

Chapter 1:

Highcliffe to Hurst Spit

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

Part 1.1: Introduction

Start Point:	Highcliffe (Chewton Bunny) (grid reference: 421777, 93152)
End Point:	Hurst Spit (grid reference: 429976, 90860)
Relevant Maps:	1a to 1e

Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps:

The Trail:

- 1.1.1 Generally follows existing walked routes, including public rights of way, along most of this length. In some areas it is no longer possible to walk on the definitive line of the existing public rights of way due to cliff erosion; here we have proposed the most appropriate route on the ground.
- 1.1.2 Mainly follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea.
- 1.1.3 At HCS-1-S001 to HCS-1-S020 a significant inland diversion is necessary to take the trail past the Hoburne Naish Holiday Park.
- 1.1.4 Is generally aligned on cliff top, promenade or pavement along most parts of this chapter.
- 1.1.5 Follows a route similar to the existing Solent Way, E9 European Long Distance Route and the Bournemouth Coast Path.

Protection of sensitive features:

- 1.1.6 This part of the coast includes the following sites, designated for nature conservation (See map C of the Overview):
 - Highcliffe to Milford Cliff - Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

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.

1.1.7 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 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:

1.1.8 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 in part follows uneven grass, bare soil and compacted gravel;
- There are steps where it would be necessary to cross the footbridge at Sturt Pond; however a ramp for wheel chair users is in place at the eastern side of the bridge.

1.1.9 At various locations, existing gates or stiles will be replaced or improved, so as to make them easier to use. We envisage this happening as part of the physical establishment work described in part 7 of the Overview.

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.

1.1.10 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 1.2.1 below.

1.1.11 In a number of places we have used our discretion to propose the inclusion of additional, more extensive landward areas within the coastal margin, to secure or enhance public enjoyment of this part of the coast. The owner of this land is content for us to propose this. 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'.

1.1.12 Restrictions and exclusions: No directions to restrict or exclude access are proposed on this length of coast. However, 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

- 1.1.13 Some physical establishment of the trail would be necessary in accordance with the general approach described in part 7 the Overview. These establishment works will be minor and will include the placement of way markers and other signs along the route.
- 1.1.14 There are no additional measures that we consider necessary to improve the safety or convenience of the trail on this length of coast.
- 1.1.15 Ongoing management and maintenance would be necessary in accordance with the general approach described in part 8 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 7 - 'Physical establishment of the trail' and 8 - 'Maintenance of the trail' of the Overview for more information.

Future Change:

We are aware that certain parts of this coastline are particularly susceptible to coastal erosion. For instance within the last few months there have been land slips at Highcliffe and Milford on Sea which have necessitated the closure of an existing permissive footpath.

- 1.1.16 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 9 of the Overview. See table 1.2.1 below for details of the sections likely to be affected in the foreseeable future.
- 1.1.17 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 6e - 'Coastal processes' and 9 - '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 – Map(s) 1a to 1e: Highcliffe to Hurst Spit

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.

Column 6a - certain specific coastal land types are included automatically in the coastal margin where they fall landward of the trail, or connect indirectly with it by touching another part of the coastal margin that itself touches the foreshore at some point.

1	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	6c	7
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of this section	Current surface of this section	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 9 of Overview)	Default landward coastal margin?	Landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary discretion	Proposed exclusions or restrictions (see Part 10 of Overview)
1a	HCS-1-S001*	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	Yes - Normal	No	Path	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S002*	Public Footpath	Gravel	Yes - Normal	No	Path	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S003*	Public Footpath	Gravel	No	No	Path	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S004*	Public Footpath	Stone: Aggregate	No	No	Slope	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S005*	Public Footpath	Bare soil: Compacted	No	No	Path	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S006*	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S007*	Public highway	Tarmac	No	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	HCS-1-S008*	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S009* to HCS-1-S010*	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	No	No	Hedgerow	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S011*	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S012*	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	No	No	Hedgerow	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S013*	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	No	No	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S014*	Other existing walked route	Gravel	No	No	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S015* to HCS-1-S016*	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S017* to HCS-1-S018*	Public footpath	Gravel	No	No	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S019* to HCS-1-S020*	Public highway	Tarmac	No	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	HCS-1-S021	Other existing walked route	Grass	Yes - Normal	No	Various	Additional landward area	None
	HCS-1-S022	Other existing walked route	Grass	Yes - Normal	No	Other	Clarity and Cohesion	None

