Assessment of Coastal Access Proposals between Penzance and St Mawes on sites and features of nature conservation concern

18 September 2019

About this document

This document should be read in conjunction with the published Reports for the Penzance to St Mawes Stretch and the Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA).

The Coastal Access Reports contain a full description of the access proposals, including any additional mitigation measures that have been included. These Reports can be viewed here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/coastal-access-in-cornwall-from-penzance-to-st-mawes-comment-on-proposals

A HRAs are required for European sites (SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites). The HRAs are published alongside the Coastal Access Reports.

This document, the Nature Conservation Assessment (NCA), covers all other aspects (including SSSIs, MCZs and undesignated but locally important sites and features) **in so far as any HRA does not already address the issue for the sites and feature(s) in question**.

The NCA is arranged site by site. Maps 1 to 9 show designated sites along this stretch of coast.

See Annex 1 for an index to designated sites and features for this stretch of coast, including features that have been considered within any HRA.

Contents

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Marazion Marsh SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? Yes

Marazion Marsh is also designated as a Special Protection Area, (SPA), for its overwintering Bittern, *Botaurus stellaris* population and Aquatic Warbler, *Acrocephalus paludicola* population. Although these species are not designated species of the SSSI, the reedbed and marsh features are a supporting habitat for the SPA designated species.

The SPA and SSSI designations cover the same geographical area,

Current situation

1. **Terrestrial Wetland Habitats** S4 Phragmites australis swamp and reed-beds	The marsh includes the largest expanse of reedbed in Cornwall. Threats to its condition as a SSSI habitat include hydrological changes on the site and water pollution from within the catchment. The site is an RSPB reserve and is currently freely open to the public, although dogs must be on a lead.
2. **Breeding and Non-Breeding Birds on Terrestrial Wetland Sites** • Aggregations of breeding birds – Cetti's warbler • Assemblages of breeding birds – Lowland fen without open water	The site was last assessed in 2010 with the two units of the site considered to be in favourable and unfavourable recovering condition. The main recorded issues relate to pollution from the surrounding catchment, water levels and scrub management. The SPA's Site Improvement Plan does detail public access as an issue causing bird disturbance. However, this specifically refers to kite surfing in Mounts Bay that causes a disturbance at high tide on occasion when the parachute appears 'over' the SPA.

Risk analysis

The route and associated margin are seaward of the SSSI, being the seaward side of the Penzance to Marazion coast road.

1. **Terrestrial Wetland Habitats** S4 Phragmites australis swamp and reed-beds	It is not possible to rule out potential damage to the above habitats if the trail was re-aligned or access patterns changed around these features due to the coastal access scheme proposals. However, the trail and associated margin will remain seaward of this site and so it is not considered that our proposals will have an impact on the designated habitats.
2. **Breeding and Non-Breeding Birds on Terrestrial Wetland Sites** • Aggregations of breeding birds – Cetti's warbler • Assemblages of breeding birds – Lowland fen without open water	It is proposed to realign the existing South West Coast Path onto the fixed dune habitat that runs seaward of the road which means the trail and associated margin will remain outside of the designated site boundary. Considering the existing use of the beach and road by pedestrains and vehicles, it is not felt that this realignment will have a detrimental effect on the designated bird species.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? No

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

St Michael's Mount SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? No

Current situation

1. **Geological Features** EC- Mineralogy of South-West England	The site conservation objectives detail its geological importance as follows: *The megacrystic granite of St Michael's Mount is a fractured cusp of the Cornubian batholith. The granite contains disseminated tin mineralisation and has been invaded by a swarm of sub-parallel greisen-bordered, mineral veins which are excellently exposed over a wide area on the wave-cut platform.* The site was last assessed in 2011 and considered to be in favourable condition.

Risk analysis

1. **Geological Features** EC- Mineralogy of South-West England	The SSSI could be impacted if works were proposed that could obscure the geological feature. However, no improvements are proposed within the vicinity of the geological features.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? No

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Cudden Point to Prussia Cove SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? No

Current situation

1.**Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous	The site conservation objectives detail its geological importance as follows: *This is the best example in Cornwall of a mildly metamorphosed, differentiated tholeiitic intrusive greenstone that retains good relict igneous textures and mineralogy.* The site was last assessed in 2013 and considered to be in favourable condition.

Risk analysis

1.**Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous	The SSSI could be impacted if works were proposed that could obscure the geological feature. However, no improvements to the trail are proposed within the vicinity of the geological features.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? No

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Folly Rocks SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? No

Current situation

1.**Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous	The site conservation objectives detail its geological importance as follows: *The rocks on the foreshore to the western end of Praa Sands provide exposures of an 18m wide body of fine grained granite cutting across the surrounding sedimentary rocks. These intrusions are known as elvan dykes and this one is some 270 million years old.* The site was last assessed in 2010 and considered to be in favourable condition.

Risk analysis

1.**Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous	The SSSI could be impacted if works were proposed that could obscure the geological feature. However, no improvements are proposed within the vicinity of the geological features.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? No

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Porthcew SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? No

Current situation

1.**Geological Features** EC- South- West England Igneous	The site conservation objectives detail its geological importance as follows: *The cliffs and foreshore at Porthcew show the roof zone of the Tregonning granite of Permo-Carboniferous age. This site exhibits a complexity not seen elsewhere in the Cornubian granites and is characterised by banding that is of primary origin.* The site was last assessed in 2010 and considered to be in favourable condition.

Risk analysis

1.**Geological Features** EC- South- West England Igneous	Two sets of steps are proposed to be installed to realign the path within the SSSI. Within the location of the steps there is a small amount of bedrock exposed. However, the proposed works are only likely to create more exposures which will benefit the geological interest feature.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? Yes

If yes, describe any special conditions that have been identified concerning how or when the works are to be carried out:

No special conditions necessary.

Where necessary, Cornwall Council will instigate the SSSI assent process by writing to us to confirm the timing of works and how operations to be undertaken in line with these conditions. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Tremearne Par SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? No

Current situation

1.**Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous FM- Mineralogy	The site conservation objectives detail its geological importance as follows: *Superb exposures of the top of the Godolphin granite which was intruded into the surrounding, pre-existing, sedimentary "country" rocks about 290 million years ago.* *Hot fluids and gases, rich in chemical elements associated with the molten granite, caused the crystallisation of an unusual assemblage of minerals.* The site was last assessed in 2010 and considered to be in favourable condition.

Risk analysis

1.**Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous FM- Mineralogy	Steps are proposed and widening of the path through a particularly steep section of the site. Within the location of the works a small amount of bedrock is currently exposed. However, the proposed works are only likely to create more exposures which will benefit the geological interest feature.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? Yes

If yes, describe any special conditions that have been identified concerning how or when the works are to be carried out:

No special conditions necessary.

Where necessary, Cornwall Council will instigate the SSSI assent process by writing to us to confirm the timing of works and how operations to be undertaken in line with these conditions. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Porthleven Cliffs SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? No

Current situation

1.**Geological Features** EC- Quaternary of South-West England IS- Quaternary of South-West England	The site conservation objectives detail its geological importance as follows: *The Giant's Rock is the most striking example of a glacial erratic on the south coast of England. This 50-ton block of gneiss could have arrived here on floating ice, possibly from as far away as Greenland. It provides one of the oldest pieces of evidence of glacial conditions in the South-West. Fossil raised beach deposits and frost shattered debris add to the interest of the site.* The site was last assessed in 2010 and considered to be in favourable condition.

Risk analysis

1.**Geological Features** EC- Quaternary of South-West England IS- Quaternary of South-West England	The SSSI could be impacted if works were proposed that could obscure the geological feature. However, no improvements are proposed within the vicinity of the geological features.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? No

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Porthleven Cliffs East SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? No

Current situation

1.**Geological Features** EC-South-West England Igneous ECVarsican Structures IA-Coastal Geomorphology	The site conservation objectives detail its geological importance as follows: *There are three generations of folds and associated cleavages cut by a series of steep NE – SW extensional faults. The section lies at right angles to the dominant north-easterly strike of the structure.* The site was last assessed in 2010 and considered to be in favourable condition.

