

Chapter 2:

Holliwell Farm to Bradwell Power Station

England Coast Path: Burnham-on-Crouch to Maldon - Natural England's Proposals

Part 2.1: Introduction

Start Point: : Holliwell Farm (grid reference: TR 016 957)

End Point: Bradwell Power Station (grid reference: TL 998 088)

Relevant Maps: 2a to 2k

Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps:

The Trail:

- 2.1.1 Generally follows existing walked routes, including public rights of way, along most of this length.
- 2.1.2 Mainly follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea.
- 2.1.3 This part of the coast includes the following sites, designated for nature conservation or heritage preservation (See map C and C2 of the Overview):
 - Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1) Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1) Ramsar site
 - Dengie Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its wildlife, habitat and geomorphological interest
 - Blackwater, Crouch, Roach and Colne Estuaries Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)
 - Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) – proposed extension area
 - World War II pillbox 980m south east of Holliwell Farm, Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)
 - Saxon Shore fort and Anglo-Saxon monastery at Bradwell-on-Sea, Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM).

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.

2.1.4 With input from specialists we have considered each of the sites involved and the relevant designations and concluded that for this section of the coast our proposals will not have a detrimental effect.

In reaching this conclusion we have identified a requirement to provide appropriate signage at key locations to explain the importance of these habitats and to encourage people to stay on the trail.

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:

2.1.5 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:

- South of the Chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall, Bradwell at intersection of BCM-2-So13 and BCM-2-So14 it is necessary to descend/ascend the grassy flood bank
- North of the Chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall, Bradwell BCM-2-So17 it is necessary to descend/ascend a short flight of steps

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 Overview.

2.1.6 Estuary: This report proposes that the trail should contain sections aligned on the estuary of the rivers Crouch and Blackwater, extending upstream from the open coast. See part 5 of the Overview. The trail covered by this chapter includes part of this estuary route on both the rivers Crouch and Blackwater.

2.1.7 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. See Table 2.2.1 below.

2.1.8 At BCM-2-So01 to BCM-2-So13, BCM-2-So18 and BCM-2-So21 to BCM-2-So25 we have used this discretion to limit the landward extent of the coastal margin to the landward top edge of the seawall, or low concrete wall at the rear top of the seawall. This has had the effect of reducing the amount of coastal margin that would have otherwise been available by default. This option provides the most clarity because:

- The break in slope provides an easily identifiable boundary for access users.
- There is no clear boundary feature at the bottom of the seawall that could mark the boundary of the coastal margin.

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'.

- 2.1.9 Restrictions and/or exclusions: We have proposed to exclude access by direction under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) in certain places along this section of coast. For details of these directions, see 2.3.6 in the Formal Proposals Section of this chapter and Part 10 of the Overview.
- 2.1.10 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

- 2.1.11 Some physical establishment of the trail would be necessary, in accordance with the general approach described in part 7 the Overview.
- New interpretation panels will be added at sections BCM-2-So18 and BCM-2-So23; and
 - Minor repairs to the steps on section BCM-2-So17
- 2.1.12 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:

- 2.1.13 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 6f - 'Coastal processes' and 9 - 'Future changes' of the Overview for more information.

Part 2.2: Commentary on Maps

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

2.2.1 Section Details – Maps 2a to 2k: Holliwell Farm to Bradwell Power Station

Notes on table:

Column 2 – an asterisk (*) against the route section number means see also table 2.2.2: Other options considered.

Column 7 – all sections are subject to a s25A CROW direction (year round) in the coastal margin for the purpose of excluding access to saltmarsh and mudflat on grounds of unsuitability for public access.

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)
2a	BCM-2-S001*	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
2b	BCM-2-S002*	Public footpath	Concrete	No	Low concrete wall at the rear top of the seawall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
2c	BCM-2-S003*	Public footpath	Concrete	No	Low concrete wall at the rear top of the seawall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	BCM-2-S004	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
2d	BCM-2-S005 and BCM-2-S006	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
2d & 2e	BCM-2-S007	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
2f	BCM-2-S008*	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
2g	BCM-2-S009*	Public footpath	Concrete	No	low concrete wall at the rear top of flood bank	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	BCM-2-S010* & BCM-2-S011* & BCM-2-S012*	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin

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)
2h & 2i	BCM-2-S013*	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
2i	BCM-2-S014*	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	BCM-2-S015* & BCM-2-S016*	Other existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	BCM-2-S017*	Other existing walked route	Steps: Timber	No	Hand rail	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	BCM-2-S018*	Other existing walked route	Gravel	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	BCM-2-S019	Public footpath	Gravel	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	BCM-2-S020*	Other existing walked route	Gravel	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	BCM-2-S021 & BCM-2-S022	Public footpath	Concrete	No	low concrete wall at the rear top of the seawall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	2j	BCM-2-S023	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion
2k	BCM-2-S024 & BCM-2-S025	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	