1	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	6c	7
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of this section	Current surface of this section	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 9 of Overview)	Default landward coastal margin?	Landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary discretion	Proposed exclusions or restrictions (see Part 10 of Overview)
1b	HCS-1-S023	Other existing walked route	Grass	Yes - Normal	No	Pavement edge	Additional landward area	None
	HCS-1-S024	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S025	Public highway	Tarmac	No	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	HCS-1-S026	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S027	Public highway	Tarmac	No	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	HCS-1-S028	Public footway (pavement)	Tarmac	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S029	Other existing walked route	Grass	Yes - Normal	No	Pavement edge	Additional landward area	None
	HCS-1-S030	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	Yes - Normal	No	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None
	HCS-1-S031	Other existing walked route	Bare soil: Compacted	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	1c	HCS-1-S032	Public footpath	Bare soil: Compacted	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion
HCS-1-S033* to HCS-1-S036*		Other existing walked route	Bare soil: Compacted	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
1d	HCS-1-S037	Public footpath	Bare soil: Compacted	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S038	Other existing walked route	Gravel	Yes - Normal	No	Pavement	Additional landward area	None
	HCS-1-S039	Other existing walked route	Gravel	Yes - Normal	No	Landward edge of path	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S040	Other existing walked route	Gravel	Yes - Normal	No	Pavement	Additional landward area	None
1d & 1e	HCS-1-S041 to HCS-1-S043	Other existing walked route	Gravel	Yes - Normal	No	Landward edge of path	Clarity and Cohesion	None
1e	HCS-1-S044	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	Yes - Normal	No	Landward edge of path	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S045 to HCS-1-S047	Public footpath	Tarmac	Yes - Normal	No	Landward edge of path	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S048	Public footpath	Tarmac	No	No	Landward edge of path	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S049	Public footpath	Tarmac	No	No	Wall	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S050	Other existing walked route	Tarmac	No	No	Various	Additional landward area	None
	HCS-1-S051	Other existing walked route	Shingle	No	No	Road	Clarity and Cohesion	None

1	2	3	4	5	6a	6b	6c	7
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of this section	Current surface of this section	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 9 of Overview)	Default landward coastal margin?	Landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary discretion	Proposed exclusions or restrictions (see Part 10 of Overview)
1e	HCS-1-S052	Other existing walked route	Shingle	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach or flat	Not Used	None
	HCS-1-S053	Public footpath	Shingle	No	Yes - beach	Landward edge of beach or flat	Not used	None
	HCS-1-S054 to HCS-1-S055	Public footpath	Bridge deck	No	No	Landward edge of bridge	Clarity and Cohesion	None
	HCS-1-S056	Public highway	Tarmac	No	Yes	Landward edge of trail (2m)	Not used	None

1.2.2 Other options considered: Map(s) 1a: Highcliffe to Hurst Spit

Map(s)	Section number(s)	Option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option as the route
1a	HCS-1-S001 to HCS-1-S020	We considered aligning the trail through the Hoburne Naish Holiday Park east of Chewton Bunny, Highcliffe	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Current access is for residents of the holiday park only, there is no right of public access. The landowners wish to ensure the security, integrity and the 'private' status of the holiday park and lock the access gates with access only for residents. ■ 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
1a	HCS-1-S001 to HCS-1-S020	We considered aligning the trail on the beach below Barton Cliffs and Hobourne Naish Holiday Park	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 ■ Aligning along the beach would be unsuitable due to safety concerns: cut off by high tides, cliff falls, soft sand and uncomfortable and unsuitable walking ■ Under our proposals the beach would remain available for people to use as part of the spreading room, but would not form part of the designated trail.
1c	HCS-1-S033 to HCS-1-S036	We considered aligning the trail along the public right of way, seaward of the trail	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The public right of way seaward of these sections is mostly lost to coastal erosion ■ The trail marked on the map follows de-facto walked routes that have migrated landward as the cliff edge has eroded ■ 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 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 1e.
- They should be read in conjunction with the relevant maps.
- The commentary above explains the practical effect of these proposals.