Risk analysis

1.**Geological Features** EC-South-West England Igneous ECVarsican Structures IA-Coastal Geomorphology	The SSSI could be impacted if works were proposed that could obscure the geological feature. However, no improvements are proposed within the vicinity of the geological features.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? No

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Loe Pool SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? No

Current situation

1.**Geological Features** IA- Coastal Geomorphology	The site conservation objectives detail its geological importance as follows: *Loe Bar encloses a lagoon occupying part of a former ria and forms an integral part of a beach system extending from Porthleven to Gunwalloe. It is a classic example of a storm beach-barrier/bay-bar.* The geological feature was last assessed in 2010 and considered to be in favourable condition.
2.**Terrestrial Wetland Habitats** Mesotrophic lakes	The mesotrophic lake feature of this site is currently in unfavourable condition due to pollution from the surrounding catchment. The South West Coast Path crosses the shingle bar, with permissive access routes running around the main pool.
3.**Terrestrial Invertebrate Species** Invertebrate Assemblage F1 unshaded early successional mosaic Invertebrate Assemblage F111 bare sand and chalk Invertebrate Assemblage F112 open short sward Invertebrate Assemblage F2 grassland and scrub matrix	The site contains the F1, F111 and F112 assemblages, the majority of which are found within unit 2 of the site located within the coastal margin. These include the rare Sandhill Rustic Moth, *Luperina nickerlii leechi*, and nine species of Odonata. Unit 2 was assessed as in favourable condition in 2010. The South West Coast Path currently runs across the beach bar at the mouth of the pool. Permissive access is currently allowed to the bar and beach, with a small area at the southern end of the site designated as Open Access.
4.**Coastal / Open Water Bird Species** Aggregations of non-breeding birds – Shoveler, *Anas clypeata*	Shoveler, *Anas clypeata* is found in unit 1 of the site. It was considered in favourable condition as a feature in 2010, despite the unit as a whole being assessed as unfavourable due to water quality and hydrology issues.
5.**Vegetated Coastal Fringe Habitats** Coastal vegetated shingle (SD1-3)	Coastal vegetated shingle is found in unit 2 of the site. It was considered in favourable condition having been assessed in 2010. Formal and informal public access occurs in this area at present.
6.**Open Water Invertebrate Species** Invertebrate Assemblage W211 open water distributed sediments	The invertebrate assemblage is present in unit 1 of the site which has been assessed as in unfavourable condition due to water pollution and differing water levels.

Risk analysis

The route of the proposed trail follows the existing South West Coast Path through the site, apart from a section to the north which is proposed to be realigned off the bar itself.

1.**Geological Features** IA- Coastal Geomorphology	The SSSI could be impacted if works were proposed that could obscure the geological feature. However, no improvements are proposed within the vicinity of the geological features.
2.**Terrestrial Wetland Habitats** Mesotrophic lakes	The proposed coast path and associated margin is located seaward of the waterbody. Therefore, it is concluded that there will be no impact.
3.**Terrestrial Invertebrate Species** Invertebrate Assemblage F1 unshaded early successional mosaic Invertebrate Assemblage F111 bare sand and chalk Invertebrate Assemblage F112 open short sward Invertebrate Assemblage F2 grassland and scrub matrix	The invertebrate groups referred to on this site utilise either short turf, bare areas or a mix of grassland and scrub. The existing use of the site is likely to help maintain this diversity of habitat. With the proposed trail following the existing line of the South West Coast Path through the site and permissive access already allowed within the proposed coastal margin, it is not considered that there will be an impact on these invertebrate assemblages.
4.**Coastal / Open Water Bird Species** Aggregations of non-breeding birds – Shoveler, Anas clypeata	The site currently accommodates public access to the bar, beach and around the pool, with no adverse impacts recorded for the Shoveler, *Anas clypeata*. It is possible that the species would be sensitive if the coast path was realigned around Loe Pool itself, resulting in an increase in use of the current permissive route. However, the proposed coast path is to follow the line of the existing South West Coast Path, so it is concluded that there will be no impact on this species.
5.**Vegetated Coastal Fringe Habitats** Coastal vegetated shingle (SD1-3	The coastal vegetated shingle and strandline, embryo and mobile dunes habitats are considered in favourable condition with the current trail, and permissive access in place at present. Therefore it is not felt that the shingle habitats are sensitive to public access.
6.**Open Water Invertebrate Species** Invertebrate Assemblage W211 open water distributed sediments	Due to the assemblage location within the pool itself, and the proposed trail and margin located seaward of the waterbody, it is concluded that this assemblage will not be sensitive to our proposals.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? No

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Baulk Head to Mullion SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? Yes

Current situation

1.**Geological Features** EC- Marine Devonian	The citation for this SSSI details the following geological features: *This site exposes sections through presumed late Middle-Upper Devonian Meneage Formations (Gramscatho Group). It shows the transition from well-bedded greywackes to large-scale melange deposits containing phacoides up to 100 metres long. The bedded sediments at Halsferran Cove contain a bed-parallel unit of greywacke melange, which clearly indicates a sedimentary origin for this unit and the other more chaotic deposits seenin the formation. In addition, there are areas of polymict melange with included igneous blocks.* The geological feature was last assessed in 2009 and considered to be in favourable condition.
2.**Vascular Plant Species** Vascular plant assemblage	The vascular plants within this feature group, with the exception of *Polygonum maritimum*, are located on the coastal slopes of the SSSI. *Polygonum maritimum* is located at Gunwalloe Church Cove and Poldhu Cove with 63 plants recorded in 2009. Due to the Lizard's unique geology and mild oceanic climate, rare plants that thrive in both acid, chalk and limestone conditions occur in close proximity within the coastal margin. The species that make up the assemblage on this site include the following: : • Babington's Leek, *Allium ampeloprasum var. babingtonii* • Galingale, *Cyperus longus* • Fringed Rupturewort, *Herniaria ciliolate* • Thyme Broomrape, *Orobanche alba* • Sea Knotgrass, *Polygonum maritimum* • Autumn Squill, *Scilla autumnalis* The site was last assessed in 2011 and considered to be in favourable condition, apart from unit 3 which was recorded as in unfavourable recovering condition due to the presence of Japanese Knotweed.

3.**Open Coastal Habitats** Fixed dune grassland Fore dune Sand dune; strandline, embryo and mobile dunes Hard Maritime Cliffs and slopes	Sand dune habitat is present at the small coves that exist within this site, including Halzephron Cove, Church Cove, Poldu Cove and Polurrian Cove. These areas already experience regular public access. The Hard Maritime cliff and slope feature includes both maritime grassland and coastal heathland within this site, with the habitats considered to be in favourable condition with no threats to their condition recorded associated with public access.
4. **Terrestrial Wetland Habitats** Floodplain fen (lowland)	Lowland fen habitat is located in the valleys within units 3-6 and 9-13 of the site that run back from the coast from Church and Poldu coves.

Features of the SSSI site are not directly duplicated within the Lizard SAC. Therefore, all of the SSSI features are included within this assessment. The Lizard SAC boundary follows the boundary of the SSSI. However, the SAC covers a wider area across the Lizard peninsula between Gunnwalloe to the west and Cove rack to the east.

Risk analysis

The route of the proposed trail predominately follows the existing South West Coast Path through this site. The proposed route follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea, apart from at Halzephron House where the South West Coast Path is proposed to be realigned behind the House due to significant coastal erosion. The new route will cross a no through road and run along the inside of the adjacent hedge bank through two fields, before re-joining the existing line of the South West Coast Path.

1.**Geological Features** EC- Marine Devonian	The SSSI could be impacted if works were proposed that could obscure the geological feature. However, no improvements are proposed within the vicinity of the geological features.
2.**Vascular Plant Species** Vascular plant assemblage	The vascular plants of this SSSI occur in areas that are already highly used by the public either formally through the South West Coast Path or open access land, or informally on a permissive basis. Many of the plants prefer short turf, the edge of paths or in fact disturbed surfaces, and so public access, to a certain extent, may help in providing the right conditions for these plants to establish and expand. *Polygonum maritimum* occurs in areas heavily used by the public at present. Comments recorded when the species was last

	surveyed in 2009 include… '*It is widespread at Gunwalloe and in a relatively small area at Poldhu. The intense tourist pressure at these beaches does not appear to be detrimental to this species'.* If changes to the route of the Coast Path or improvement works are proposed that fall close to known populations of the above species this may cause an impact. However, no such works are proposed close to the plant populations. Therefore, no impacts to these species are likely to occur.
3.**Open Coastal Habitats** Fixed dune grassland Fore dune Sand dune; strandline, embryo and mobile dunes Hard Maritime Cliffs and slopes	The strandline, embryo and mobile and fixed dune habitats are considered in favourable condition with the current trail and wider public access already in place over these habitats. With no proposed changes to the existing access use of the site close to the sand dune habitats, it is concluded that there will be no impact from our proposals on the sand dune habitats. The coastal heathland and maritime grassland habitats contain a continuous vegetation cover which assists in offering some protection from trampling due to public access. The route of the proposed trail is to be realigned landward of Halzephron House and so will cross a section of the site to re-join the existing South West Coast Path south of the property. This equates to approximately 10 metres of new path through what is currently scrub habitat. Therefore, the creation of new trail within this location will open up habitat that is currently degraded and so is likely to have a positive effect on this feature of the site in this location.
4. **Terrestrial Wetland Habitats** Floodplain fen (lowland)	This habitat is located inland of the proposed coastal margin and so will not be impacted by our proposals.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? Yes

If yes, describe any special conditions that have been identified concerning how or when the works are to be carried out:

No special conditions necessary.

Where necessary, Cornwall Council will instigate the SSSI assent process by writing to us to confirm the timing of works and how operations to be undertaken in line with these conditions. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? Yes

Note that notified features of the SSSI that are also qualifying features of the European site are omitted from this assessment. The only SSSI feature that is duplicated within the Lizard SAC is Dry Heathland. Therefore, all other features of the above SSSI are considered below. The Lizard SAC boundary follows the boundary of the SSSI. However, the SAC covers a wider area across the Lizard peninsula between Gunwalloe to the west and Coverack to the east.

