

Chapter 1:

# Kimmeridge Bay to Winspit

England Coast Path: Kimmeridge to Highcliffe - Natural England's Proposals

## Part 1.1: Introduction

<b>Start Point:</b>	<b>Kimmeridge Bay</b> (grid reference: SY 9083 7912)
<b>End Point:</b>	<b>Winspit</b> (grid reference: SY 9759 7609)
<b>Relevant Maps:</b>	<b>1a to 1f</b>

### Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps:

#### The Trail:

- 1.1.1 Follows the existing walked line of the South West Coast Path throughout, including public rights of way.
- 1.1.2 Follows the coastline quite closely and maintains views of the sea with the exception of Chapman's Pool (see maps 1d and 1e). Here a significant inland diversion is necessary to take the trail past the mouth of a valley which is inaccessible because of unstable geological conditions. (See Future Change, below and Part 8 of the Overview).
- 1.1.3 There are places where the existing walked route of the South West Coast Path over this length differs slightly from the route originally approved by the Secretary of State, as the path has adapted over time to cope with coastal erosion and other processes. Assuming these proposals are approved, we intend both routes to follow the same line. As explained at part 5a of the Overview, we use a separate variation report to the Secretary of State to change the existing approved route of the national trail line to reflect the approved line of the England Coast Path wherever appropriate.
- 1.1.4 This part of the coast includes the following sites, designated for nature conservation or heritage preservation (See map C of the Overview):
  - Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
  - St Alban's Head to Durlston Head SAC
  - Studland to Portland Marine SAC

- Solent and Dorset Coast proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA)
- South Dorset Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geological and wildlife interest
- 17th century Alum works – Kimmeridge Bay Scheduled Monument.

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.

- 1.1.5 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 reaching this conclusion we note that the British Mountaineering Council operates a voluntary code to avoid climbing in sensitive areas on this section of coast during the bird breeding season.

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:**

- 1.1.6 There are few artificial barriers to accessibility on the proposed route, which makes use of existing surfaced 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 follows an uneven, and in places steep, grass or bare soil path along the cliff top;
- There are places (trail sections LCH-1-S007, LCH-1-S009, LCH-1-S011, LCH-1-S020, LCH-1-S022, LCH-1-S026, LCH-1-S028, & LCH-1-S029) where it would be necessary to ascend/descend steps in order to follow the trail.

- 1.1.7 In the Chapman's Pool/Hill Bottom/Emmett's Hill area (trail sections LCH-1-S029, LCH-1-S030, LCH-1-S033 & LCH-1-S038) there are a number of step stiles which need to be crossed in order to follow the trail.

**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 part 3 of the Overview.

- 1.1.8 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 1.2.1 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'.**

1.1.9 Restrictions and/or exclusions: Access rights to the spreading room would be subject to the national restrictions on coastal access listed in Annex D of the Overview. These restrictions would not apply to public rights of way.

**See part 11 of the Overview - 'Restrictions and exclusions' - for details.**

### **Establishment and ongoing management of the trail**

1.1.10 Some physical establishment of the trail would be necessary, in accordance with the general approach described in part 6 the Overview. Most of this length of trail is in good condition. Some minor repairs and upgrades will be carried out to the path surface (additional and replacement steps & scrub control) and trail furniture prior to opening.

- New steps at LCH-1-S007, LCH-1-S021 and LCH-1-S026

- Replacement footbridge at LCH-1-S013

- Replacement barrier at LCH-1-S010

1.1.11 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:**

1.1.12 The Durlston Head to Rame Head Shoreline Management Plan (SMP 16) identifies (in the short to medium term to 2055) a policy of 'no active intervention' for the stretch of coastline between Kimmeridge Bay and Winspit.

1.1.13 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 1.2.1 below for details of the sections likely to be affected in the foreseeable future.

1.1.14 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 5f - 'Coastal processes' and 8 - 'Future changes' of the Overview for more information.**

## Part 1.2: Commentary on Maps

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

### 1.2.1 Section Details – Maps 1a to 1f: Kimmeridge Bay to Winspit

Notes on table:

Column 2 – an asterisk (\*) against the route section number means see also table 1.2.2: 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.

