

## Chapter 6:

# Flaxley to Hunstanton

England Coast Path: Weybourne to Hunstanton - Natural England's Proposals

## Part 6.1: Introduction

<b>Start Point:</b>	<b>Flaxley</b> (grid reference: TF6964 4395)
<b>End Point:</b>	<b>Salad Bowl Café, Hunstanton</b> (grid reference: TF6726 4131)
<b>Relevant Maps:</b>	<b>6a to 6c</b>

### Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps:

#### The Trail:

- 6.1.1 Follows the route of the existing waymarked Norfolk Coast Path National Trail along this length of coast.
- 6.1.2 Mainly follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea.
- 6.1.3 We propose to adopt the walked line of the Norfolk Coast Path National Trail along this section of coast. There are places where the walked line differs slightly from the route originally approved by the Secretary of State, as the path has evolved over time to cope with the coastal erosion and other processes. As explained at part 6a of the Overview, assuming these proposals are approved we intend to submit a separate variation report to the Secretary of State to change the route of the existing national trail to coincide with the approved line of the England Coast Path insofar as the two are different.

#### Protection of sensitive features

- 6.1.4 This part of the coast includes the following sites, designated for nature conservation or heritage preservation (See map C of the Overview):
  - The Wash & North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
  - North Norfolk Coast Special Protection Area (SPA)
  - The Wash Special Protection Area (SPA)
  - North Norfolk Coast Ramsar site

- The Wash Ramsar site
- North Norfolk Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for their geological/wildlife interest.
- The Wash Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for their geological/wildlife interest
- Hunstanton Cliffs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for their geological/wildlife interest.

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.

6.1.5 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 6.3.6.

In relation to those nature conservation designations 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**

6.1.6 There are few artificial barriers to accessibility on the proposed route, which make 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:

- parts of the route are on loose sand through dunes.

**See part 6a of the Overview - 'Recreational issues' - for more information.**

### **Where we have proposed exercising our discretion**

6.1.7 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 6.2.1 below.

6.1.8 At Hunstanton, we have used our discretion to propose the inclusion of additional, more extensive landward area within the coastal margin to secure or enhance public enjoyment of this part of the coast. The owner of the land is content for us to propose this.

**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'.**

6.1.9 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 6.3.6 in the Formal Proposals Section of this report and Part 10 of the Overview.

6.1.10 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**

6.1.11 Some physical establishment of the trail would be necessary, in accordance with the general approach described in part 7 of the Overview.

6.1.12 Ongoing management and maintenance would be necessary in accordance with the general approach described in part 8 of the Overview.

**See part 7 - 'Physical establishment of the trail' and part 8 - 'Maintenance of the trail' of the Overview for more information.**

### **Future Change**

6.1.13 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 9 of the Overview. See table 6.2.1 below for details of the sections likely to be affected in the foreseeable future.

6.1.14 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 part 6e - 'Coastal processes' and part 9 - 'Future changes' of the Overview for more information.**

## Part 6.2: Commentary on Maps

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

### 6.2.1 Section Details – Maps 6a to 6c: Flaxley to Salad Bowl Café, Hunstanton

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.

1	2	3	4	5	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)	Landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary discretion	Proposed exclusions or restrictions (see Part 10 of Overview)
<b>6a</b>	WBH-6-S001	Public byway	Grass	Yes - normal	Fence	Not used	None
	WBH-6-S002	Public footpath	Grass	Yes - normal	Fence	Not used	Margin
<b>6b</b>	WBH-6-S003	Public footpath	Sand	Yes - normal	Fence	Not used	None
	WBH-6-S004	Public footpath	Sand	Yes - normal	Various	Not used	None
	WBH-6-S005	Other existing walked route	Concrete	Yes - normal	Landward edge of the trail	Not used	None
	WBH-6-S006	Public footpath	Sand	Yes - normal	Landward edge of the path	Clarity and cohesion	None
	WBH-6-S007	Public footpath	Grass	Yes - normal	Fence (car park seaward boundary)	Clarity and cohesion	None
<b>6c</b>	WBH-6-S008	Public footpath	Grass	Yes - normal	Seaward edge of the road	Clarity and cohesion	None
	WBH-6-S009	Public footpath	Bare soil (compacted)	Yes - normal	Fence	Clarity and cohesion	None
	WBH-6-S010	Other existing walked route	Grass	Yes - normal	Seaward edge of the road	Clarity and cohesion	None

## Part 6.3: Chapter 6 - Formal Proposals

- Below are our formal proposals to the Secretary of State for the length of coast shown on maps 6a to 6c.
- They should be read in conjunction with the relevant maps.
- The commentary above explains the practical effect of these proposals.

