

Chapter 4:

Walton Mere to Beaumont Quay

England Coast Path: Jaywick to Harwich - Natural England's Proposals

Part 4.1: Introduction

Start Point:	Walton Mere, Walton-on-the-Naze (grid reference: TM2259 2234)
End Point:	Beaumont Quay (grid reference: TM1889 2403)
Relevant Maps:	4a to 4e

Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps:

The Trail:

- 4.1.1 Generally follows existing walked routes, including public rights of way, along most of this length.
- 4.1.2 Mainly follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea.
- 4.1.3 Includes three sections of new path at Rigdons Lane, Walton-on-the-Naze. See maps 4a and 4b and associated tables below for details.

Protection of sensitive features:

- 4.1.4 This part of the coast includes the following sites, designated for nature conservation or heritage preservation (See map C of the Overview):
 - Hamford Water Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Hamford Water Ramsar site
 - The Naze Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geological/ wildlife interest and Hamford Water (SSSI).
 - Hamford Water Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - Hamford Water National Nature Reserve (NNR)
 - Scheduled Ancient Monument 48487 – Marsh (SAM)

- Scheduled Ancient Monument 17235 – Enclosure (SAM)
- Scheduled Ancient Monument 14895 – Wharf (SAM)
- Scheduled Ancient Monument 3097 – Saltern (SAM)
- Scheduled Ancient Monument 9121 – Quay, canal and cut (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.

4.1.5 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 that it would be necessary to propose the exclusion of access to some of the seaward margin using formal directions, as outlined in the formal proposals at paragraph 4.3.5.

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:

4.1.6 Generally, 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 would follow an uneven grass or bare soil path in places along the sea wall.

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.

4.1.7 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 4.2.1.

At sections JWH-4-S035, JWH-4-S041 to JWH-4-S048 and JWH-4-S053 to JWH-4-S055 we have used this discretion to limit the landward extent of the coastal margin to the landward top edge 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'.

- 4.1.8 Restrictions and/or exclusions: We have proposed to exclude access by direction under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) in places along this section of coast. For details of these directions, see section 4.3.5 in the Formal Proposals Section of this report and part 10 of the Overview.
- 4.1.9 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

- 4.1.10 Some physical establishment of the trail would be necessary, in accordance with the general approach described in part 7 the Overview:
- A small bridge over a ditch will be installed at section JWH-4-S032.
 - An interpretation panel will be installed at the boundary of sections JWH-4-S034 and JWH-4-S035 (Island Lane).
- 4.1.11 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:

- 4.1.12 At the time of preparing this report there are places on the length of coast described in this chapter where we foresee the need for changes to the access provisions for particular reasons. These are summarised in part 9 of the Overview – 'Future changes'

See parts 6e - 'Coastal processes' and 9 - '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 – Map 4a to 4e: Walton Mere, Walton-on-the-Naze to Beaumont Quay

Notes on table:

Column 2 – an asterisk (*) against the route section number means see also table 4.2.2: Other options considered.

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	JWH-4-S001	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S002 to JWH-4-S016	Public footpath	Grass	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S017	Public footpath	Gravel	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S018	Multi-use route	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-4-S019	Public highway	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-4-S020	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	Edge of pavement	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S021	Public highway	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-4-S022	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	Edge of pavement	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S023	Public highway	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-4-S024	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	Edge of pavement	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S025	Public highway	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-4-S026	Public highway	Tarmac	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-4-S027	Public footway	Tarmac	No	Edge of Path	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S028*	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	Edge of pavement	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S029*	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	Edge of pavement	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S030*	Not an existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of track	Clarity and Cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S031*	Not an existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	4b	JWH-4-S032*	Not an existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used
JWH-4-S033 *		Other existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
JWH-4-S034		Public footpath	Bare soil compacted	No	Landward edge of track	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)
4b	JWH-4-S035	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S036	Public footpath	Gravel	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-4-S037	Public footpath	Concrete	No	Landward edge of path	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S038	Public footpath	Gravel	No	Landward edge of track	Clarity and Cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S039	Public footpath	Bridge deck wooden	No	Landward edge of path	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S040	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
4b, 4c & 4d	JWH-4-S041 to JWH-4-S048	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
4d	JWH-4-S049	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S050	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of trail	None used	Margin
4e	JWH-4-S051	Public footpath	Gravel	No	Various	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S052	Multi use route	Gravel	No	Landward edge of trail	Not used	Margin
	JWH-4-S053	Public footpath	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S054	Other existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin
	JWH-4-S055	Other existing walked route	Grass	No	Landward edge of top of sea wall	Clarity and cohesion	Margin