Formal Proposals – Highcliffe (Chewton Bunny) to Hurst Spit

Proposed route of the trail

- 1.3.1 In relation to route sections HCS-1-S003 to HCS-1-S020, HCS-1-S024 to HCS-1-S028 and route sections HCS-1-S048 to HCS-1-S056 the route is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps 1a to 1e as the proposed route of the trail.
- 1.3.2 In relation to route sections HCS-1-S001 to HCS-1-S002, route sections HCS-1-S021 to HCS-1-S023, route sections HCS-1-S029 to HCS-1-S047 the route, as initially determined at the time the report was prepared, is to be at the centre of the line shown on map 1.a to 1.d 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 to link with other parts of the route that need to roll back in direct response to such changes;

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 'Future Changes' in part 9 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

- 1.3.4 Adjacent to route sections HCS-1-S001 to HCS-1-S003 and HCS-1-S005, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the path shown as the trail on map 1a.
- 1.3.5 Adjacent to route section HCS-1-S004 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the slope which, at the time of writing this report, is landward of the trail shown on map 1a.
- 1.3.6 Adjacent to route sections HCS-1-S013, HCS-1-S014, HCS-1-S017, HCS-1-S018 and HCS-1-S031 to HCS-1-S037 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the fence line which, at the time of writing this report, is landward of the trail shown on maps 1a, 1b, 1c and 1d.
- 1.3.7 Adjacent to route sections HCS-1-S009, HCS-1-S010 and HCS-1-S012, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the hedgerow which, at the time of writing this report, is landward of the trail shown on map 1a.