### Formal Proposals – Flaxley to Salad Bowl Café, Hunstanton

#### Proposed route of the trail

6.3.1 In relation to route sections WBH-6-S001 to WBH-6-S010, the route is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps 6a to 6c as the proposed route of the trail.

6.3.2 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 'Roll-back' 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

6.3.3 Adjacent to route section WBH-6-S006, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the landward edge of the path shown as the trail on map 6b.

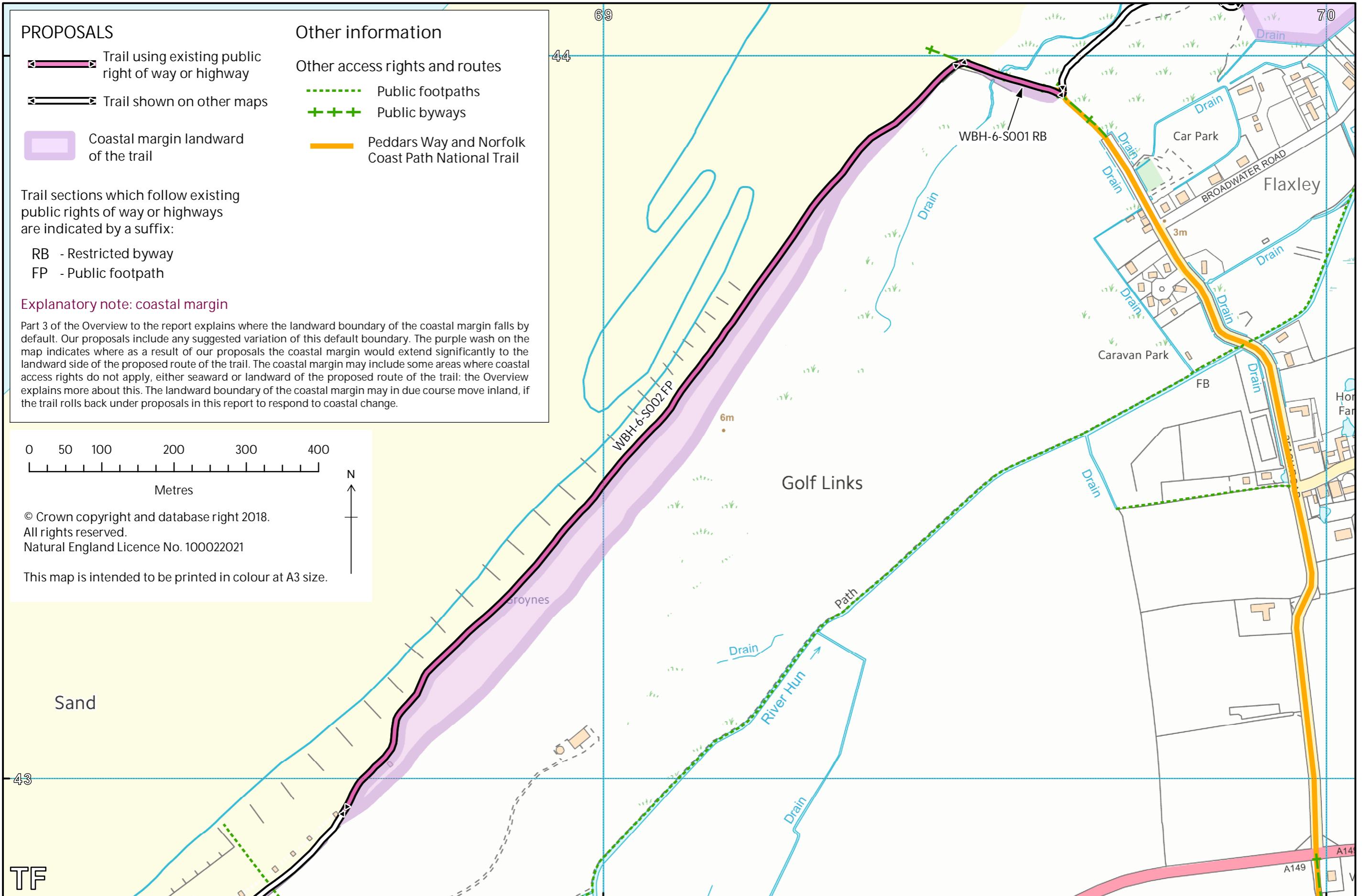
6.3.4 Adjacent to route sections WBH-6-S007 and WBH-6-S009, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the existing boundary fences which, at the time of writing this report, are landward of the route shown as the trail on maps 6b and 6c.