1	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	7
Maps	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)
1a	LCH -1-S001	Public Footpath	Stone: aggregate	Yes - normal	Wooden Sleepers	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S002*	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes - normal	Wooden Sleepers	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S003	Public Footpath	Bare soil: compacted	Yes - normal	Hedgerow	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S004*	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes - normal	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	LCH -1-S005*	Public Footpath	Stone: aggregate	Yes - normal	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	LCH -1-S006*	Public Footpath	Tarmac	Yes - normal	Landward edge of the road	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S007	Public Footpath	Steps: stone	Yes - normal	Hedgerow	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S008	Other existing walked route	Stone: aggregate	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S009	Other existing walked route	Steps: stone	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S010	Other existing walked route	Bare Soil	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH 12-S011	Other existing walked route	Steps: stone	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
1b	LCH -1-S012	Other existing walked route	Bare soil: compacted	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S013	Public Footpath	Stone: aggregate	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S014	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S015	Public Footpath	Bare soil: compacted	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
1c	LCH -1-S016	Other existing walked route	Grass	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S017	Other existing walked route	Bare soil: compacted	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S018*	Other existing walked route	Bare soil: compacted	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S019*	Other existing walked route	Grass	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S020*	Other existing walked route	Steps: stone	Yes - normal	Landward edge of path	Clarity and cohesion	None

1	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	7
Maps	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)
1c	LCH -1-S021*	Other existing walked route	Bare soil: compacted	Yes - normal	Landward edge of path	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S022*	Other existing walked route	Steps: stone	Yes - normal	Landward edge of path	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S023*	Other existing walked route	Bare soil: compacted	Yes - normal	Landward edge of path	Clarity and cohesion	None
1d	LCH -1-S024*	Public Footpath	Bare soil: compacted	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S025	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S026	Public Footpath	Steps: stone	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S027	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S028	Public Footpath	Steps: stone	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S029	Public Footpath	Steps: stone	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S030*	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes - normal	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	LCH -1-S031*	Public Footpath	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of track	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S032*	Public Footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of track	Clarity and cohesion	None
1e	LCH -1-S033*	Public Footpath	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of track	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S034*	Public Footpath	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of road	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S035*	Public Bridleway	Stone: aggregate	No	Landward edge of track	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S036*	Public Footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	LCH -1-S037*	Public Footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	LCH -1-S038*	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes - normal	Wall	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S039*	Public Footpath	Bare soil: compacted	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S040*	Public Footpath	Steps: stone	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
1f	LCH -1-S041*	Public Footpath	Bare soil: compacted	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S042*	Public Footpath	Steps: stone	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S043*	Public Footpath	Grass	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S044	Public Footpath	Bare soil: compacted	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None
	LCH -1-S045	Public Footpath	Bare soil: compacted	Yes - normal	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	None

