existing route meets the criteria set out in the Coastal Access Scheme to which Natural England should have specific regard:

- The safety and convenience of those using the route;
- The desirability of it adhering to the periphery of the coast and providing views of the sea; and
- The desirability of ensuring that, so far as is reasonably practicable, interruptions to it are kept to a minimum.

4.1.2 The trail follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea.

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

- Robin Hood's Bay. Maw Wyke to Beast Cliff Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Whitby – Saltwick (SSSI)

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

- 4.1.4 The Cleveland Way is a well-established and popular National Trail. Our proposed trail alignment follows this existing route. The coastal margin is largely cliff slope and beach. We don't anticipate any conflict with protecting key sensitive features on this length of coast.

**See part 5b of the Overview 'Natural Environment' for more details about the appraisal process described above, or refer to our published Access and Sensitive Features Appraisal for more information about the conclusions of the appraisal.**

## **Accessibility**

- 4.1.5 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:

- The trail would follow an uneven grass or bare soil path along the cliff top;
- There are steps in places where it would be necessary to ascend and descend steeply.

**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 the Overview.

- 4.1.6 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 4.2.1 below.

**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'.**

- 4.1.7 The new access rights would also be subject to the excepted land types summarised in Annex C of the Overview, and the national restrictions on activities listed in Annex D. This would be so throughout the coastal margin, but these restrictions would not apply to the existing public rights of way.

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

- 4.1.8 Establishment: Most of this length of trail is in very good condition. Some minor repairs and upgrades will be carried out to the path surface and trail furniture prior to opening.
- 4.1.9 Ongoing management: 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**

- 4.1.10 All 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 likely to be affected in the foreseeable future.

4.1.11 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 Maps

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

### 4.2.1 Section Details – Maps 4a to 4f: Robin Hood's Bay to Whitby Abbey

Notes on table:

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 5 – 'Yes – see table 1.2.2 means refer to that table below about our likely approach to roll-back on this part of the route.

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)
4a	FNG-4-S001	Public Highway	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S002	Public Footway (pavement)	Steps: Concrete	Yes: normal	Landward pavement edge	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S003	Public Footway (pavement)	Tarmac	Yes: See table 4.2.2	Landward pavement edge	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S004	Public Footpath	Stone: Aggregate	Yes: See table 4.2.2	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S005	Public Footpath	Stone: Aggregate	Yes: See table 4.2.2	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S006	Public Footpath	Stone: Aggregate	Yes: See table 4.2.2	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S007	Public Footpath	Stone: Aggregate	Yes: See table 4.2.2	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S008	Public Footpath	Stone: Aggregate	Yes: normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S009	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S010	Public Footpath	Steps: Concrete	Yes: normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S011	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
4b	FNG-4-S012	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Various	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S013	Other existing walked route	Grass	Yes: normal	Various	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S014	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Various	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S015	Other existing walked route	Bare Soil	Yes: normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S016	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	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)
4c	FNG-4-S017	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S018	Other existing walked route	Grass	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S019	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S020	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S021	Public Footpath	Steps: Stone	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S022	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S023	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S024	Public Footpath	Steps: Timber	Yes: normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
4d	FNG-4-S025	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Various	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S026	Public Footpath	Steps: Stone	Yes: normal	Various	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S027	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Various	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S028	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S029	Public Footpath	Steps: Timber	Yes: normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S030	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S031	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S032	Public Footpath	Steps: Timber	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S033	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
4e	FNG-4-S034	Public Footpath	Stone: Aggregate	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S035	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S036	Public Footpath	Stone: Aggregate	Yes: normal	Wall	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S037	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S038	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S039	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes: normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S040	Public Highway	Tarmac	Yes: See table 4.2.2	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S041	Public Footpath	Tarmac	Yes: See table 4.2.2	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S042	Public Footpath	Stone: Aggregate	Yes: See table 4.2.2	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
4f	FNG-4-S043	Public Footpath	Steps: Timber	Yes: normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S044	Public Footpath	Stone: Aggregate	Yes: normal	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None
	FNG-4-S045	Public Footpath	Stone: Aggregate	Yes: normal	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	FNG-4-S046	Public Footpath	Concrete	Yes: See table 4.2.2	Landward edge of trail	Not used	None

#### 4.2.2 Roll-back implementation – more complex situations: Maps 4a to 4f. Robin Hood's Bay to Whitby Abbey.

Map(s)	Section number(s)	Option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option as the route
4a	FNG-4-S003 to FNG-4-S007	Buildings and curtilage	If it is no longer possible to find a viable route seaward of the specified excepted land (e.g. buildings, curtilage, gardens etc), we will choose a route landward of it, following discussions with owners and occupiers.
4e	FNG-4-S040 to FNG-4-S042	Caravan Park	If it is no longer possible to find a viable route seaward of the caravan site we will choose a new route after detailed discussions with all relevant interests, either (a) to pass through the site or (b) if this is not practicable, to pass somewhere on the landward side of it. In reaching this judgement we will have full regard to the need to seek a fair balance between the interests of potentially affected owners and occupiers and those of the public.
4f	FNG-4-S046	Buildings and curtilage	If it is no longer possible to find a viable route seaward of the specified excepted land (e.g. buildings, curtilage, gardens etc), we will choose a route landward of it, following discussions with owners and occupiers.