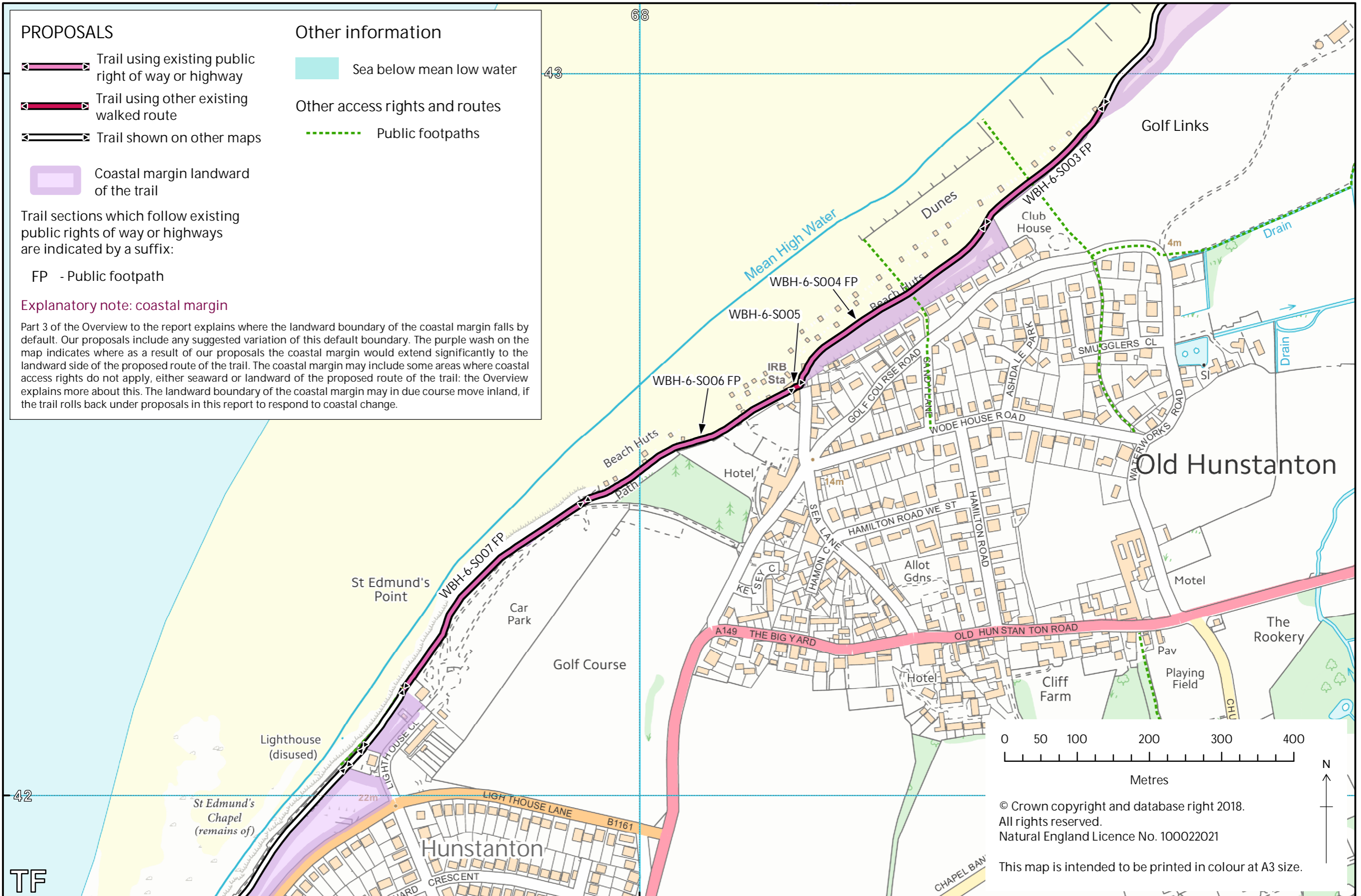
6.3.5 Adjacent to route sections WBH-6-S008 and WBH-6-S010, the landward boundary of the coastal margin is to coincide with the existing seaward edge of the roads which, at the time of writing this report, are landward of the route shown as the trail on map 6c.

#### Local restrictions and directions

6.3.6 Natural England proposes to exclude and/or restrict access relevant to this length of coast as follows:

- access to the margin at Flaxley seaward of route section WBH-6-S002 will be restricted to protect sensitive wildlife. See Overview map L.
- access will be excluded from fenced areas around breeding birds on the beach from 1 April to 15 August each year on the land cross hatched in brown. See Overview map L.





Map 6b Hunstanton Golf Links to St Edmund's Chapel, Hunstanton