2.2.2 Other options considered: Maps 2a to 2k: Holliwell Farm to Bradwell Power Station

Map(s)	Section number(s)	Option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option as the route
2a, 2b, 2c	BCM-2-So01 to BCM-2-So03	We considered aligning the trail along another existing public footpath that runs inland (to the north and west) as shown on the map.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ it is closer to the sea and maintains views of the sea; ■ it is more direct; ■ it is currently the more popular walked line; ■ the walking surface is better so it is more accessible to a wider range of people; and ■ this proposal is made with the support of the landowner.
2f, 2g, 2h	BCM-2-008 to BCM-2-So13	We considered aligning the trail along another existing public footpath that runs inland (to the west) as shown on the map.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ it is closer to the sea and maintains views of the sea; ■ it is more direct; ■ it is currently the more popular walked line; ■ the walking surface is better so it is more accessible to a wider range of people; and ■ this proposal is made with the support of the landowner.
2i	BCM-2-So14 to BCM-2-So18	We considered aligning the trail along the existing public footpath that runs on the saltmarsh foreshore as shown on the map.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ it is available at all states of the tide; ■ it is safer; ■ the walking surface is more pleasant to walk along and accessible to a wider range of people; ■ it is an existing walked line; ■ BCM-2-So14 is part of a promoted Recreational path; ■ loss of sight of the sea is brief; ■ 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; and ■ this proposal is made with the support of the landowner
2i	BCM-2-So14 to BCM-2-So15	We considered aligning the trail along a well-established and existing walked line that runs past Linnet Cottage and Bradwell Bird Observatory before running through the edge of the woodland.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It does not cross excepted land i.e. buildings and their curtilage; ■ the walking surface is more pleasant to walk along and accessible to a wider range of people; ■ it avoids crossing close to a badger sett; ■ it is an existing walked line; ■ BCM-2-So14 is part of a promoted Recreational path; ■ loss of sight of the sea is brief; ■ 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; and ■ this proposal is made with the support of the landowner

Map(s)	Section number(s)	Option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option as the route
2i	BCM-2-So20	We considered aligning the trail along the existing public footpath that runs inland to the west of the sea wall as shown on the map.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ it is more direct; ■ it is closer to the sea and maintains views of the sea; ■ the walking surface is more pleasant to walk along and accessible to a wider range of people; ■ 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; ■ it avoids an area used by the Othona Community for educational activities for all ages, including children; and ■ this proposal is made with the support of the landowner.

Part 2.3: Chapter 2 - Formal Proposals

- Below are our formal proposals to the Secretary of State for the length of coast shown on maps 2a to 2k.
- They should be read in conjunction with the relevant maps.
- The commentary above explains the practical effect of these proposals.

Formal Proposals – Holliwell Farm to Bradwell Power Station

Discretion to include an estuary

2.3.1 Natural England proposes to exercise its functions as if the sea included the estuarial waters of the River Crouch as far as Burnham-on-Crouch and River Blackwater as far as Promenade Park in Maldon as indicated by the extent of the trail shown on maps 1a and 6e.

Proposed route of the trail

2.3.2 The route is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps 2a to 2k as the proposed route of the pavement, and with the landward edge of the top of the sea wall shown as the trail on map 1a.

Landward boundary of coastal margin

2.3.3 Adjacent to route sections BCM-2-So02, BCM-2-So03, BCM-2-So09, BCM-2-So21 and BCM-2-So22 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the low concrete wall at the rear top of the seawall which is landward of the public footpath shown as the trail on maps 2b, 2c, 2g and 2i.

2.3.4 Adjacent to route section BCM-2-So17 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the hand rail which is landward of the steps on the existing walking line shown as the trail on map 2i.

2.3.5 Adjacent to route sections BCM-2-So01, BCM-2-So04 to BCM-2-So08, BCM-2-So10 to BCM-2-So13, BCM-2-So18, and BCM-2-So23 to BCM-2-So25 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the top of the sea wall shown as the trail on maps 2a, 2c to 2k.