Note: 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 4f.
- They should be read in conjunction with the relevant maps.
- The commentary above explains the practical effect of these proposals.

### Formal Proposals – Robin Hood's Bay to Whitby Abbey

#### Proposed route of the trail

- 4.3.1 The route is to be at the centre of the line shown on map 4a as the proposed route of the trail.
- 4.3.2 In relation to route sections FNG-4-S002 to FNG-4-S046, 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 4f as the proposed route of the trail.
- 4.3.3 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.

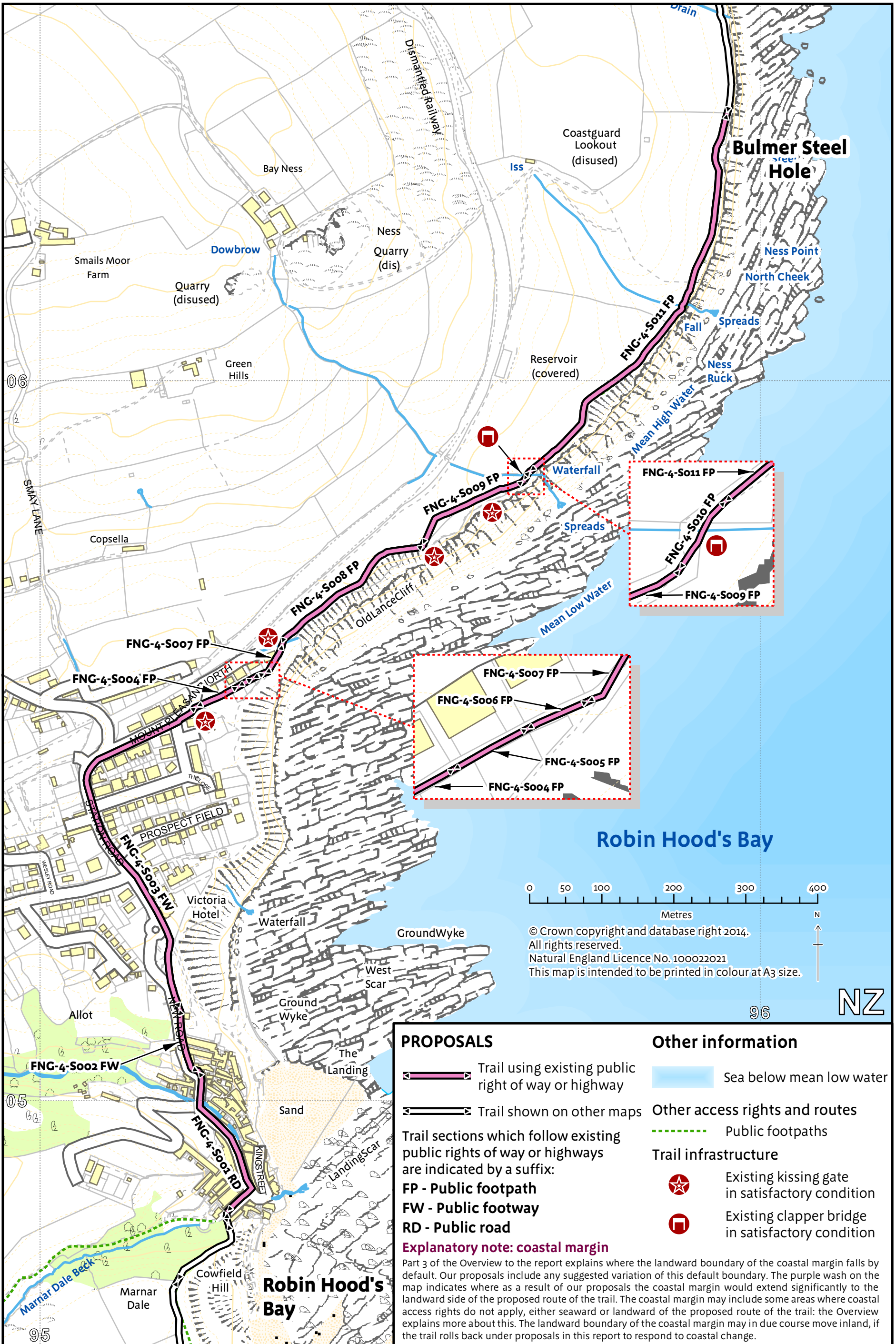
#### Landward boundary of coastal margin

- 4.3.4 Adjacent to route sections FNG-4-S012 to FNG-4-S014, FNG-4-S016 to FNG-4-S022, FNG-4-S025 to FNG-4-S027, FNG-4-S030 to 037 and FNG-4-S045, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with fence line or wall which, at the time of writing this report, is landward of the public footpath shown as the trail on maps 4b to 4f.
- 4.3.5 Adjacent to route sections FNG-4-S002 and FNG-4-S003 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of the pavement shown as the trail on map 4a.