## 1.2.2 Other options considered: Maps 1a to 1f: Kimmeridge Bay to Winspit

Map(s)	Section number(s)	Option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option as the route
1a	LCH-1-S004 to LCH-1-S006	We considered aligning the trail on an existing walked route from the carpark (at the junction of LCH-1-S003 and LCH-1-S004) down the steps and over the wooden footbridge towards Maple Ledge and then through the small boatyard to the bottom of the steps leading up to the Clavel Tower (the junction of LCH-1-S006 and LCH-1-S007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Steep steps leading down to footbridge would require a handrail to make it safe for use.</li> <li>■ Small active boatyard with vehicle movements may be hazardous to trail users</li> <li>■ No additional sea views.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p> <p>Under our proposals, the existing walked route would remain available for people to use as part of the spreading room, but would not form part of the designated trail</p>
1c	LCH-1-S019 to LCH-1-S023	We considered aligning the trail along the public footpath across the seaward end of Freshwater Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Recent landslips in the area have resulted in the South West Coast Path being realigned further inland across South Gwyle.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p>
1d and 1e	LCH-1-S030 to LCH-1-S038	<p>We considered a route across the seaward end of the valley at Chapman's Pool.</p> <p>There are footpaths shown on maps crossing the bottom of the valley and a well-maintained zigzag path heading up the eastern side from the bridleway up towards West Hill.</p> <p>On descending from Houns-tout Cliff, the zigzag path appears to be the obvious onward route around the coast to St Aldhelm's Head (map 1f).</p> <p>The inland route to Hill Bottom, although not coastal, is a very pleasant level walk along the stream and woodland.</p> <p>The existing public footpath across the mouth of the valley is currently closed, but signage is still ambiguous.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The bottom of the valley comprises unstable Kimmeridge Clay.</li> <li>■ The climb up to the west side of the valley is very steep and unstable.</li> <li>■ Crossing the valley further up towards Hill Bottom was considered but would require considerable expenditure on steps down to the valley bottom and a new footbridge over the stream.</li> <li>■ The existing route is a pleasant walk – though less direct – so the additional benefit would not in our view justify the expense.</li> </ul> <p>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</p> <p>Our proposals do not affect the public bridleway. It would remain available for people to use, but would not form part of the designated trail.</p>
1e-1f	LCH-1-S035 to LCH-1-S042	We considered a route using the public bridleway (LCH-1-S035) from Hill Bottom along the eastern side of the valley below West Hill and from the Boat House at Chapman's Pool up the slopes below Emmetts Hill and re-joining the trail between sections LCH-1-S041 and LCH-1-S042.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The existing route provides better sea views</li> <li>■ The valley side below Emmetts Hill is steep and unstable</li> </ul> <p>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</p>
1a-1e	LCH-1-S002, LCH-1-S018, LCH-1-S024, LCH-1-S038, LCH-1-S040 to LCH-1-S043	We considered routes using public footpaths on a number of other sections where they are close to but seaward of the trail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ In all these situations the path is no longer viable due to coastal erosion</li> </ul> <p>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</p>

## Part 1.3: Chapter 1 - Formal Proposals

- Below are our formal proposals to the Secretary of State for the length of coast shown on maps 1a to 1f.
- They should be read in conjunction with the relevant maps.
- The commentary above explains the practical effect of these proposals.

### Formal Proposals – Kimmeridge Bay to Winspit

#### Proposed route of the trail

- 1.3.1 In relation to route sections LCH-1-S031 to LCH-1-S037 the route is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps 1d and 1e as the proposed route of the trail.
- 1.3.2 In relation to route sections LCH-1-S001 to LCH-1-S030 & LCH-1-S038 to LCH-1-S045, the route, as initially determined at the time the report was prepared, is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps 1a to 1f as the proposed route of the trail.
- 1.3.3 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

- 1.3.3 Adjacent to route sections LCH-1-S001 and LCH-1-S002, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the line of wooden sleepers which is landward of the path shown as the trail on map 1a.
- 1.3.4 Adjacent to route section LCH-1-S003, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the hedgerow which is landward of the path shown as the trail on map 1a.
- 1.3.5 Adjacent to route section LCH-1-S006 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the road shown as the trail on map 1a.
- 1.3.6 Adjacent to route section LCH-1-S007, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the hedgerow which is landward of the path shown as the trail on map 1a.
- 1.3.7 Adjacent to route sections LCH-1-S008 to LCH-1-S019 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the existing fence line which is landward of the path shown as the trail on maps 1a, 1b and 1c.
- 1.3.8 Adjacent to route sections LCH-1-S020 and LCH-1-S023, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of the path shown as the trail on map 1c.

- 1.3.9 Adjacent to route sections LCH-1-S024 to LCH-1-S029, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the existing fence line which is landward of the path shown as the trail on map 1d.
- 1.3.10 Adjacent to route sections LCH-1-S031 to LCH-1-S035 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of the track shown as the trail on maps 1d and 1e.
- 1.3.11 Adjacent to route section LCH-1-S038, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the existing wall which is landward of the path shown as the trail on map 1e.
- 1.3.12 Adjacent to route sections LCH-1-S039 to LCH-1-S045, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the existing fence line which is landward of the path shown as the trail on maps 1e and 1f.