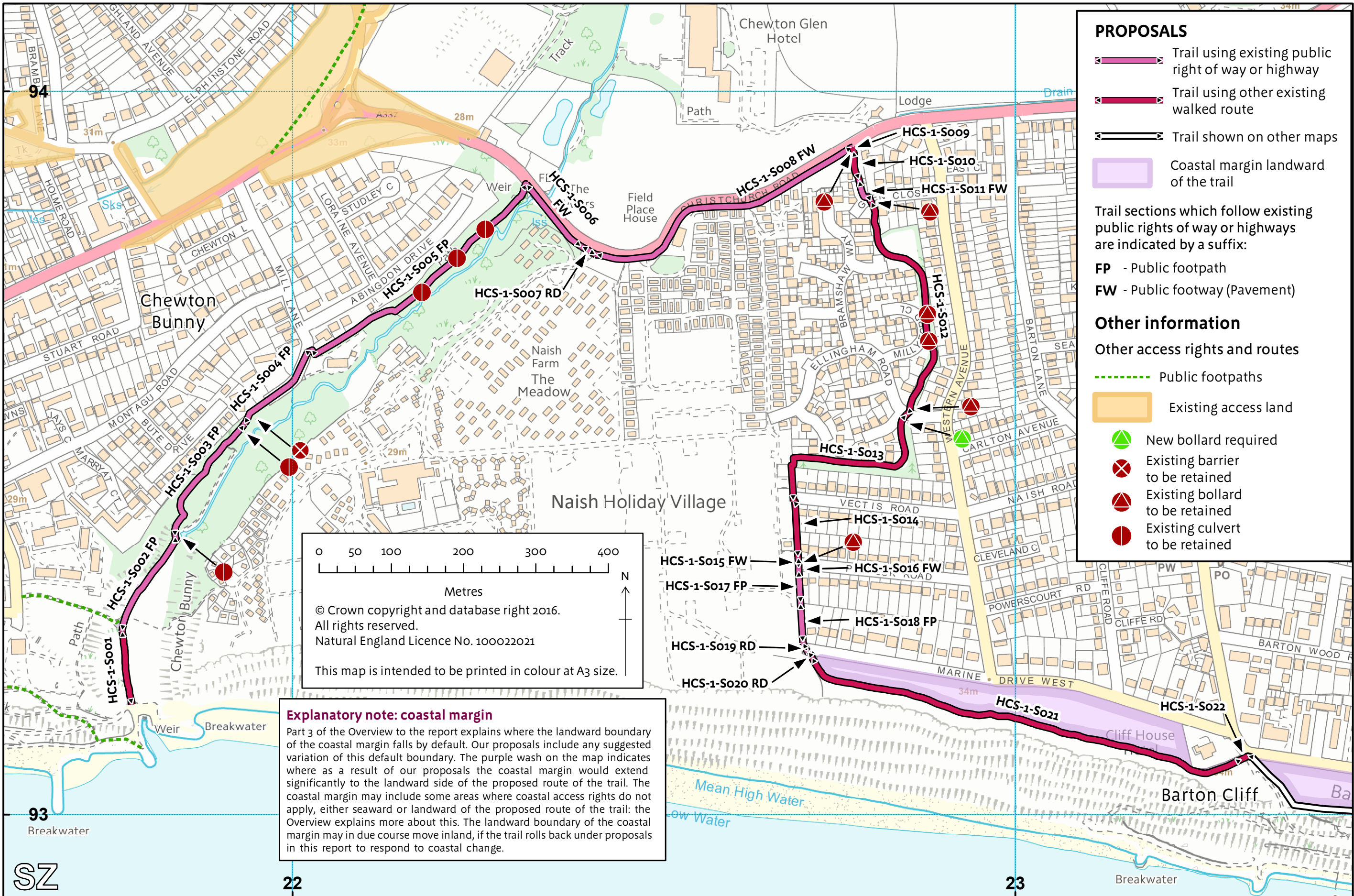
- 1.3.8 Adjacent to route sections HCS-1-S006, HCS-1-S008, HCS-1-S011, HCS-1-S015, HCS-1-S016, HCS-1-S024, HCS-1-S026 and HCS-1-S028 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the pavement edge shown as the trail on maps 1a and 1b.
- 1.3.9 Adjacent to route sections HCS-1-S039 and HCS-1-S041 to HCS-1-S048 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the path shown as the trail on maps 1d and 1e.
- 1.3.10 Adjacent to route section HCS-1-S051, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the road which, at the time of writing this report, is landward of the trail shown on map 1e.
- 1.3.11 Adjacent to route section HCS-1-S049, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with a wall which, at the time of writing this report, is landward of the trail shown on map 1e.
- 1.3.12 Adjacent to route section HCS-1-S022 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with 'other' features which, at the time of writing this report, are landward of the trail shown at 1a.
- 1.3.13 Adjacent to route sections HCS-1-S054 and HCS-1-S055, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the bridge shown as the trail on map 1e.
- 1.3.14 Adjacent to route sections HCS-1-S023, HCS -1-S029, HCS-1-S038 and HCS-1-S040, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the pavement edge, as indicated by the coastal margin landward of the trail shown on maps 1a, 1b and 1d.
- 1.3.15 Adjacent to route sections HCS-1-S021 and HCS-1-S050 the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with various features as indicated by the coastal margin landward of the trail shown on map 1e.