Local restrictions and exclusions

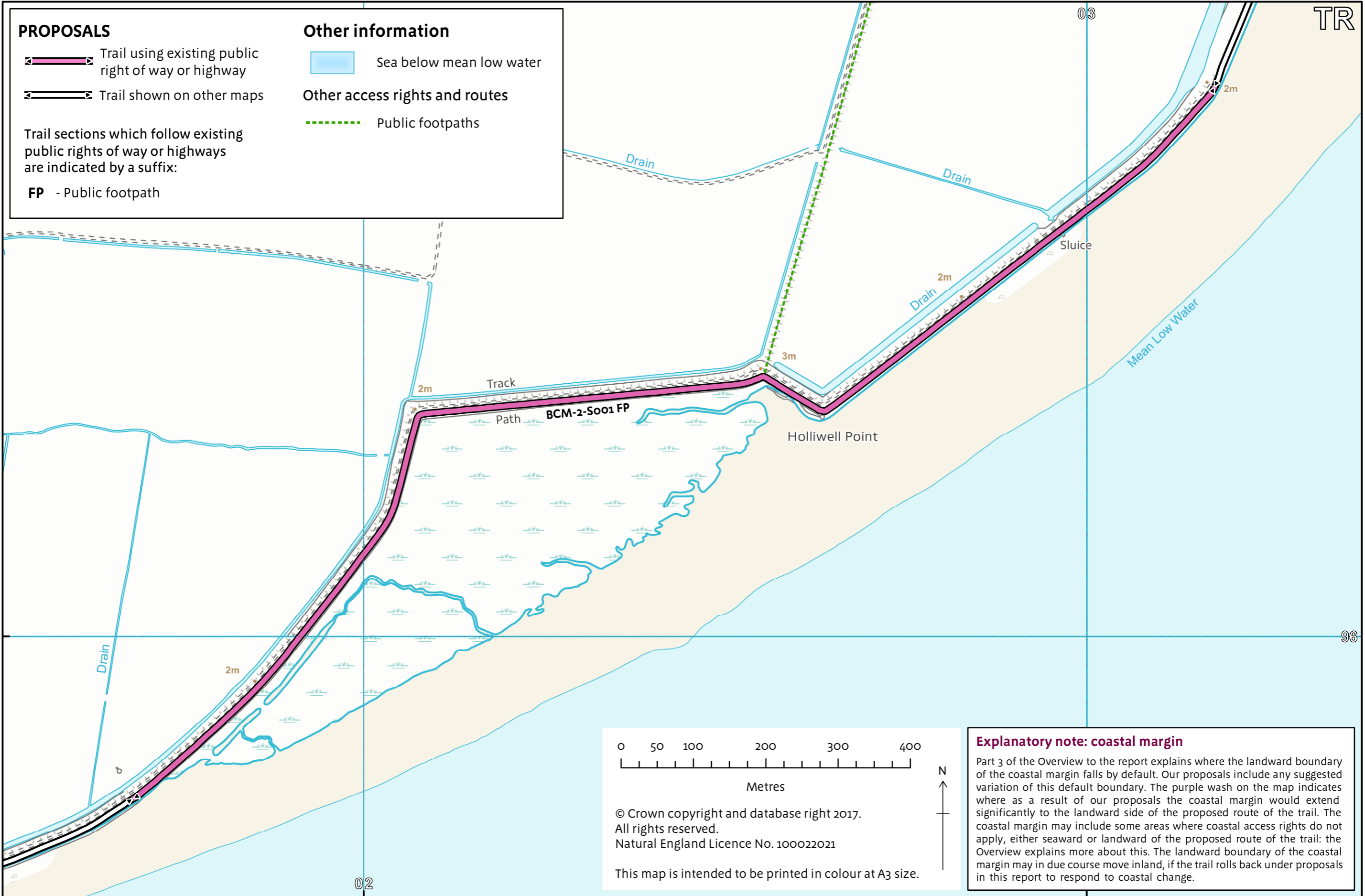
2.3.6 Natural England proposes to exclude access relevant to this length of coast, as follows:

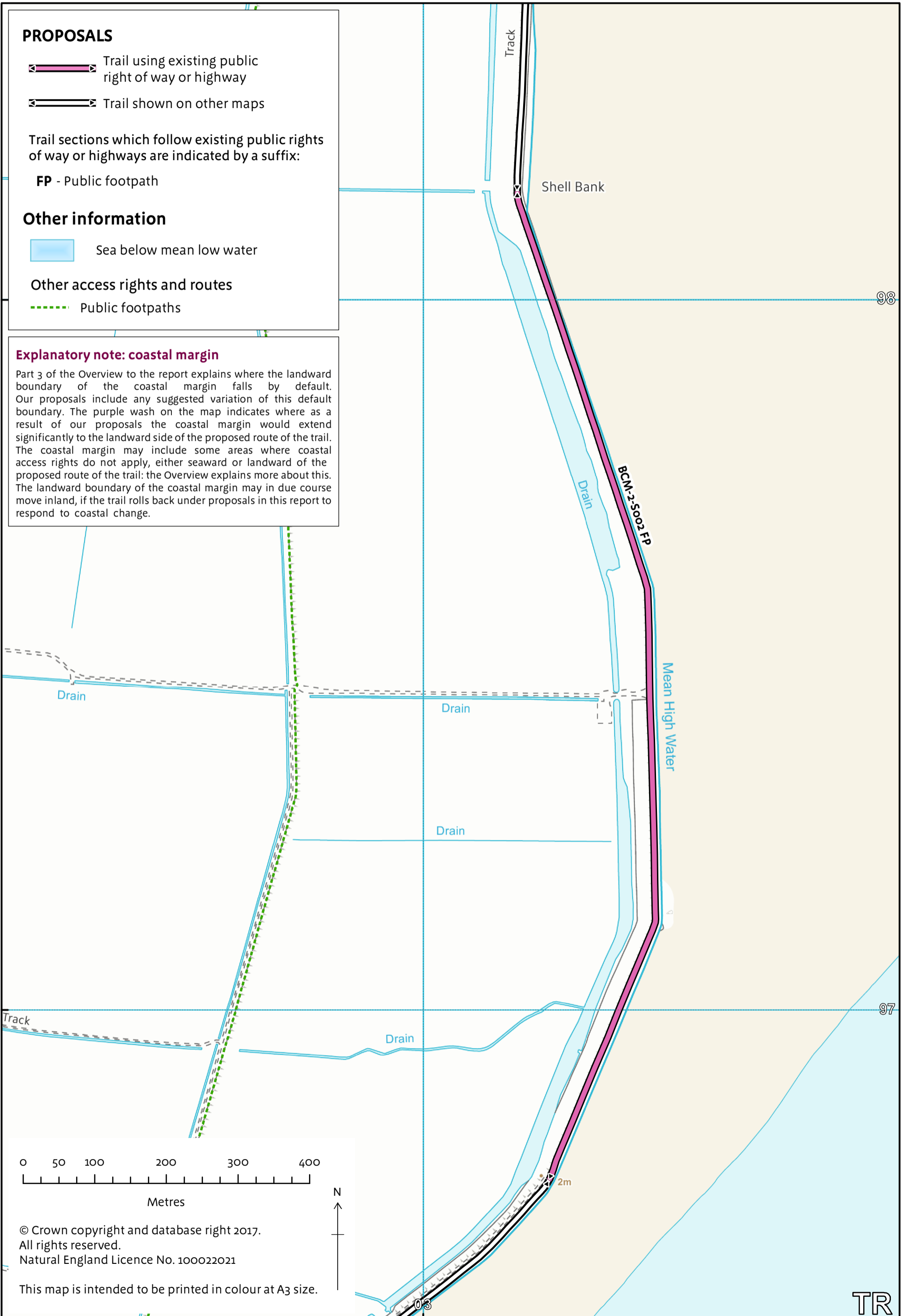
- Access is to be excluded all year-round to all areas of intertidal mudflats and salt marsh on this length of coast, adjacent to route sections BCM-2-So01 to BCM-2-So25. This exclusion is proposed under s25A of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) as the land is unsuitable for public access. This exclusion will not affect the route itself and does not apply to any land that could be considered to be excepted. See maps J to P in the Overview for details.
- Access is to be excluded during the Ringed Plover breeding season in the coastal margin on the cockle shell beach between Coate Outfall and Shell Bank, route section BCM-2-So03. This is proposed under s26 of the Act as it will prevent impact through trampling and direct disturbance of Ringed Plover nesting sites. This exclusion will not affect the route itself and does not apply to any land that could be considered to be excepted. See map D in the Overview for details.