Current situation

1.**Geological Features** EC- Marine Devonian EC- Mineralogy of South-West England EC- South-West England Igneous	The citation for this SSSI details the following geological features: *The metabasalt lavas of Mullion Island are representative of the volcanic rocks associated with the Roseland Breccia Formation tectonically emplaced on top of the Devonian Gramscatho Group of sediments.* The feature was considered to be in favourable condition when las assessed in 2010.
2.**Vascular Plant Species** Population of RDB plant – *Asparagus prostrates*, Wild Asparagus *Erica vagans*, Cornish Heath *Genista pilosa*, Hairy Greenweed *Herniaria ciliolate*, Fringed Rupturewort *Isoetes histrix*, Land Quillwort	The notified vascular plant species are located on the coastal slopes of the SSSI. They were last assessed in 2009 and considered to be in favourable condition.
3.**Open Coastal Habitats** Hard Maritime cliffs and slopes	The open coastal habitats that fall within this feature are considered to be in favourable condition, being last assessed in 2010. The only threat to condition recorded is a need for coastal grazing in unit 2 of the site.
4.**Terrestrial Invertebrate Species** Invertebrate Assemblage F111 bare sand and chalk Invertebrate Assemblage F112 open short sward	The site contains various invertebrate assemblages within units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 of the site. The units are assessed as in favourable condition overall, but range from being effectively grazed to in need of additional grazing to control scrub.

Risk analysis

The route of the proposed trail predominately follows the existing South West Coast Path within this site. The proposed route follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea. Improvement works are proposed within this site as follows:

Mullion Cove – the installation of steps, drainage measures and cutting back of vegetation is proposed on the cliff above Mullion Cove, due to the wet nature of the coastal slope in this location which gets slippery and churned up during the winter months.

Pradanack Morva – this is a particular wet and steep section of the existing South West Coast Path where drainage measures, steps and a short section of path re-profiling are proposed.

1.**Geological Features** EC- Marine Devonian EC- Mineralogy of South-West England EC- South-West England Igneous	The SSSI could be impacted if works were proposed that could obscure the geological feature. However, the proposed improvement works at Mullion Cove and Pradanack Morva will not impact the geological interest of this site as the interest feature is located on Mullion island which is outside of the proposed coastal margin.
2.**Vascular Plant Species** Population of RDB plant – *Asparagus prostrates*, Wild Asparagus *Erica vagans*, Cornish Heath *Genista pilosa*, Hairy Greenweed *Herniaria ciliolate*, Fringed Rupturewort *Isoetes histrix*, Land Quillwort	These vascular plant species could be impacted by our proposals if the path was to be realigned or improvement works were proposed in the vicinity of the recorded locations of these species. When considering the improvement works proposed at Mullion Cove, the last assessment of Land Quillwort, *isoetes histrix*, identified the species close to the location of the proposed improvement works. Therefore we have identified a potential impact between the proposal and this particular species.
3.**Open Coastal Habitats** Hard Maritime cliffs and slopes	Sections of the proposed trail within this site have been assessed as more challenging to walk due to the steep valleys and rocky surface, with the path surface in areas becoming wet and muddy due to surface run off and regular repeated use. Therefore a number of improvements are proposed to the current signposted and walked route as detailed above. The proposed improvement works will ensure that the line of the path in these locations remains suitable for access, while preventing erosion of the substrate and degradation of the habitat. The improvement works are therefore not considered to have a detrimental impact on the designated open coastal habitats.
4.**Terrestrial Invertebrate Species** Invertebrate Assemblage F111 bare sand and chalk Invertebrate Assemblage F112 open short sward	The current South West Coast Path runs through all of the sites mentioned above. In addition the majority of the coastal margin is already designated as open access. The invertebrates referred to in this case are those that prefer either short turf or bare sand or chalk. Therefore, it is not considered that the proposals made will impact on the invertebrate features of this site.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? Yes

If yes, describe any special conditions that have been identified concerning how or when the works are to be carried out:

Note Annex 2, (page 84), which provides further detail on how to prevent an adverse impact on the *isoetes histrix* population recorded south of Mullion cove.

Where necessary, Cornwall Council will instigate the SSSI assent process by writing to us to confirm the timing of works and how operations to be undertaken in line with these conditions. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

West Lizard SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? Yes

Note that notified features of the SSSI that are also qualifying features of the European site are omitted from this assessment. The only SSSI feature that is duplicated within the Lizard SAC is Dry Heathland. Therefore, all other features of the above SSSI are considered below. The Lizard SAC boundary follows the boundary of the SSSI. However, the SAC covers a wider area across the Lizard peninsula between Gunwalloe to the west and Coverack to the east.

Current situation

1. **Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous	The citation for this SSSI details the following geological features: *Kynance Cove provides one of the best and most famous exposures of the Lizard peridotite and includes good examples of the two main varieties. Another conspicuous feature of interest is the presence of granite and gneiss pods in the peridotite.* The site was considered to be in favourable condition when last assessed in 2011.
2.**Lower Plant Species** Bryophytes Assemblage Lichen Assemblage	Bryophyte and lichen species that are features of this site occur within areas of short turf or on rocky outcrops within the coastal margin. The feature was assessed in 2011 as in favourable condition.
3.**Vascular Plant Species** Population of RDB plant – *Erica vagans*, Cornish Heath *Genista pilosa*, Hairy Greenweed *Herniaria ciliolate*, Fringed Rupturewort *Hypochaeris maculate*, Spotted Cat's-ear	The notified vascular plant species are located on the coastal slopes of the SSSI. They were last assessed in 2009 and considered to be in favourable condition.
4.**Open Coastal Habitats** Hard Maritime cliffs and slopes	The open coastal habitats that fall within this feature are considered to be in favourable condition, being last assessed in 2010. The only threat to condition recorded is a need for coastal grazing in unit 21 of the site.
5.**Terrestrial Invertebrate Species** Invertebrate Assemblage F111 bare sand and chalk Invertebrate Assemblage F112 open short sward	The site contains the F111 and F112 assemblages across the site. All units are favourable, although unit 21 is under threat by a lack of grazing due to inadequate grazing infrastructure. The site is actively grazed by both Natural England and the National Trust as part of the Lizard National Nature Reserve.

Risk analysis

The route of the proposed trail predominately follows the existing South West Coast Path through the SSSI. The proposed route follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea. An optional alternative route is proposed at Kynance Cove when the ordinary route is unavailable at times of high tide.

Sections of the proposed trail in this chapter have been assessed as more challenging to walk due to the steep valleys and rocky surface. A number of improvements are proposed to the current signposted and walked route. These improvements include; signage, removal of tripping stones and drainage at Soap Rock; re-profiling, fencing and signage at Pentreath Cove; steps, drainage and signage at Caerthillian Cove and path surfacing, walker management and habitat restoration works at Holestrow.

The existing South West Coast Path experiences very high footfall currently within this site year round, which has resulted in erosion of a wide margin of cliff habitat. Proposed improvement works to manage the high level of users and protect and restore the coastal habitat is detailed further within section 4 below.

1. **Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous	The SSSI could be impacted if works were proposed that could obscure the geological feature. However, no improvements are proposed within the vicinity of the geological features.
2.**Lower Plant Species** Bryophytes Assemblage Lichen Assemblage	The assessment of the bryophyte assemblages carried out in 2011 identified a number of species that colonise either bare soil on the cliffs, bare rock or semi aquatic and bog habitats. Threats to these species were identified as scrub development, wetland succession and nitrogen deposition. Therefore, due to the existing public access in this area and the location of the species, it is concluded that our proposals will not impact on the lichen and bryophyte features.
3.**Vascular Plant Species** Population of RDB plant – *Erica vagans*, Cornish Heath *Genista pilosa*, Hairy Greenweed *Herniaria ciliolate*, Fringed Rupturewort *Hypochaeris maculate*, Spotted Cat's-ear	These vascular plants currently occur in areas that already have the South West Coast Path running through them. In addition, the coastal margin in this location is already dedicated as open access. However, when considering the improvement works proposed behind Pentreath Beach, the condition assessment of the designated vascular plants from 2009 identifies Dwarf rush, *Juncus capitatus* and Autum squil, *scila autumnalis* in this location. Therefore we have identified a potential impact between the proposal and this particular species, with further detail provided in Annex 2 on measures required to prevent such an impact occuring.
4.**Open Coastal Habitats** Hard Maritime cliffs and slopes	Significant improvement works are proposed to the line of the South West Coast Path between Kynance and Holestrow. Along this section of coast it should be noted that the coastal margin is a mosaic of heathland

	and maritime grassland habitats. Due to the presence of both habitats within the margin, and the difficulty in separating the two along this stretch of coast, the whole stretch is covered within this assessment and the Lizard SAC HRA. Due to the heavy public use this section of coast path receives to date, extensive damage to the path and wider margin is evident, with erosion of the substrate occurring. Along this section of coast, a margin of up to 5 metres in width is currently damaged and unable to recover due to the regular and sustained footfall. It is proposed to put in place a hard surface at certain locations on the line of the path that will cover approximately 150m2 of currently damaged habitat. In addition, the damaged habitat in the wider margin will be restored by either re-turfing or scarifying the surface to aid regeneration. These works are required to manage the high footfall within this area and to allow the habitat within the wider margin to recover. Therefore, it is concluded that the overall effect on the SSSI habitat will be positive. An alternative high tide route is proposed above Kynance Cove. However, as this is routed through heathland habitat, any impacts are assessed in detail within the Lizard SAC Habitats Regulation Assessment.
5.**Terrestrial Invertebrate Species** Invertebrate Assemblage F111 bare sand and chalk Invertebrate Assemblage F112 open short sward	The current South West Coast Path runs through all of the sites mentioned above. In addition the majority of the coastal margin is already designated as open access. The invertebrates referred to in this case are those that prefer either short turf or bare sand or chalk. Therefore, it is not considered that the proposals made will impact on the invertebrate features of this site.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? Yes

If yes, describe any special conditions that have been identified concerning how or when the works are to be carried out:

Note Annex 2, (page 84), which provides further detail on how to prevent an adverse impact on the Dwarf rush, *Juncus capitatus* and Autum squil, *scila autumnalis* populations recorded along this stretch of coast.