Local restrictions and exclusions

- 1.3.16 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

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

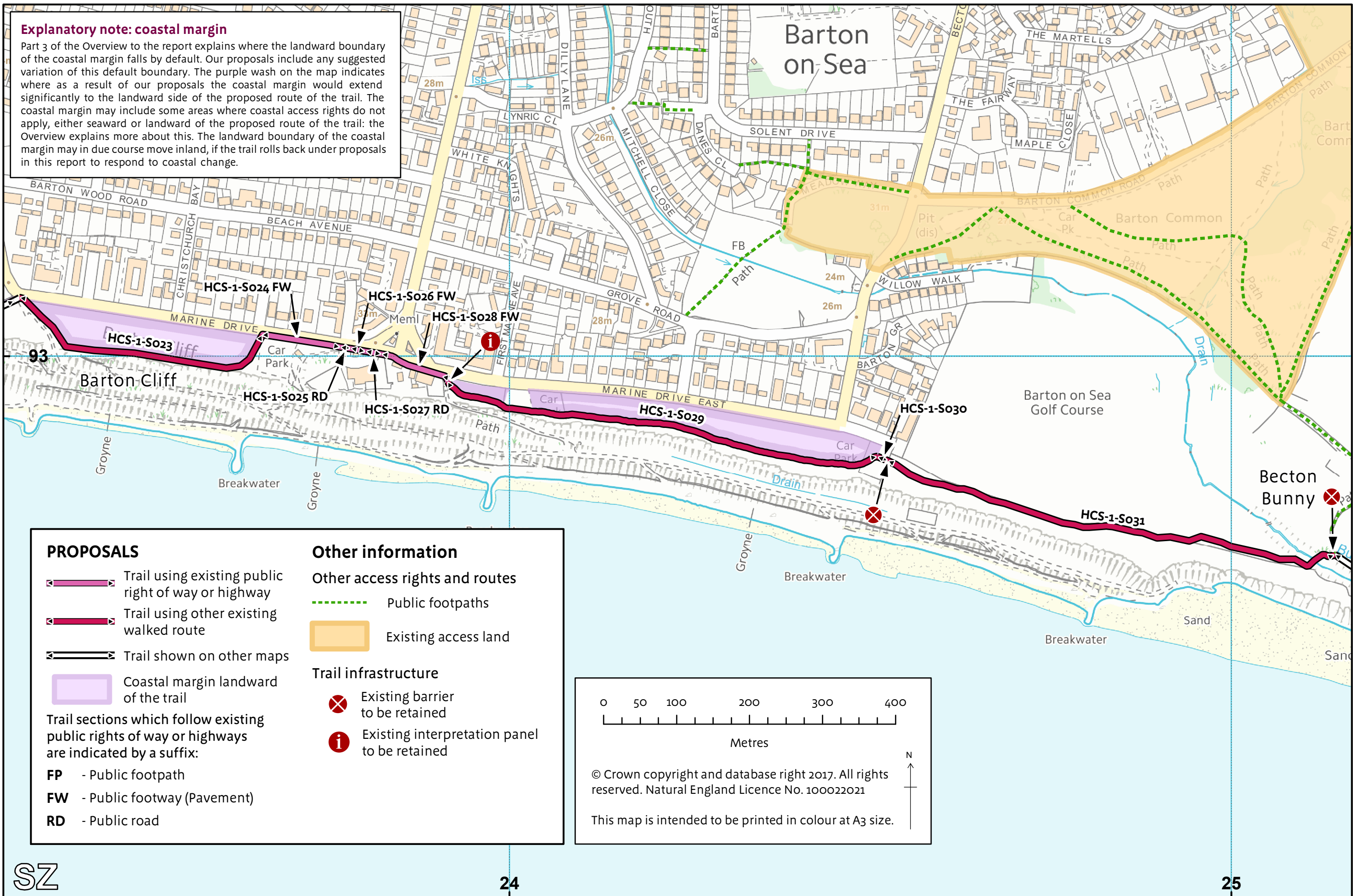


Map 1a: Chewton Bunny to Barton Cliff

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.