4.2.2 Other options considered: Map 4a-b: Martello Caravan Park to Island Lane

Map	Section number	Option considered	Reasons for not proposing this option as the route
4a	JWH-4-S028 to JWH-4-S031	We considered aligning the main route along the sea wall between Martello Caravan Park and Rigdons Lane with a winter alternative route along the proposed route.	Martello Caravan Park is currently being developed as a new housing estate, construction of which is due to complete some time after the publication of this report. Part of the route would be unavailable while construction took place so we opted to align along the proposed route with the aim to make a variation report to align along the sea wall once construction work on the site has been completed.
4b	JWH-4-S032 to JWH-4-S033	We considered aligning the trail along the field boundary and track that runs approximately 150m to the north of the proposed trail between Rigdons Lane and Island Lane.	We felt that the route would be more susceptible to seasonal waterlogging due to its proximity to an area of 'managed retreat' created by breaching the seawall. We opted for the proposed route because: 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.

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

Formal Proposals – Walton Mere, Walton-on-the-Naze to Beaumont Quay

Proposed route of the trail

4.3.1 The route is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps 4a to 4e as the proposed route of the trail.

Landward boundary of coastal margin

- 4.3.2 Adjacent to route sections JWH-4-S002 to JWH-4-S017 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the existing boundary fence which, at the time of writing this report, is landward of the public footpath shown as the trail on map 4a.
- 4.3.3 Adjacent to route sections JWH-4-S001, JWH-4-S035, JWH-4-S041 to JWH-4-S048, and JWH-4-S053, to JWH-4-S055, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with landward edge of the top of the sea wall as shown as the trail on maps 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e.
- 4.3.4 Adjacent to route sections JWH-4-S020, JWH-4-S022, JWH-4-S024, JWH-4-S027 to JWH-4-S030, JWH-4-S034 and JWH-4-S037 to JWH-4-S039, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the pavement, track or path as shown as the trail on maps 4a and 4b.

Local restrictions and exclusions

- 4.3.5 Natural England proposes to exclude access relevant to this length of coast, as follows:
- Access to the margin on land adjacent to Coles Lane, route sections JWH-4-S028 to JWH-4-S031, will be excluded from 1 October to 31 March annually to protect wintering birds from disturbance.
 - Access to the margin on Horsey Island will be excluded, seaward of route sections JWH-4-S035 to JWH-4-S047, to protect breeding, wintering and passage birds, and to protect rare invertebrates and their habitat.
 - Access to the saltmarsh and flat will be excluded, seaward of route sections JWH-4-S001 to JWH-4-S055, because we are satisfied that the land is unsuitable for public access.

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

PROPOSALS

- Trail using existing public right of way or highway
- Trail using other existing walked route
- Trail not using 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)
- RD** - Public road

Other information

- Sea below mean low water

Other access rights and routes

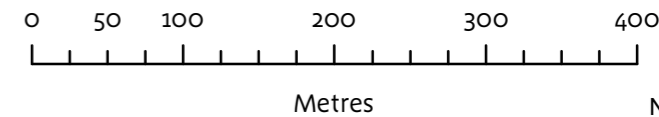
- Public footpaths

Trail infrastructure

- New pedestrian gate required
- New field gate required
- Existing bollard to be retained
- Existing gateway with no gate to be retained
- Existing pedestrian gate to be retained