Where necessary, Cornwall Council will instigate the SSSI assent process by writing to us to confirm the timing of works and how operations to be undertaken in line with these conditions. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? Yes

Features of the SSSI site are not directly duplicated within the Lizard SAC. Therefore, all of the SSSI features are included within this assessment. The Lizard SAC boundary follows the boundary of the SSSI. However, the SAC covers a wider area across the Lizard peninsula between Gunwalloe to the west and Coverack to the east.

Current situation

1.**Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous	The citation for this SSSI details the following geological features: *The site is underlain by metamorphosed sediments and igneous rocks including micaceous and hornblende schists of amphibolite to granulite facies. Tectonically above these lies serpentinised peridotite and gabbro into which acidic granite gneisses have been intruded. The rocks at Lizard Point and from Polbarrow to the Balk are of special geological importance in the interpretation of the Lizard Complex of rocks.* The feature was considered to be in favourable condition when last assessed in 2011.
2.**Lower Plant Species** Bryophytes Assemblage	The bryophyte species occur on thin soils or on the edge of paths where the surrounding vegetation is short. Key to the management of these species is controlling scrub and grazing where possible to create areas of short turf. Some of the areas where the species are found at present are regularly used by walkers indicating that any expansion of public access in this area may benefit the bryophyte species. The feature was considered to be in favourable condition when last assessed in 2011.
3.**Open Coastal Habitats** Hard Maritime Cliff and slope	The site overall is considered to be unfavourable recovering. The condition assessment in 2011 identifies invasive species as an issue, however, grazing by hardy ponies is having a positive impact on the level of bracken and scrub species.
4.**Terrestrial Invertebrate Species** Invertebrate Assemblage F111 bare sand and chalk Invertebrate Assemblage F112 open short sward.	The site contains the invertebrate assemblages associated with bare ground and open short swards. The assemblages were assessed in 2012 as in favourable condition.

Risk analysis

The route of the proposed trail predominately follows the existing South West Coast Path through this site, apart from in Cadgwith village. The proposed route follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea, apart from the route south of Cadgwith village, where a short section runs behind a row of houses. A proposed realignment in the village, will move the existing trail from a narrow public road onto a Public Right of Way closer to the coast with better views of the sea.

The existing South West Coast Path experiences very high footfall within this site year round, which has resulted in erosion of a wide margin of cliff habitat. Proposed improvement works to manage the high level of users and protect and restore the coastal habitat is detailed further within section 4 below. In addition, improvement works are proposed between Gwavas to Poltesco on sections of the existing South West Coast Path which currently hold water and so are regularly wet and muddy. Improvement works include installation of stepping stones, placing hard surfacing at three locations, (Kildown Cove, Devil's Frying Pan and Gwavas), wooden revetments and steps. At Kennack, the existing coast path is proposed to be realigned as the current line of the trail is on a seasonally muddy section it will be moved higher up the coastal slope onto the line of a historic track.

1.**Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous	The SSSI could be impacted if works were proposed that could obscure the geological feature. A number of improvement works are proposed to the line of the existing South West Coast Path within this site. However, these improvements are small scale works that will not obscure the geological feature of this site.
2.**Lower Plant Species** Bryophytes Assemblage	In general the forming of new paths would be of benefit to a number of the individual bryophyte species due to the need for short turf areas. Within the location of the bryophtye species, no realignments of the existing South West Coast Path are proposed. However, works are proposed near Caerthillian Cove to improve the existing steps on the coast path and associated drainage. The species *Tortula atrovirens* and *Tortula wilsonii* have been recorded in this location. Therefore we have identified a potential impact between the proposal and these species, with further detail provided in Annex 2 on measures required to prevent such an impact occuring.
3.**Open Coastal Habitats** Hard Maritime Cliff and slope	Improvement works are proposed to a 300 m section of the South West Coast Path just south of Holseer Cove. In addition improvement works are proposed between Gwavas to Poltesco to the east of Lizard Point as detailed above. Along this section of coast it should be noted that the coastal margin is a mosaic of heathland and maritime grassland habitats. Due to the presence of both habitats within the margin, and the difficulty in separating the two along this stretch of coast, the whole stretch is covered within this assessment and the Lizard SAC HRA.

	Due to the heavy public use of the section of path landward of Holseer Cove, extensive damage to the path and wider margin is evident, with erosion of the substrate occurring. Along this section of coast, a margin of up to 5 metres in width is currently damaged and unable to recover due to the regular and sustained footfall. It is proposed to put in place a hard surface on the line of the path. In addition, the damaged habitat in the wider margin will be restored by either re-turfing or scarifying the surface to aid regeneration. These works are required to manage the high footfall within this area and to allow the habitat within the wider margin to recover. In addition, works including drainage measures, steps and hard surfacing are proposed in locations between Gwavas and Poltesco. These measures are proposed to improve access management within areas that are currently experiencing damage to the habitat due to the wet nature of the ground and/or due to the high foot fall received. The proposed improvement works will protect the surrounding SSSI habitat, with temporary pool habitat created as part of the works near Poltesco, which is a SAC feature. Therefore, it is concluded that the overall effect of the proposed works on the SSSI habitat will be positive.
4.**Terrestrial Invertebrate Species** Invertebrate Assemblage F111 bare sand and chalk Invertebrate Assemblage F112 open short sward**.**	The current South West Coast Path runs through all of the sites mentioned above. In addition the majority of the coastal margin is already designated as open access. The invertebrates referred to in this case are those that prefer either short turf or bare sand or chalk. Therefore, it is not considered that the proposals made will impact on the invertebrate features of this site.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? Yes

If yes, describe any special conditions that have been identified concerning how or when the works are to be carried out:

Note Annex 2, (page 84), which provides further detail on how to prevent an adverse impact on the *Tortula atrovirens* and *Tortula wilsonii* bryophyte species recorded near Caerthillian Cove.

Where necessary, Cornwall Council will instigate the SSSI assent process by writing to us to confirm the timing of works and how operations to be undertaken in line with these conditions. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.

.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Kennack to Coverack SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? Yes

Note that notified features of the SSSI that are also qualifying features of the European site are omitted from this assessment. The only SSSI feature that is duplicated within the Lizard SAC is Dry Heathland. Therefore, all other features of the above SSSI are considered below. The Lizard SAC boundary follows the boundary of the SSSI. However, the SAC covers a wider area across the Lizard peninsula between Gunwalloe to the west and Coverack to the east.

Current situation

1.**Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous	The geological feature of this site includes features at Kennack Sands and Lankidden. The conservation objectives of the site detail the geological feature as follows: *Both sites are of national importance in illustrating parts of the complex of ultrabasic and basic igneous rocks which form the Lizard ophiolite.* The feature was last assessed in 2016 and considered to be in favourable condition.
2.**Lower Plant Species** Bryophytes Assemblage Lichen Assemblage	The bryophyte and lichen species occur on exposed locations on the cliff, on acidic soil in heathland and on the edges of paths.
3.**Vascular Plant Species** Population of RDB plant – *Erica vagans*, Cornish Heath *Genista pilosa*, Hairy Greenweed *Herniaria ciliolate*, Fringed Rupturewort *Isoetes histrix*, Land Quillwort *Juncus capitatus*, Dwarf rush *Trifolium bocconei*, Twin-headed Clover.	The notified vascular plant species are located on the coastal slopes of the SSSI. They were last assessed in 2016 and considered to be in favourable condition.
4.**Open Coastal Habitats** Hard Maritime Cliff and Slope Lowland Wet Heath	Out of 30 units, 21 are favourable including unit 2 which details threats to its condition related to the need for ongoing grazing and removal of invasive Willow scrub. The remaining 9 units were assessed as unfavourable recovering with uniformity of heathland habitat structure and encroachment by Willow, Gorse, Bracken or

	Bramble cited as an issue. This site includes areas of wet heath just west of Green Saddle.

Risk analysis

The route of the proposed trail predominately follows the existing South West Coast Path within the SSSI. The proposed route follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea.