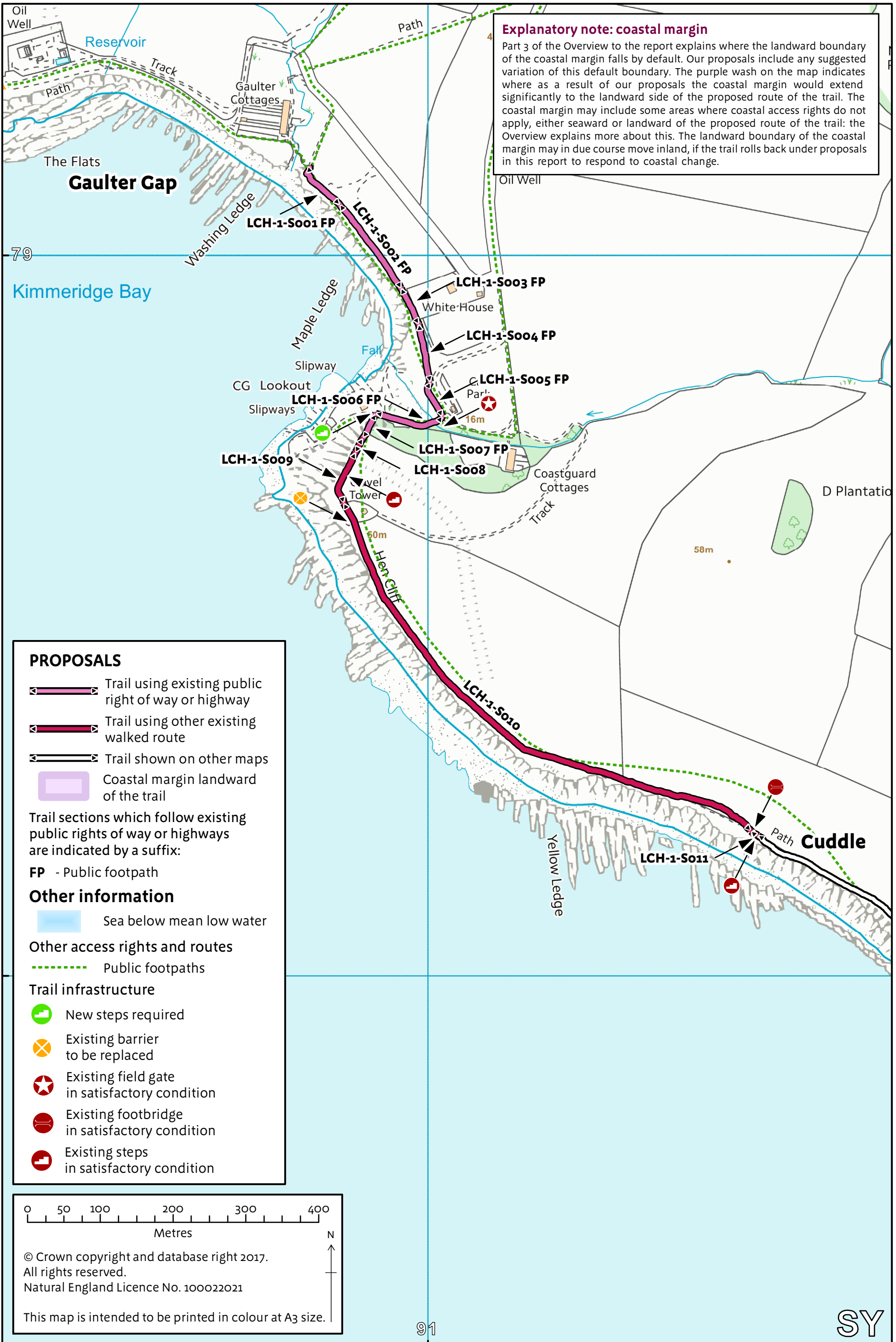
### **Local restrictions and exclusions**