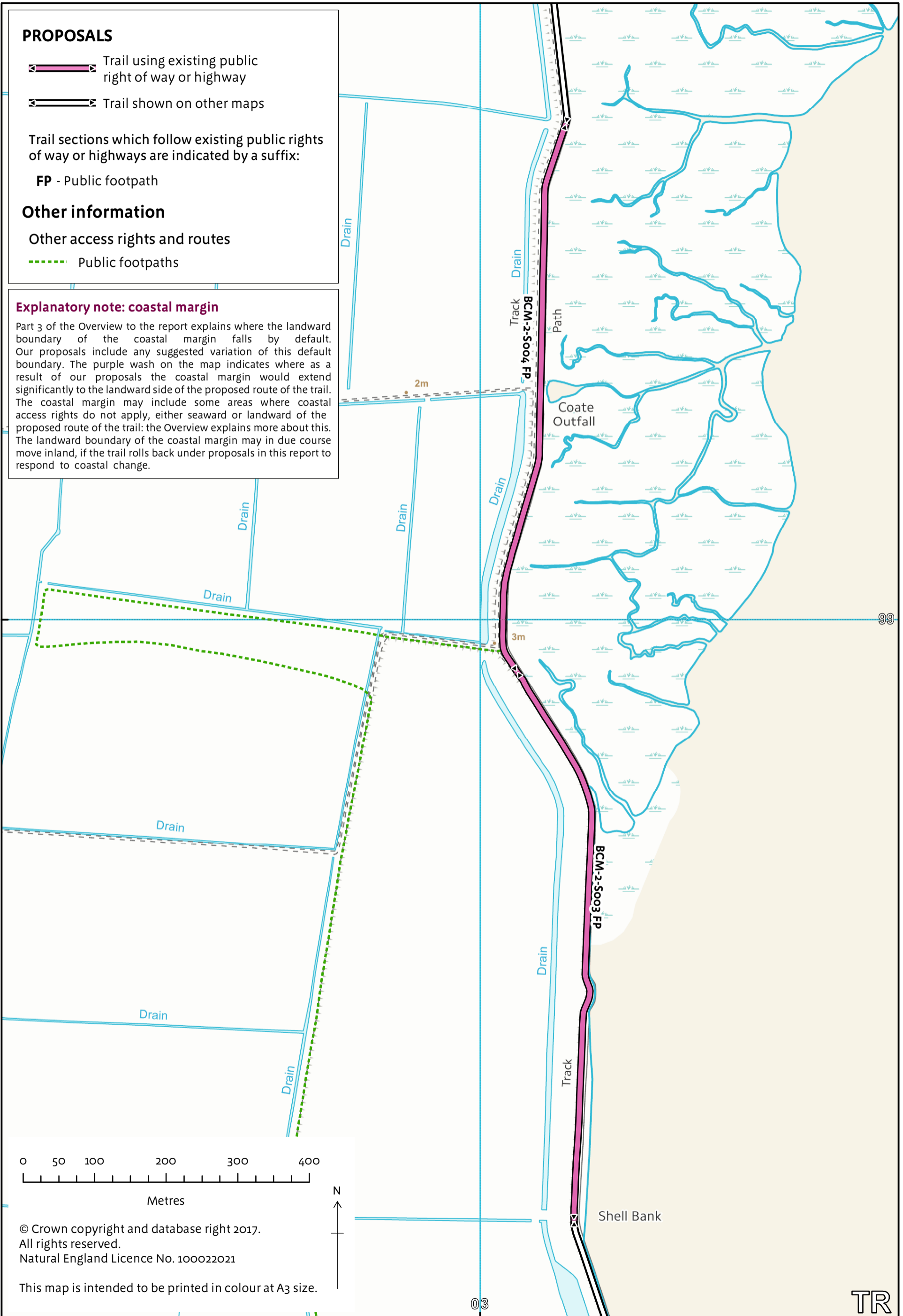
Please refer to Part 10 of the Overview for further details.