The route at Kennack Towans, is proposed to be realigned closer to the coast on the headland, where at present it runs inland with limited sea views in sections where it is behind the headland with tall vegetation on both sides. An improvement of the existing South West Coast Path is proposed west of Downas valley where approximately 140 steps with deflector boards are to be installed on a particularly wet and steep section of existing path.

1.**Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous	The SSSI could be impacted if works were proposed that could obscure the geological feature. However, no such works are proposed that would obscure the geology at either Kennack Towans or Downas Valley.
2.**Lower Plant Species** Bryophytes Assemblage Lichen Assemblage	Many of the locations used by these species are relatively inaccessible to the public. In addition, forming of new paths would be of benefit to a number of the individual bryophyte species due to the need for short turf areas. Although the existing South West Coast Path is proposed to be realigned to the west of Kennack Sands, this is through existing scrub habitat and so is not considered to have an impact on the lower plant features.
3.**Vascular Plant Species** Population of RDB plant – *Erica vagans*, Cornish Heath *Genista pilosa*, Hairy Greenweed *Herniaria ciliolate*, Fringed Rupturewort *Isoetes histrix*, Land Quillwort *Juncus capitatus*, Dwarf rush *Trifolium bocconei*, Twin-headed Clover.	These vascular plant species could be impacted by our proposals if the path were to be realigned or improvement works were proposed in the vicinity of the species populations. However, the location of the proposed realignments and improvement works are not in the vicinity of the designated plant species.
4.**Open Coastal Habitats** Hard Maritime Cliff and Slope Lowland Wet Heath	Realignment of the existing South West Coast Path is proposed at Kennack Towans, with improvement works proposed at Downas Valley. The improvement works will help manage the existing access pressure on the site, and so help protect the surrounding coastal habitat. There are no proposed works within the vicinity of the wet heath habitats that already have the South West Coast Path running through them.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? Yes

If yes, describe any special conditions that have been identified concerning how or when the works are to be carried out:

No special conditions necessary.

Where necessary, Cornwall Council will instigate the SSSI assent process by writing to us to confirm the timing of works and how operations to be undertaken in line with these conditions. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Coverack Cove and Dolor Point SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? No

Current situation

1.**Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous EA- South-West England Igneous EA- Mineralogy ED- Mineralogy	The conservation objectives for this SSSI detail the following geological interest for this site: *The Coverack beach section on the Lizard is one of the most famous geological localities in Cornwall. It provides an almost continuous section across a palaeo-Moho or mantle-crust boundary. This is a key site for the interpretation of the Lizard ophiolite complex.* The site consists of two units. Unit one was assessed in 2010 as partially destroyed due to coastal protection measures obscuring part of the geological feature. Unit two was assessed as in favourable condition.

Risk analysis

The proposed route follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea, apart from a short section behind coastal properties at Coverack.

1.**Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous EA- South-West England Igneous EA- Mineralogy ED- Mineralogy	The SSSI could be impacted if works were proposed that could obscure the geological feature. However, within the boundaries of this geological site, no such works are proposed.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? No

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Coverack to Porthoustock SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? Yes

Note that notified features of the SSSI that are also qualifying features of the European site are omitted from this assessment. The only SSSI feature that is duplicated within the Lizard SAC is Dry Heathland. Therefore, all other features of the above SSSI are considered below. The Lizard SAC boundary follows the boundary of the SSSI from North Corner to Polcries over the southern half of the SSSI site. However, the SAC covers a wider area across the Lizard peninsula.

Current situation

1.**Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous	The geological feature of this site includes features at Porthoustock Point and Dean Quarry. The citation of the site details the geological interest as follows: <u>Porthoustock Point</u> *At Porthoustock the large number of dykes accounting locally for between 50%–80% of exposures, cutting the gabbro has led to the suggestion that they represent the basal past of a sheeted dyke swarm. Such swarms are a characteristic feature of the lower crust in an ophiolite, and their occurrence at Porthoustock indicates it to be the highest structural level of the Lizard ophiolite to be preserved.* <u>Dean Quarry</u> *Late hydrothermal veins in the St Keverne gabbro here contain a variety of zeolite minerals, prehnite, pectolite and unusual crystallisations of calcite. Of the zeolites, natrolite and analcime are particularly well developed, the former occurring as prismatic crystals up to 16 cm long and the latter as typical trapezohedrons up to about 5 cm.* The feature at Porthoustock Point was assessed in 2009 as in favourable condition, whereas Dean Quarry was assessed as in unfavourable no change condition in 2012 due to the cessation of quarrying activity on the site.

2.**Vascular Plant Species** Population of RDB plant – *Erica vagans*, Cornish Heath Population of RDB plant – *Juncus capitatus*, Dwarf rush Population of RDB plant – *Trifolium bocconei*, Twin-headed Clover Population of Schedule 8 plant – *Mentha pulegium*, Pennyroyal Vascular plant assemblage	The notified vascular plant species are located on the coastal slopes of the SSSI. They were last assessed in 2010 and considered to be in favourable condition.
3.**Open Coastal Habitats** Hard Maritime Cliff and Slope Lowland Wet Heath	According to the last condition assessment, the site was considered to be in favourable condition, with the only threat to condition being from the encroachment of invasive Willow scrub. Some active management is undertaken of these open coastal habitats through burning and grazing of the vegetation.

Risk analysis

The route of the proposed trail through this site contains two realignments of the existing South West Coast Path:

North Corner – Realignment of the trail is proposed in front of the water treatment works to the north east of North Corner. The 65m trail section would run in front of the fencing around the treatment works.

Godrevy Cove to West of England Quarry - This realignment is from Godrevy Cove to West of England Quarry, where the current line of the route follows a public road through the village of Rosenithon. The proposed route will follow Godrevy cove, then skirt through pasture fields before linking with the private path behind West of England quarry. A new boardwalk is proposed at Godrevy Cove where the path crosses a wet flush at the back of the beach.

Proposed improvements to the trail include:

Boscarnon Cliffs – improvement works are proposed due to the existing path being at the bottom of a slope on a gradient and being regularly wet and muddy with scrub either sides of the trail. The proposed improvements include drainage measures and installation of wooden steps, as well as the laying of 50m of stone to create a hard path.

Trebarveth – improvement works and a short 50m realignment of the route are proposed due to the wet nature of the ground on the line of the existing trail. Works include the clearing of scrub, installation of stepping stones and installation of stone steps.

1.**Geological Features** EC- South-West England Igneous	The SSSI could be impacted if works were proposed that could obscure the geological feature. However, within the boundaries of this site, the proposed works will not be in the vicinity of the geological feature.
2.**Vascular Plant Species** Population of RDB plant – *Erica vagans*, Cornish Heath Population of RDB plant – *Juncus capitatus*, Dwarf rush Population of RDB plant – *Trifolium bocconei*, Twin-headed Clover Population of Schedule 8 plant – *Mentha pulegium*, Pennyroyal Vascular plant assemblage	These vascular plant species could be impacted by our proposals if the path were to be realigned or improvement works were proposed in the vicinity of the recorded species populations. However, the location of the proposed realignments and improvement works are not in the vicinity of the designated plant species.
3.**Open Coastal Habitats** Hard Maritime Cliff and Slope Lowland Wet Heath	The proposed realignments are outside of areas of wet heath and maritime grassland habitat. In addition, the locations of the proposed improvement works are either on eroded bare earth or scrub habitat. Therefore, the improvement works will greatly improve the resilience of these areas from erosion which will offer some protection to surrounding coastal habitats.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? Yes

If yes, describe any special conditions that have been identified concerning how or when the works are to be carried out:

No special conditions necessary.

Where necessary, Cornwall Council will instigate the SSSI assent process by writing to us to confirm the timing of works and how operations to be undertaken in line with these conditions. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Meneage Coastal Section SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? No

Current situation

1.**Geological Features** EC- Marine Devonian EC- South-West England Igneous	The citation of the site details the geological interest as follows: *This site covers the deposits of the Gramscatho Group and their contact with the Lizard complex. The latter is a large serpentinised peridotite body largely enclosed by amphibolites and cut by later gabbros, basic dykes and granite veins. Recent interpretations consider the complex to represent the tectonically juxtaposed remnants of a disrupted ophiolite unit, with the deformation within the Gramscatho Group being formed in part as a response to the northward thrusting of the ophiolite during the Hercynian Orogeny.* The feature was last assessed in 2010 as in favourable condition.