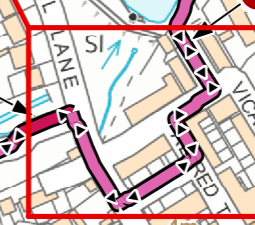
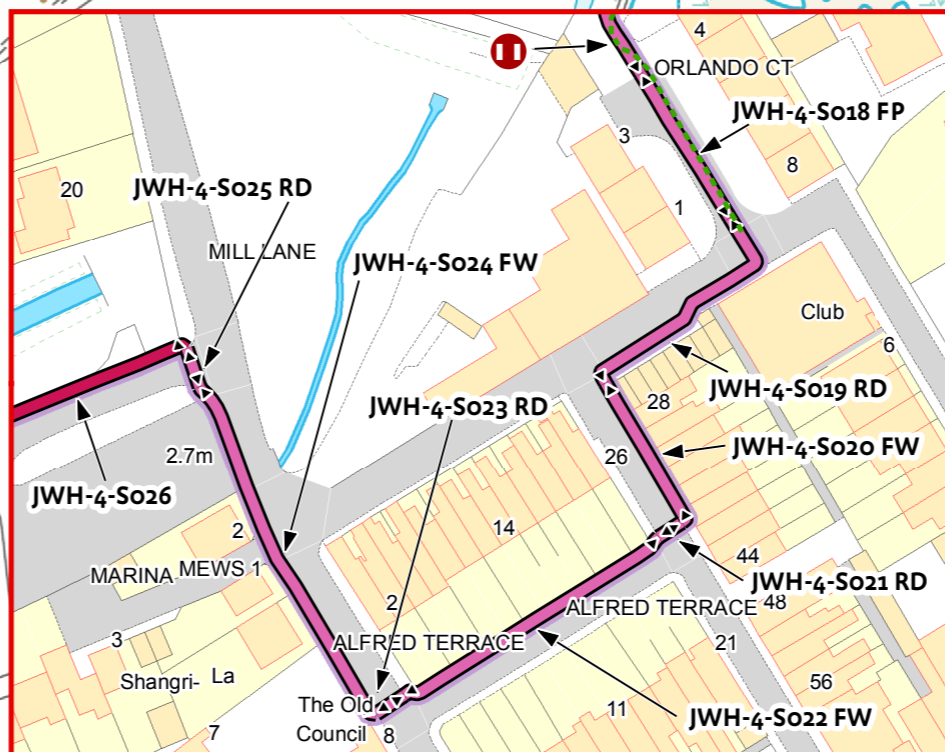