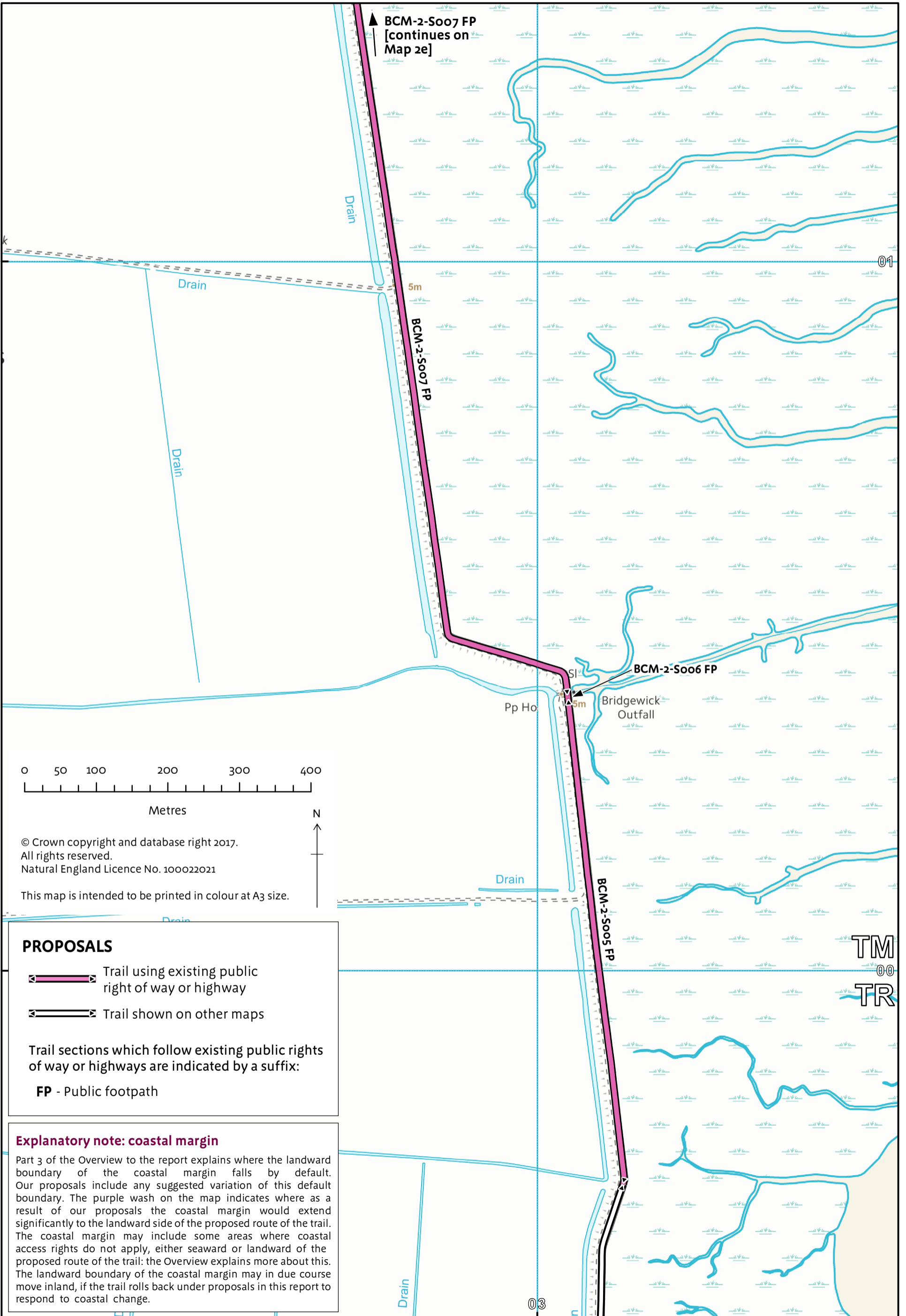
Alternative routes

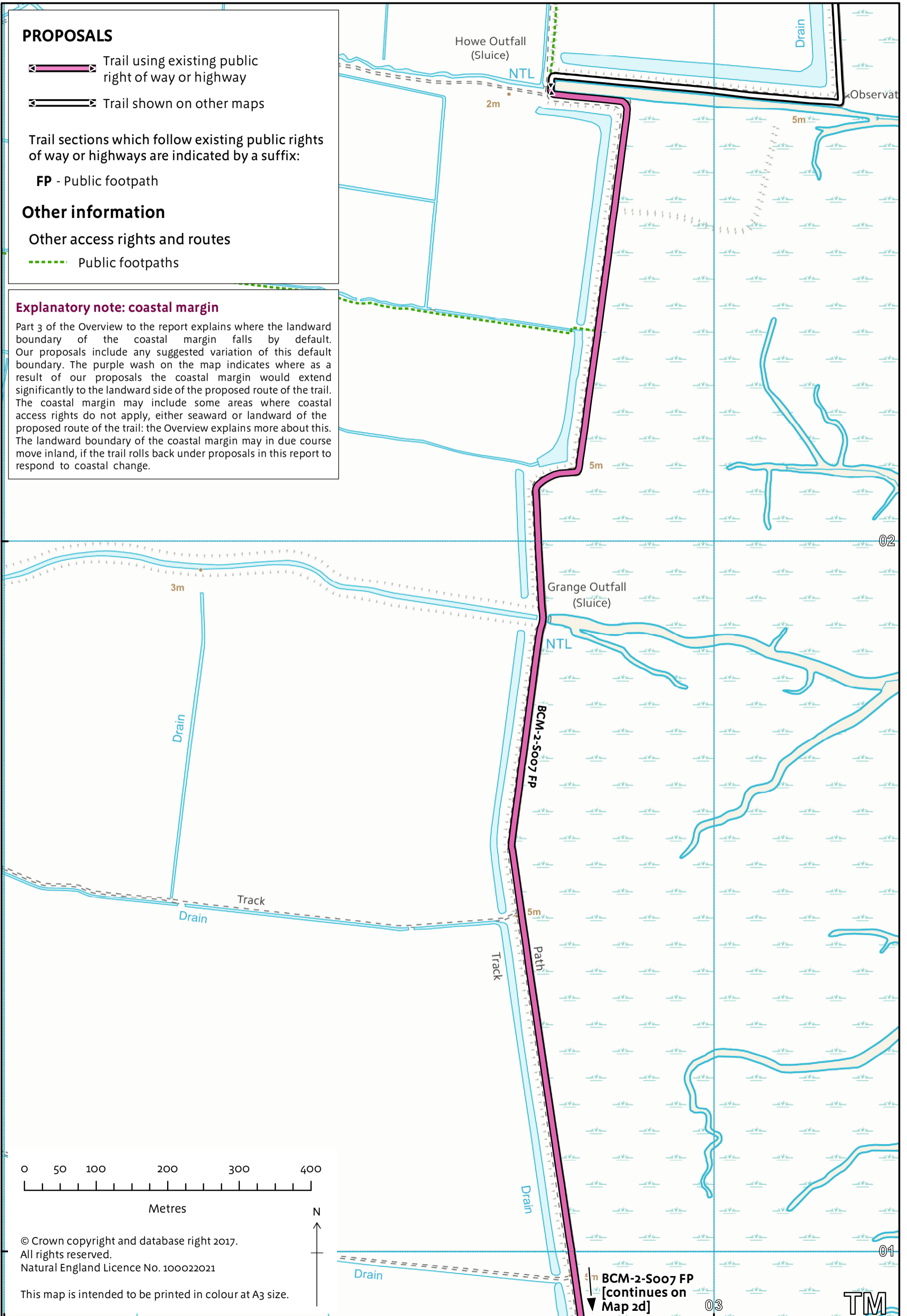
2.3.7 There are no proposals for alternative routes in relation to this length of coast.