Risk analysis

North of Porthoustock is a significant inland section of the current South West Coast Path. The existing coast path follows public roads behind Porthkerris farm. The proposed new route, runs through an extensive disused quarry area which contains multiple historic features. It follows a former quarry track from the village of Porthoustock across a steep hillside to join a section of disused tram tracks, leading down to Porthkerris Cove. Leaving Porthkerris Cove, the proposed route will run from a disused quarry area, through an area of dense scrub to a little used Public Right of Way that leads from Porthallow village to former cottages for quarry workers. The route will also be realigned around Dennis Head where at present the existing South West Coast Path extends to the headland as a linear route. The proposed route remains close to the coast with excellent sea views throughout. To establish the new trail the following works are proposed:

- Steps carved into base rock at the southern end of Porthkerris beach
- Rock mesh netting and high tensile fencing at the southern end of Porthkerris beach, to protect walkers from falling rocks
- Signage and waymarker posts along the length of the new section of trail
- New timber steps to be installed up from the disused quarry area at Porthkerris

1.**Geological Features** EC- Marine Devonian EC- South-West England Igneous	The SSSI could be impacted if works were proposed that could obscure the geological feature. The majority of the works detailed above will not obscure the geological feature. In fact, by carving new steps in the bedrock this may create new exposures. However, the rock fall protection works could obscure the geological interest by allowing soil and scrub to establish on the rock face over time. Therefore, the mesh netting should be kept to the minimum required to keep walkers safe from falling rocks to minimise the risk of obscuring the geological interest feature.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? Yes

If yes, describe any special conditions that have been identified concerning how or when the works are to be carried out:

Rock fall protection works should be kept to the minimum required to avoid obscuring the geological interest feature of the site.

Where necessary, Cornwall Council will instigate the SSSI assent process by writing to us to confirm the timing of works and how operations to be undertaken in line with these conditions. Natural England will provide further advice as necessary.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? Yes

Note that notified features of the SSSI that are also qualifying features of the European site are omitted from this assessment. All the SSSI features are sub features of the Fal and Helford SAC features. These are as follows:

SAC Feature: Mudflats and Sandflats not covered by water at low tide

SSSI Feature: Littoral Sediment

SAC Feature: Large shallow inlets and bays

SSSI Feature: Littoral rock and inshore sublittoral rock

Therefore the SSSI features will be considered as part of the Habitats Regulation Assessment for the Fal and Helford SAC.

The Fal and Helford SAC boundary follows the boundary of the SSSI. However, the SAC covers a wider area including Falmouth Bay and the Fal and Helford estuaries to their tidal limits.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? No

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Rosemullion SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? Yes

Note that notified features of the SSSI that are also qualifying features of the European site are omitted from this assessment. All the SSSI features are sub features of the Fal and Helford SAC features. These are as follows:

SAC Feature: Large shallow inlets and bays

SSSI Features: Littoral rock and inshore sublittoral rock

Algae assemblage

Therefore the SSSI features will be considered as part of the Habitats Regulation Assessment for the Fal and Helford SAC.

The Fal and Helford SAC boundary follows the boundary of the SSSI. However, the SAC covers a wider area including Falmouth Bay and the Fal and Helford estuaries to their tidal limits.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? No

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Swanpool SSSI

Is this site also part of a European site? No

Current situation

1.**Wet Heathland and Wet Woodland Habitats** Wet woodland	Wet woodland is a feature of this site which is currently assessed as in favourable condition. The threats to this site are related to coastal squeeze and hydrological changes, with no mention of public access as a threat.
2.**Terrestrial Wetland Habitats** Lowland wetland including basin fen, valley fen, floodplain fen, water fringe fen, spring/flush fen and raised bog lagoon	The wetland habitats at Swanpool are assessed as in favourable condition. Current public access at the site occurs outside of the wetland habitats that border the lagoon following the existing road and tracks. There is currently some use of the lagoon for fishing and by boats, but in general the wetland habitats are undisturbed.
3. Saline coastal lagoons	The saline coastal lagoon is located on the edge of Falmouth adjacent to Swanpool beach. The lagoon has been assessed as in favourable condition with the only threats to its condition being recorded as changes in the saline influence. There is currently significant public access around the lagoon but only occasional use of the lagoon itself for recreational activities.
4. Population of Schedule 5 bryozoan – *Victorella pavida*, Trembling sea mat	The species is located around the culverts found at the southern edge of the lagoon. It was classed as in favourable condition following the last condition assessment in 2010. The only threats recorded for the species relate to salinity changes due to changes in the frequency and/or volume of sea-water ingress (climate change).

Risk analysis

The route of the proposed trail predominately follows the existing South West Coast Path across the back of Swanpool beach, seaward of the SSSI.

1.**Wet Heathland and Wet Woodland Habitats** Wet woodland	The wet woodland feature is located landward of the trail and associated margin, and so would not be sensitive to impacts from the coastal access proposals for this area.
2.**Terrestrial Wetland Habitats** Lowland wetland including basin fen, valley fen, floodplain fen, water fringe fen, spring/flush fen and raised bog lagoon	The lowland wetland feature is located landward of the trail and associated margin, and so would not be sensitive to impacts from the coastal access proposals for this area.
3. Saline coastal lagoons	The saline coastal lagoon is located landward of the trail and associated margin, and so would not be sensitive to impacts from the coastal access proposals for this area.
4. Population of Schedule 5 bryozoan – Victorella pavida, Trembling sea mat	As the *victorella pavida* feature is located within the culvert and the associated pipework underground, it is not considered to be sensitive to the coastal access proposals for this area.

Establishment works

Is SSSI assent needed to implement any specific proposals for establishment works? No

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

The Manacles MCZ

Is this site also part of a European site? Yes

Note that notified features of the MCZ that are also qualifying features of the European site are omitted from this assessment as they are included with the accompanying Habitats Regulation Assessment. The following MCZ feature is also a feature of the Fal and Helford SAC:

- Moderate energy intertidal rock

However, the Fal and Helford SAC designation only extends into a small part of the MCZ designated area to the north of the site. The intertidal rock feature extends the length of the intertidal area covered by the MCZ designation. Therefore, the intertidal rock feature that occurs outside of the SAC habitat will continue to be assessed below.

Current situation

1.**Intertidal Rock and Reef** Moderate energy intertidal rock	There is a large area of intertidal rock containing moderate energy habitats stretching from the northern boundary of the MCZ down to Leggan Cove, with another small section at Leggan Point. Intertidal rock containing moderate energy habitats also extends from Dean Point, south to the jetty.
2.**Subtidal Habitats** Subtidal sand Maerl beds Subtidal macrophyte dominated sediment Moderate energy infralittoral rock Moderate energy circalittoral rock Subtidal coarse sediment	These features are located within the site below mean low water. They have been classed as either in favourable condition or recover to favourable condition.
3.**Subtidal Species** Spiny Lobster, *Palinurus elephas* Sea-Fan Anemone, *Amphianthus dohrnii* Pink Sea-Fan, *Eunicella verrucosa*	These species are features of the site which are located below mean low water. They have been classed as either in favourable condition or recover to favourable condition.
4. Stalked jellyfish, *haliclystu spp.*	The Stalked jellyfish *Haliclystus spp*. have been recorded at Godrevy Cove. They are assessed as being of medium sensitivity to public access.

A full list of designated features for this site can be found in Annex 1.

Risk analysis

The route of the proposed trail includes a realignment between Godrevy Cove and West of England Quarry. The proposed route will follow Godrevy Cove, then skirt through pasture fields before linking with the private path behind West of England quarry. A new boardwalk is proposed at Godrevy Cove where the path crosses a wet flush at the back of the beach.

1.**Intertidal Rock and Reef** Moderate energy intertidal rock	Intertidal, (or littoral), rock sensitivity assessment ranges from low to high depending on the sensitivity of individual species that occupy this habitat. Those individual species that are considered sensitive to public access include Stalked Jellyfish, *Halliclystus spp*. (see section 4 below). Steps are proposed to be created in the rock at the southern end of Godrevy Cove. However, this location is above the location of the *Halliclystus spp*.
2.**Subtidal Habitats** Subtidal sand Maerl beds Subtidal macrophyte dominated sediment Moderate energy infralittoral rock Moderate energy circalittoral rock Subtidal coarse sediment	All of the features considered in this group are located below mean low water and so are outside of the coastal margin. Therefore, they are not sensitive to public access and so are not considered further within this appraisal.
3.**Subtidal Species** Spiny Lobster, *Palinurus elephas* Sea-Fan Anemone, *Amphianthus dohrnii* Pink Sea-Fan, *Eunicella verrucosa*	All of the features considered in this group are located below mean low water and so are outside of the coastal margin. Therefore, they are not sensitive to public access and so are not considered further within this appraisal.
4. Stalked jellyfish, *haliclystu spp.*	The supplementary guidance for The Manacles MCZ details Stalked Jellyfish, *haliclystu spp.* as '*occuring from mid-tide level to the infralittoral fringe and the upper infralittoral on foliose and filamentous red, green and brown algae growing on rocky reefs*'. The only record of the species in the intertidal area is within Godrevy Cove, although it is noted that the species are hard to identify. The beach is popular and well used by locals at present. Due to the current popularity of Godrevy Cove, we do not expect any noticeable change in public use of the beach as a result of the proposals. Therefore, as the Stalked Jellyfish, *Haliclystus spp*. feature is currently in favourable condition, it is not considered that our proposals will have an impact on the current feature condition.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Mounts Bay MCZ