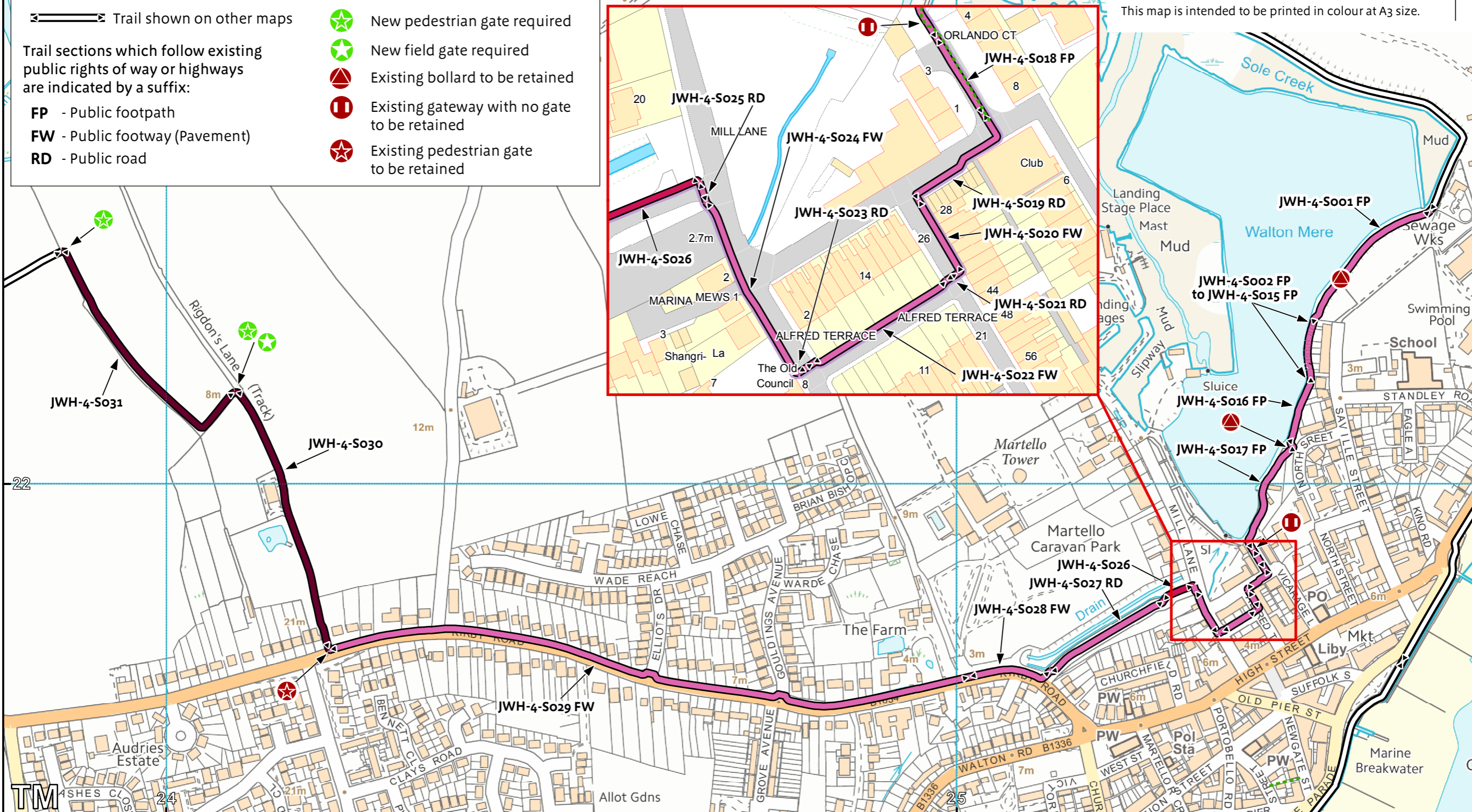
Explanatory note: coastal margin