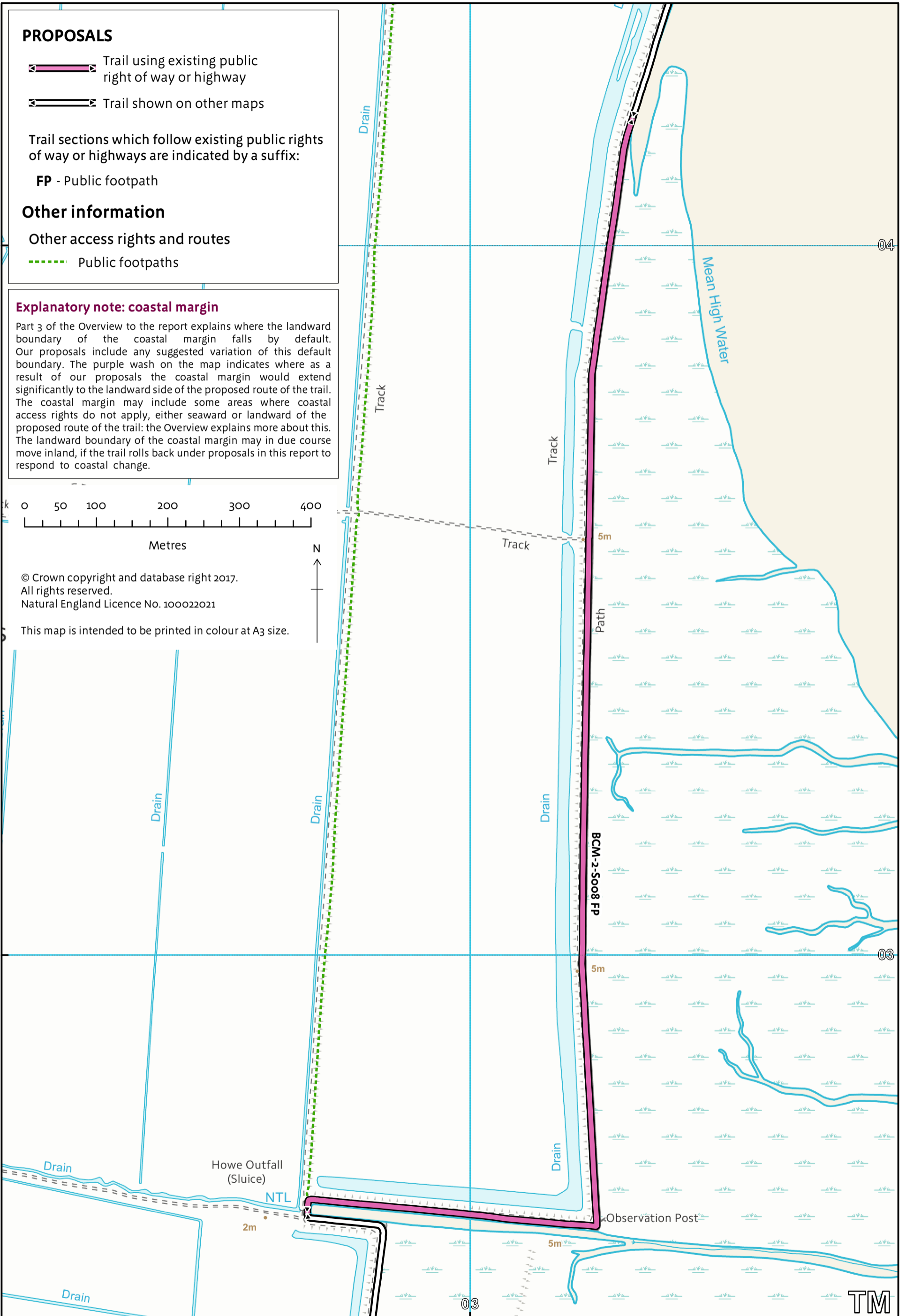


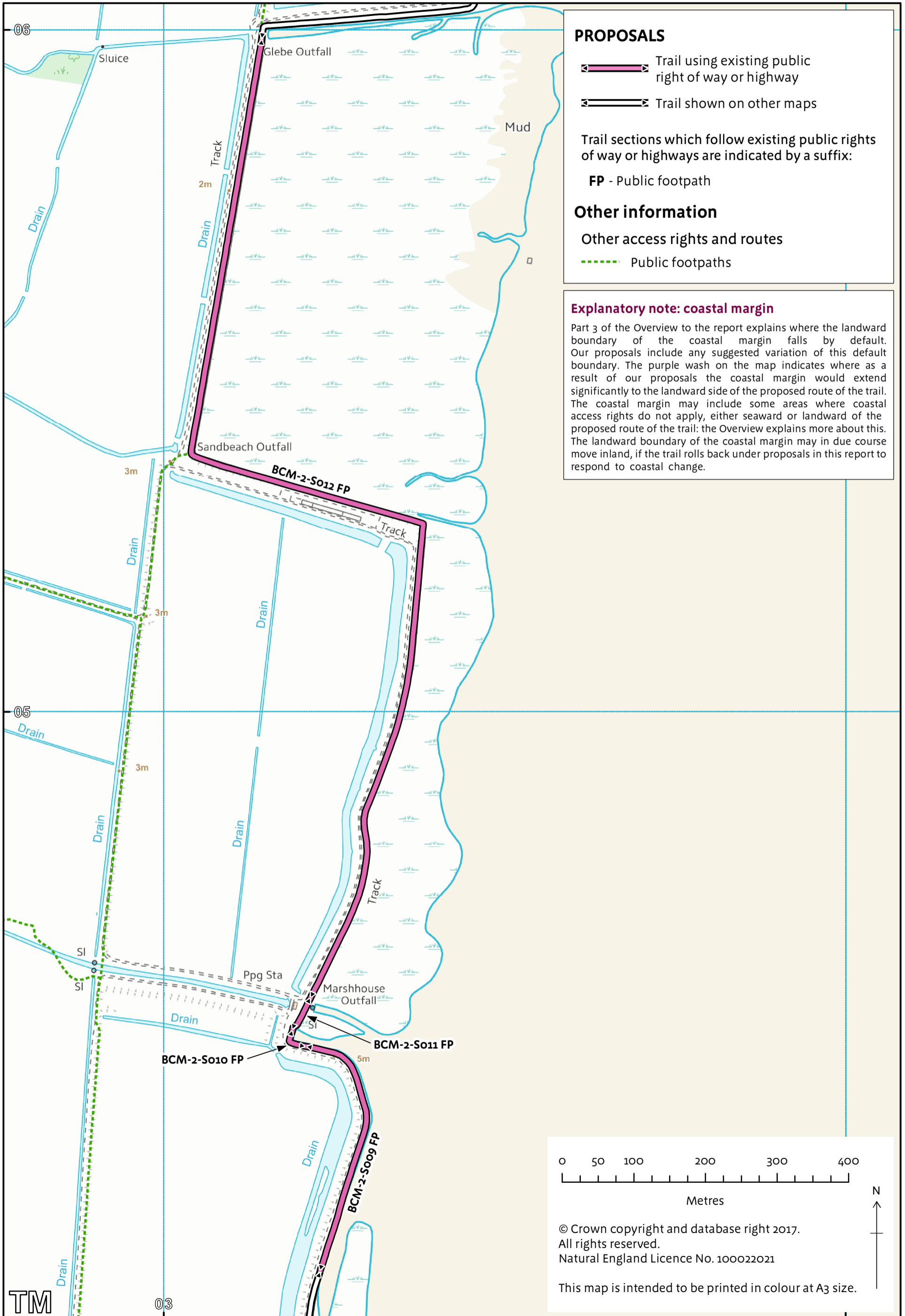












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