Is this site also part of a European site? No

Current situation

1.**Intertidal Sediments** Intertidal sand and muddy sand Intertidal coarse sediment	The intertidal sand and muddy sand habitat and intertidal coarse sediment are classed as maintain in favourable condition. These sediment habitats are found at the western end of the site up to St Michaels Mount, at Trenow Cove and at Perran Sands.
2.**Intertidal Rock and Reef** Moderate energy intertidal rock High energy intertidal rock	Moderate and high energy intertidal rock feature are in favourable condition. The sensitivity to public access is assessed as high due to a number of the species that inhabit this feature. In particular Stalked Jellyfish, *Halliclystus spp*, and Giant Goby, *Gobius cobitis*, which are covered further in Sections 4 and 6 below, and Intertidal Under Boulder communities which are a sub feature of the intertidal rock habitat.
3.**Subtidal Habitats** Subtidal sand High energy infralittoral rock	These features are located within the site below mean low water. They have been classed as in favourable condition.
4. Stalked jellyfish, *haliclystu spp.*	Stalked jellyfish *Haliclystus spp*. are considered to be in favourable condition. The main concentration of these species within the site are immediately to the east of the causeway to St Michaels Mount within the intertidal rock habitat. They are considered to be sensitive to public access.
5. Seagrass beds	The Seagrass beds within the Mounts Bay MCZ are located within the intertidal area of the site. The majority of the beds are found adjacent to the St Michael's Mount causeway. The feature is currently assessed as in favourable condition. The intertidal area at Mounts Bay, and in particular around the causeway, are historically popular areas for public access.
6. Giant Goby, *Gobius cobitis*	The Giant Goby, *Gobius cobitis* can be found in rock pools within the intertidal rock of Mounts Bay. It is normally found in upper shore larger, deeper rock pools. The species is considered to be in favourable condition, with the area currently popular and accessible to the public.

A full list of designated features for this site can be found in Annex 1.

Risk analysis

The route of the proposed trail predominately follows the existing South West Coast Path landward of the MCZ site boundary.

1.**Intertidal Sediments** Intertidal sand and muddy sand Intertidal coarse sediment	Intertidal sand and muddy sand and coarse sediment is considered to be in good condition within Mounts Bay MCZ. These habitats often occur within popular areas of the shoreline and are considered to be resilient to public access.
2.**Intertidal Rock and Reef** Moderate energy intertidal rock High energy intertidal rock	Underboulder communities contain a high diversity of species within them and are sensitive to disturbance due to the rocks being turned over and moved when people walk over and explore the habitat. Underboulder communities are found to the east of the causeway that extends to St Michaels Mount. The area is very popular and highly used at present. Concerns have been raised about the Underboulder communities along with the other senstive fauna in this location, (see section 4 below for details on proposed mitigation).
3.**Subtidal Habitats** Subtidal sand High energy infralittoral rock	All of the features considered in this group are located below mean low water and so are outside of the coastal margin.
4. Stalked jellyfish, *haliclystu spp.*	Stalked Jellyfish tend to be found attached to seaweeds within the intertidal area. Therefore, they can be at risk of being trampled or collected by walkers using the foreshore or rock pooling in the area. As detailed above, the main concentration of these species within the site is within the intertidal rock to the east of the causeway that runs to the Mount. This area is already heavily used by the public, being both a popular beach area close to Marazion and Penzance, and the Mount being a key visitor attraction. Despite the current access usage, (a peak of 5,000 visitors a day during the summer to St Michaels Mount) the *haliclystu spp*. are considered to be in favourable condition. It is not anticipated that the introduction of coastal access rights will increase or change the existing usuage of this area. However, as the intertidal rock to the east of the causeway has been identified as particularly sensitive, it is proposed to provide updated interpretation within the main car park to educate visitors on the presence of the Mounts Bay MCZ site, its features and good practice when using the intertidal area to avoid impacting the designated habitats and species.
5. Seagrass beds	The Seagrass feature is identified as being sensitive to public access from trampling with the main locations for this habitat being associated with the intertidal rock. However, as detailed above, the area is already

	well used by the public with the Seagrass beds considered to be in favourable. However, due to the sensitivities raised measures are proposed to raise awareness of damaging activities, (see Section 4 above).
6. Giant Goby, *Gobius cobitis*	Giant Gobys *Gobius cobitis* are associated with the intertidal rock feature within the site. Although they are considered to be in favourable condition with the site already heavily used, updated interpretation is proposed as detailed in section 4 above to raise awareness of this potentially sensitive species.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Helford Estuary MCZ

Is this site also part of a European site? Yes

The MCZ falls within the Fal and Helford SAC. However, the features of the MCZ are not duplicated by the SAC designation. The SAC also covers a wider area including Falmouth Bay and the Fal estuary upstream to the tidal limit.

Current situation

Native oyster *Ostrea edulis*	The site was recently designated for its population of Native oysters *Ostrea edulis*. They have been classed as in *recover to favourable condition* status. The designated site extends from the mouth of the estuary, including Gillan Creek, to the tidal limit.

Risk analysis

Native oyster *Ostrea edulis*	Native oysters *Ostrea edulis,* in the main, are located below mean low water. There are not considered to be in any density within the intertidal area and so the risk of being trampled by the public using this area is very low. In addition, our proposals are to utilise the existing ferry crossing and so do not extend beyond Helford village and Helford passage into the estuary. The foreshore in this location is also used by the public informally at present, and so it is concluded that the coastal access proposals are unlikely to increase the access pressure in this area, or to pose any risk to the site feature.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Gillan Creek

Is this site or feature also part of a European site? Yes

The intertidal area within Gillan Creek is designated as part of the Lower Fal and Helford SSSI and Fal and Helford SAC. Note that notified features of the SSSI present in Gillan Creek are also qualifying features of the European site and so included in the respective Habitats Regulation Assessment and so omitted from this assessment. The feature present within the intertidal area of Gillan Creek is as follows:

SAC Feature: Mudflats and Sandflats not covered by water at low tide

SSSI Feature: Littoral Sediment

Current situation

Gillan Creek	At present the South West Coast Path crosses near the mouth of Gillan creek, using stepping stones at low tide. The proposed new trail runs around the creek through pasture fields to the west of Flushing before entering the woodland that borders the southern side of the creek. The proposed trail then re-joins the road at Carne, running around the head of the creek, before using a combination of the unclassified road and woodland to run up the northern side of the creek to Dennis Head. The woodland on the south side of the creek is designated as Ancient Woodland with a Tree Preservation Order in place. In addition, other wildlife interest that are or have been present in the past include wading bird species on the intertidal area and Herons nesting within the woodland.

Risk analysis

At present the South West Coast Path crosses near the mouth of the creek using stepping stones at low tide. The proposed new trail runs through pasture fields to the west of flushing before entering the woodland that borders the southern side of the creek. The proposed trail then re-joins the road at Carne, running around the head of the creek, before using a combination of the road and woodland to run up the northern side of the creek to Dennis Head.

Gillan Creek	The steep woodland habitat found at Gillan is relatively common in this area, considering the proximity of Gillan Creek to the Helford estuary to the north. Historic maps show the southern bank as coppice around the beginning of the 19th century, with the current tree canopy being relatively even aged and a lack of veteran tree specimens. The proposed new route around the creek will utilise existing paths in the woodland, as far as possible. Whether using existing paths or creating new sections, the line of the trail will be such that no trees will need to be felled or their root systems damaged, and so there is not considered to be an adverse impact on the woodland habitat as a whole. The bird interest at Gillan Creek is mainly focused on overwintering species utilising the food source found within the intertidal area of the creek. Information has been sought through local interest groups, as well as consulting the British Trust for Ornithology, (BTO), records for the area. In addition, the presence of a vertical bank between the woodland and the intertidal area will provide a physical barrier to walkers accessing the foreshore from the new trail. Therefore, no significant impact on wading bird species is anticipated by the proposed new trail and margin, with a potential reduction in access to the foreshore, bearing in mind the existing coast path route across the stepping stones. Records of a Heronry based in the woodland to the south of the creek have been obtained from the BTO and show that there have been no records of a Heronry in these woodlands since 1989. However, the BTO records ceased in 2003 and local opinion is that a Heronry was present in the woodland between 12-15 years ago. A pair rearing young were identified in the creek in the spring of 2017, but no nest site in the woodland can be verified. As Herons are not a feature of a designated site and the Heronry has been abandoned for some years, it is concluded that the proposed trail and margin will not have any impact in this location.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Chough, *Pyrrhocorax*

Is this site or feature also part of a European site? No

Current situation

Chough, *Pyrrhocorax*	Chough have been breeding in small numbers on the Lizard since 2002. Numbers have gradually built up with individuals now using sites from Prussia Cove in the west to Lizard Point in the east. Breeding, roosting and foraging sites are included in this stretch within the coastal margin and on the adjacent agricultural land. The South West Coast Path currently runs through this section of coast, with over 50% of the coastal margin currently designated as open access.