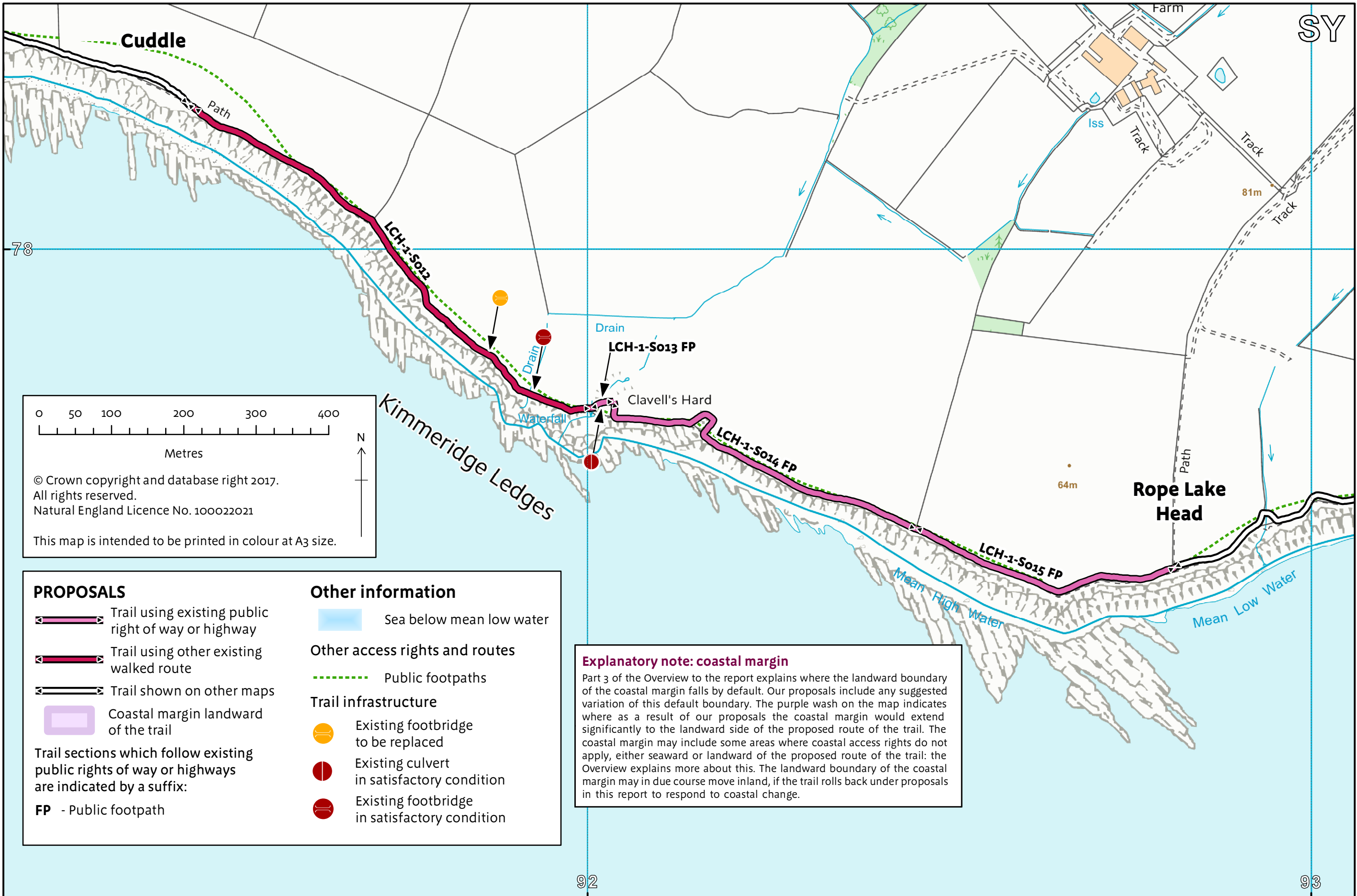
- 1.3.13 At the time of writing this report, there are no proposals for local restrictions or exclusions in relation to this length of coast.