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.



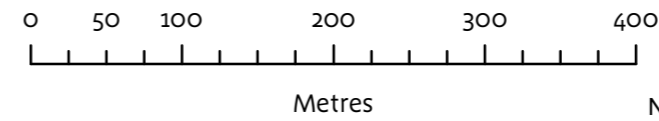
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Explanatory note: coastal margin

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PROPOSALS

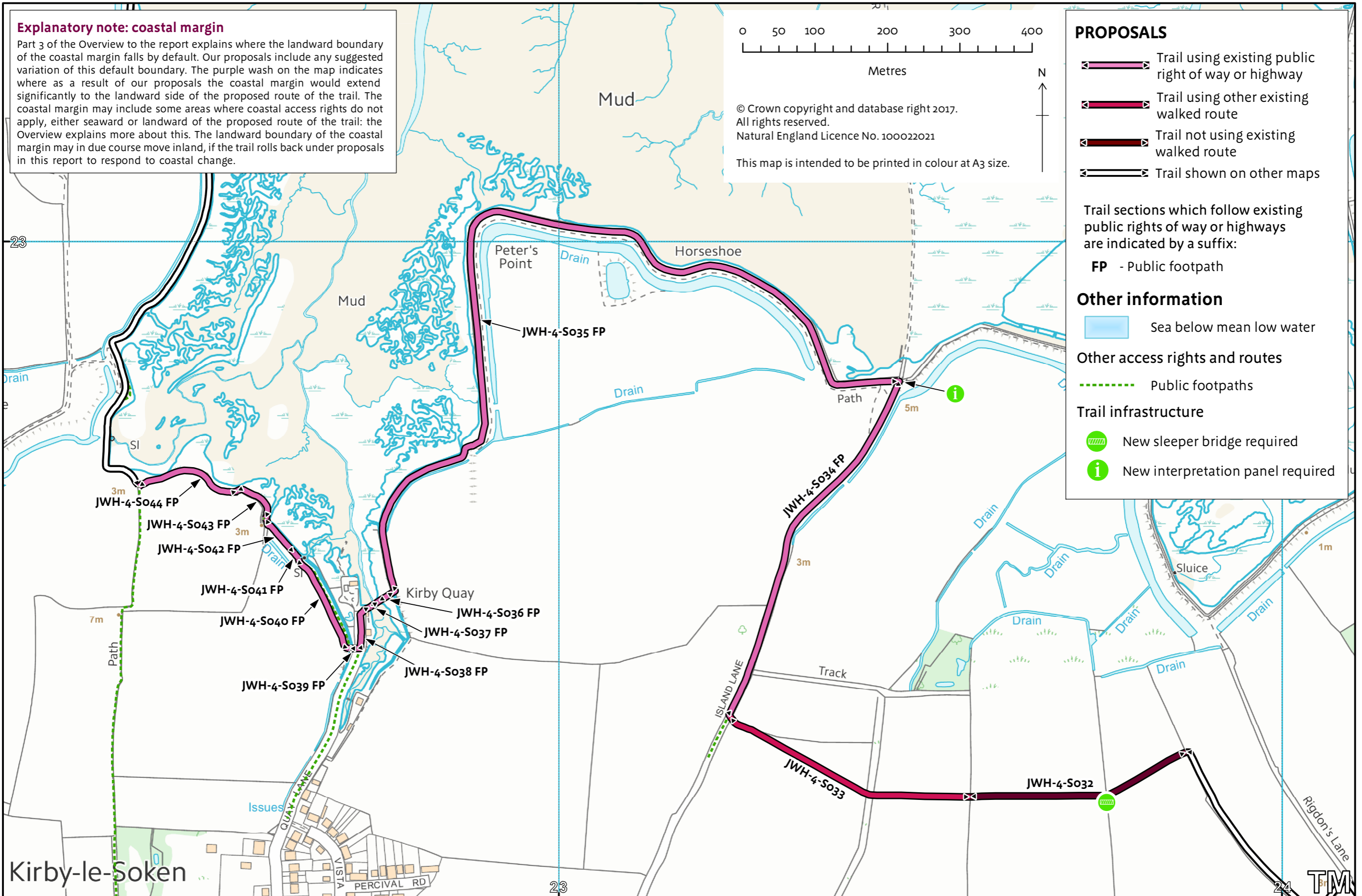
- Trail using existing public right of way or highway
- Trail using other existing walked route
- Trail not using existing walked route
- Trail shown on other maps