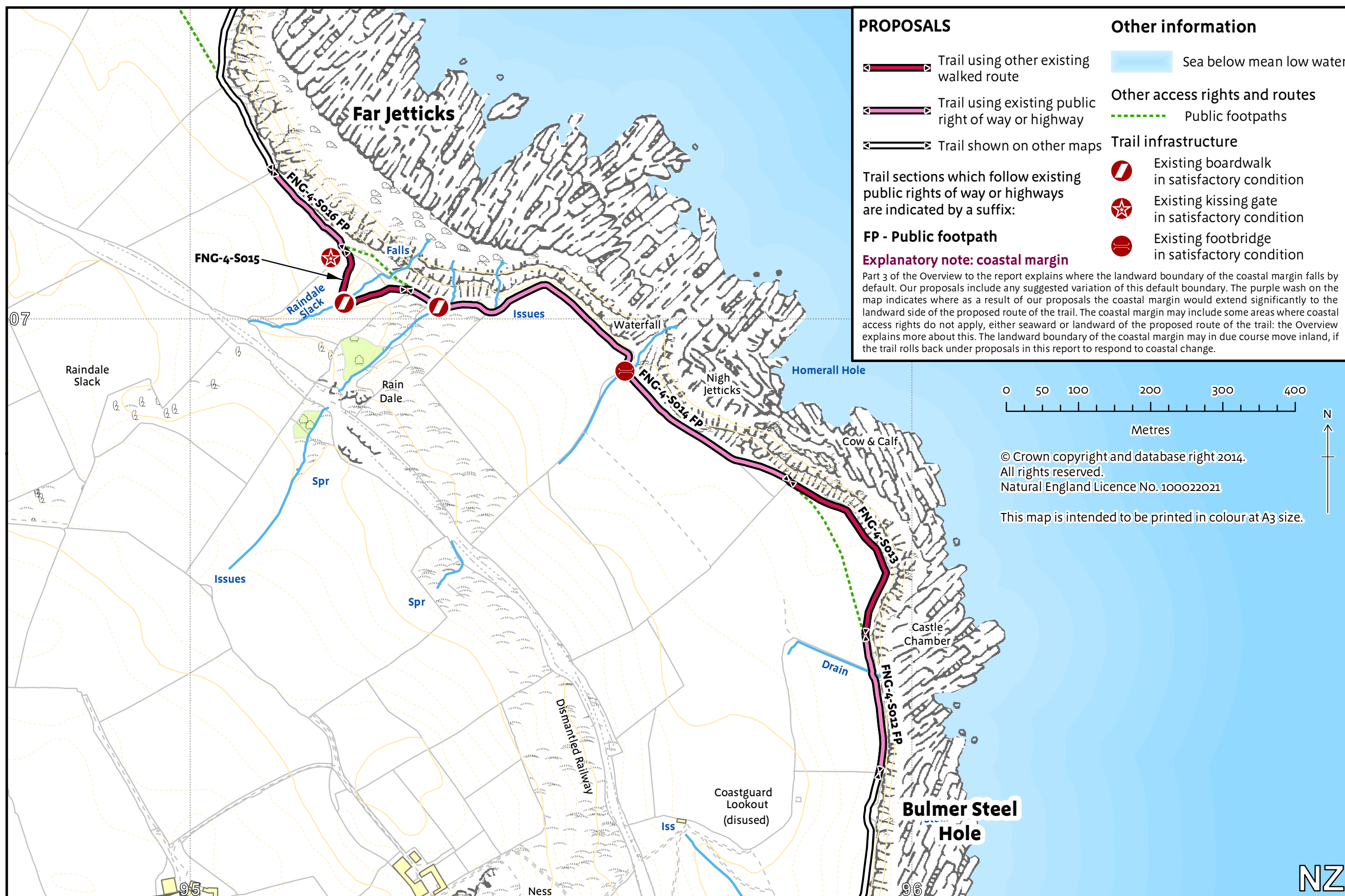
#### Local restrictions and exclusions

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









## Map 4c Far Jetticks to Oakham Wood