### **Alternative routes**

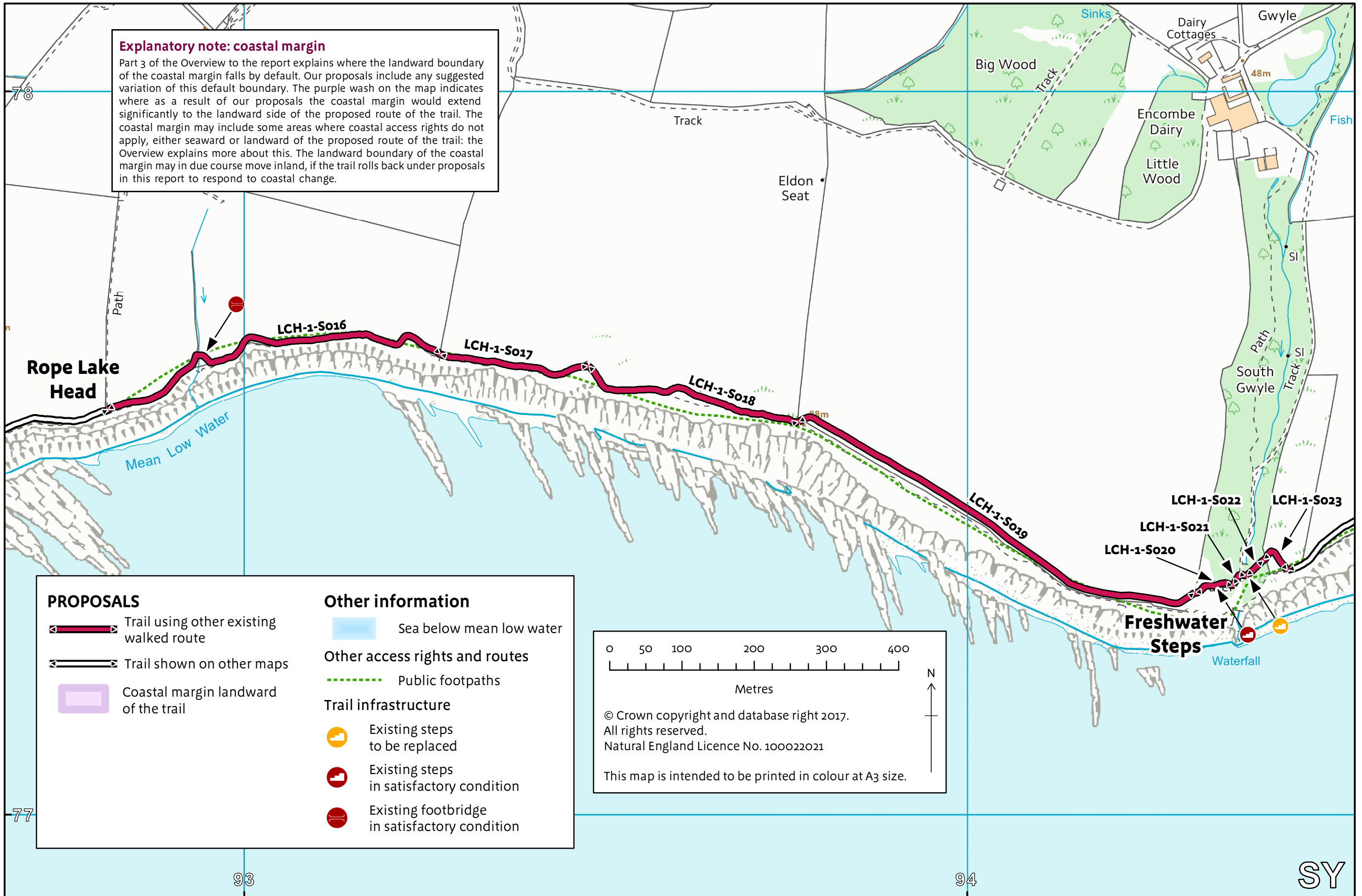
- 1.3.14 There are no proposals for alternative routes in relation to this length of coast.







Map 1b Cuddle to Rope Lake Head



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