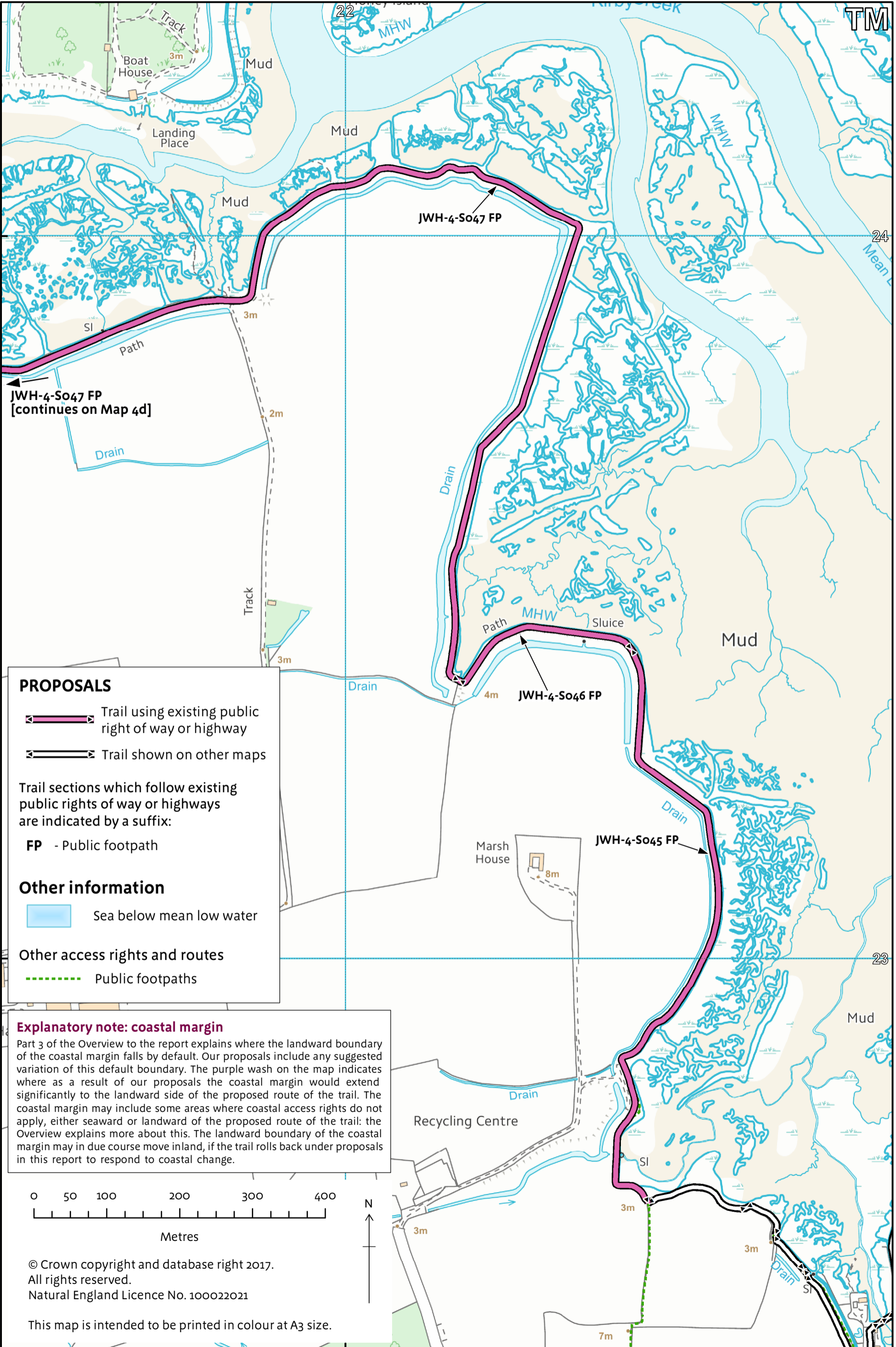
Trail sections which follow existing public rights of way or highways are indicated by a suffix:

FP - Public footpath

Other information

- Sea below mean low water
- Other access rights and routes**
- Public footpaths
- Trail infrastructure**
- New sleeper bridge required
- New interpretation panel required





PROPOSALS

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

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

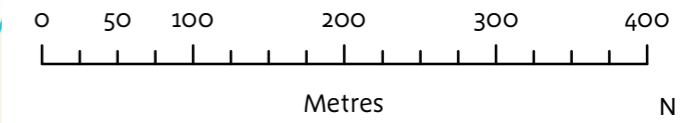
FP - Public footpath

Other information

- Sea below mean low water

Explanatory note: coastal margin

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