Explanatory note: coastal margin

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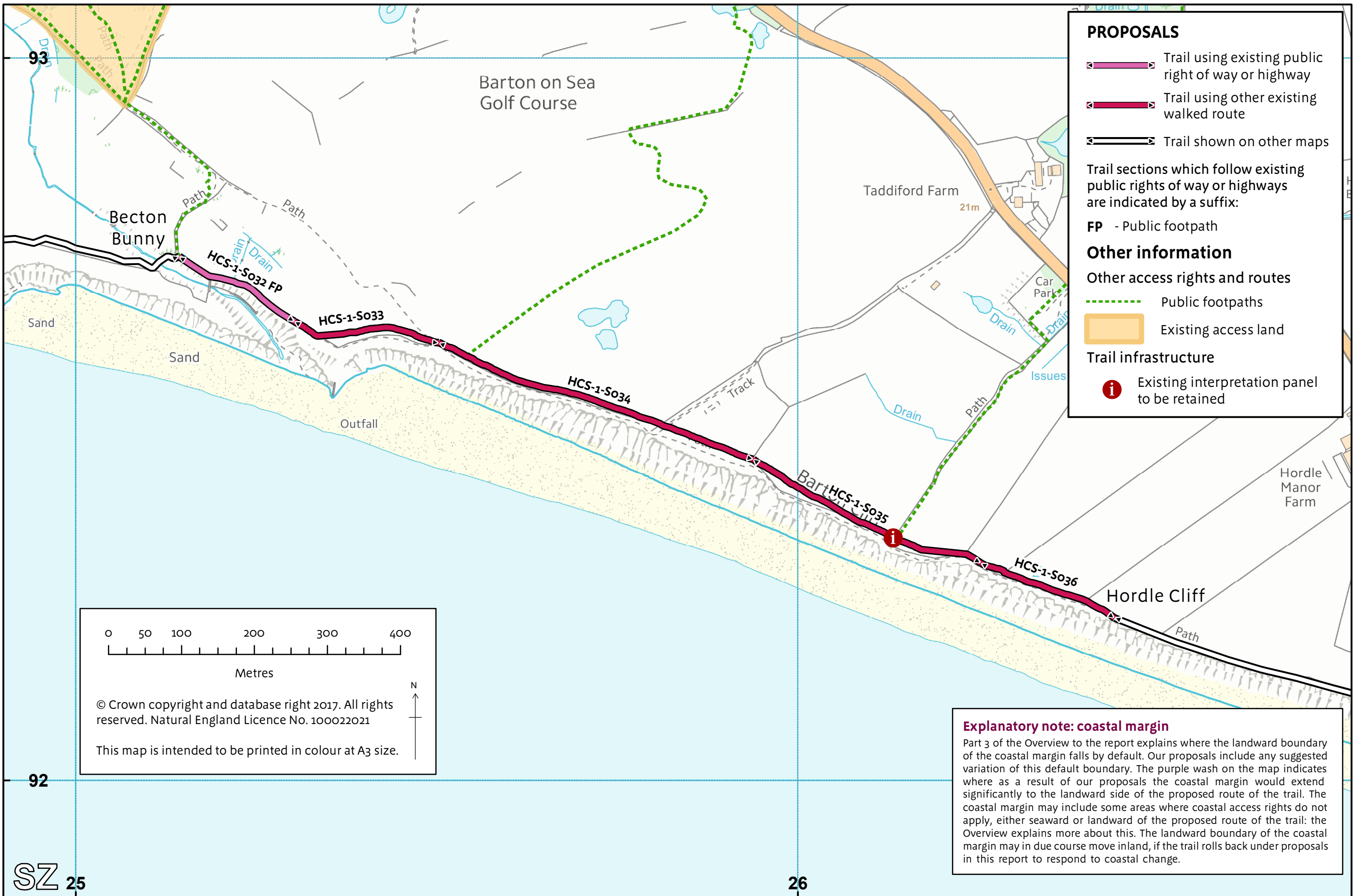


PROPOSALS		Other information	
	Trail using existing public right of way or highway		Public footpaths
	Trail using other existing walked route		Existing access land
	Trail shown on other maps	Trail infrastructure	
	Coastal margin landward of the trail		Existing barrier to be retained
Trail sections which follow existing public rights of way or highways are indicated by a suffix:			Existing interpretation panel to be retained
FP	- Public footpath		
FW	- Public footway (Pavement)		
RD	- Public road		

0 50 100 200 300 400
Metres

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This map is intended to be printed in colour at A3 size.



PROPOSALS

- Trail using existing public right of way or highway
- Trail using other 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

- Public footpaths
- Existing access land

Trail infrastructure

- Existing interpretation panel to be retained

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