Risk analysis

Chough, *Pyrrhocorax*	Choughs might be sensitive were we to make proposals that could alter the use of the Coast Path or associated coastal margin in the vicinity of nesting sites. We will check that known locations will not be affected by any proposals we make to realign the South West Coast Path. We will also check whether assumptions about access within the margin might be altered by our proposals, for example if coastal access rights were to apply at a location where access is currently discouraged or prevented. The Chough population in this area has been closely monitored by the RSPB and associated volunteers since re-colonisation of this area took place. This programme of volunteer wardening is in place to ensure that members of the public do not disturb nesting Choughs, and to monitor new fledglings which are particularly vulnerable to disturbance and predation. Within the vicinity of the known nest sites the existing line of the South West Coast Path will be used and the coastal margin is either already designated as open access or used informally. No impacts on the Chough population are anticipated due to our proposals.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Grey seal, *Halichoerus grypus*

Is this site or feature also part of a European site? No

Current situation

Grey seal, *Halichoerus grypus*	Grey seals are a protected species under Annex II and Annex V of the Habitats Directive. There are a small number of haul out sites within the Penzance to St Mawes coastal stretch used by Grey Seals, some of which are also used for pupping. Due to the sensitivity of the species the exact location of the haul out and pupping sites are not identified in this appraisal.

Risk analysis

Grey seal, *Halichoerus grypus*	Grey seals can become disturbed by both noise and visual presence of people and dogs. This can be through public access to the beaches / coves that they are using, or through public use of the surrounding cliffs and coastal margin. Grey seals are loyal to particular sites, often returning to the same site each year. However, if disturbed, they may abandon the site permanently. Therefore, seals might be sensitive were we to make proposals that could alter the use of the Coast Path or associated coastal margin in the vicinity of haul out sites. We have checked that known locations are not affected by any proposals we make to realign the South West Coast Path. We have also checked whether assumptions about access within the margin might be altered by our proposals, for example if coastal access rights were to apply at a location where access is currently discouraged or prevented. However, the line of the South West Coast Path is to be used within the vicinity of the known haul out and pupping sites, with the coastal margin already designated as open access land or used informally. Therefore, our proposals under coastal access are unlikely to change access pressure or patterns near sites used by the seals. Occasional disturbance incidents have previously been recorded at two pupping sites from individuals leaving the coast path and walking down to the coves being used by the seals. However, it is proposed that signage will be erected at the appropriate time of year by the land owners / managers to discourage walkers from leaving the coast path in these locations.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Marsh Fritillary, *Euphydryas aurinia*

Is this site or feature also part of a European site? No

Current situation

Marsh Fritillary, *Euphydryas aurinia*	The Marsh Fritillary butterfly is considered a threatened species and is fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. The main Marsh Fritillary site is located on Predannack Head, within the coastal margin on the west side of the Lizard peninsula, adjacent to the South West Coast Path. The site is managed by grazing with cattle.

Risk analysis

Marsh Fritillary, *Euphydryas aurinia*	The species are particularly vulnerable to trampling during the larval stage. Currently electric fencing is erected around the population in February and March to protect the larvae from trampling by grazing stock. *Euphydryas aurinia* have the potential to be sensitive to pressures arising from changes in patterns or level of use or realignment of the trail across the nest site. The coastal margin in the location of the Marsh Fritillary colony on Predannack Head is already designated as open access land. Access patterns and usage of this area are not expected to change following the establishment of coastal access rights. In addition, the main threat to this particular population is the trampling of larval webs by grazing stock. As this is successfully managed with electric fencing at present, and access patterns are unlikely to change in this area, it is not considered that there will be an interaction between the coastal access rights and the Marsh Fritillary population.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*

Is this site or feature also part of a European site? No

Current situation

Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*	Kittiwakes are on the Birds of Conservation Concern red list, as well as being identified as a priority for conservation under the EC Birds Directive. Food availability and predation has caused the overall population of this species to decline in recent years. Kittiwakes are currently nesting along the coast around Trewavas Head. The coastal margin at Trewavas Head includes the South West Coast Path and is designated as open access.

Risk analysis

Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla*	The main period of sensitivity to public access for Kittiwakes is during the breeding season. The Trewavas site contains three loose colonies that are spread along the coast in this area. Currently they are out of view from the South West Coast Path, but the British Mountaineering Council have confirmed this is a popular climbing site and location for unlicensed wildlife photographers to photograph birds who can cause disturbance. Any realignment of the trail closer to the cliff in this location would have the potential to cause more disturbance of the colonies in this location. At Trewavas Head in the vicinity of the colonies described above, the line of the existing South West Coast Path is proposed to be used. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the coastal access proposals in this area will impact on this species.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*

Is this site or feature also part of a European site? No

Current situation

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*	Peregrines are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Currently there are four known breeding sites within this coastal stretch between Praa Sands and Kynance Cove. Five additional historical sites are recorded but their current viability is not known. Due to the sensitivity of the species the exact location of the nest sites are not identified in this appraisal.

Risk analysis

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*	Peregrines are sensitive to disturbance when breeding and nesting, with surveys of the known nest sites in this stretch recording some disturbance by walkers, photographers and climbers to date, although it is noted that three of the four nest sites are out of sight of the current South West Coast Path with one site being located on an inshore rock stack. The fourth nest site is located in an already popular location with current heavy use of the South West Coast Path and coastal margin. However, access to the nest site is not easy and so current disturbance by those using the South West Coast Path is low. Peregrines might be sensitive were we to make proposals that could alter the use of the Coast Path or associated coastal margin in the vicinity of nesting sites. We have checked that proposed realignments of the existing coast path are not within the vicinity of known nest sites. The establishment of coastal access rights within the margin are not likely to change the use of the area around the sites, as the margin is already dedicated as Open Access or used informally at present. Therefore, there is not anticipated to be an interaction between our proposals and this species.

Assessment of coastal access proposals on:

Marazion Dunes County Wildlife Site

Is this site or feature also part of a European site? No

Current situation

Marazion Dunes County Wildlife Site	Adjacent to St Michaels Mount, this County Wildlife Site is an area of sand dunes that are located at the back of Marazion beach. The dunes lead back to a hard defence and the main road. The dunes are designated as a County Wildlife Site and contain a number of important plant species including Sea Holly, *Eryngium maritimum* and Western Clover, *Trifolium occidentale.* Sea Daffodill *Pancratium maritimum*. is also found in the dunes, an unusual plant found in five 'clumps' towards the eastern end of the fore dunes.

Risk analysis

The proposed route deviates from the South West Coast Path through the sand dunes at Marazion, where the current signposted route is located on the fore dunes. The proposed route follows one of the three walked lines on the ground through the fixed dunes further inland. This has been proposed following consideration of the sensitivity of the fore dunes to erosion compared to the more stable fixed dune habitat behind.

Marazion Dunes County Wildlife Site	The sand dunes at Marazion are currently subject to public access with multiple desire lines present across the dunes. The dunes contain a continuous vegetation cover with areas of scrub developing at the back of the dunes. Therefore, the access desire lines are seen as potentially adding important habitat diversity with areas of additional bare sand and short turf maintained. However, the sand dune habitat could potentially be sensitive to access if the route was realigned to the front of the dunes as, combined with wave action, this may accelerate erosion of the habitat. In addition, if the trail was realigned close to important plant species, this could cause trampling of the population. As is detailed above, the trail is proposed to be realigned onto one of the main desire lines at the back of the dunes, where the habitat is more stable and it is away from known populations of important plant species. Therefore, it is concluded that the coastal access proposals will not impact the designated habitat and species of the County Wildlife Site.

Conclusion

We, Natural England, are satisfied that our proposals to improve access to the English coast between Penzance and St Mawes are fully compatible with our duty to further the conservation and enhancement of the notified features of Marazion Marsh, St Michaels Mount, Cudden Point to Prussia cove, Folly Rocks, Porthcew, Tremearne Par, Porthleven Cliffs, Porthleven Cliffs East, Loe Pool, Baulk Head to Mullion, Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff, West Lizard, Caerthillian to Kennack, Kennack to Coverack, Coverack Cove and Dolor Point, Coverack to Porthoustock, Meneage Coastal Section, Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal, Rosemullion and Swanpool SSSIs consistent with the proper exercise of our functions[1].

In respect of any duties that may arise under section 125 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Natural England has concluded for Mounts Bay, The Manacles and the Helford Estuary MCZs that the access proposal (including any mitigation measures specified) is the one that, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions under section 296 of the same Act, is least likely to hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives for the Marine Conservation Zone - and accordingly may proceed.

In respect of Marazion Dunes County Wildlife Site, Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, Kittiwake, *Rissa tridactyla,* Marsh Fritillary*, Euphydryas aurinia,* Grey seal, *Halichoerus grypus,* Chough*, Pyrrhocorax* and Gillan Creek we are satisfied that in developing the new access proposals the appropriate balance has been struck between Natural England's conservation and access objectives, duties and purposes.

See also, where relevant, the conclusions of the separate HRA relating to common features.

The conclusions of this assessment have been checked by:

Richard Andrews	4th July 2019	On behalf of the Coastal Access Programme Team
David Marshall	4th July 2019	Senior Officer with responsibility for protected sites

[1] Natural England's functions includes its balanced general purposes for access, nature conservation and landscape under the NERC Act 2006, any specific statutory duties it may have to deliver specific improvements to public access, and the access-related policies and priorities it periodically agrees with Defra.

Nature Conservation Assessment Sites

Proposed route

Marine Conservation Zones © Natural England and JNCC

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) © Natural England

0 0.5 1

Kilometers

N

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

Marazion Marsh

St Michael's Mount

Mounts Bay

PENZANCE

FERRY
SHIP
Isles of Scilly (P) (Summer)

MARAZION CP

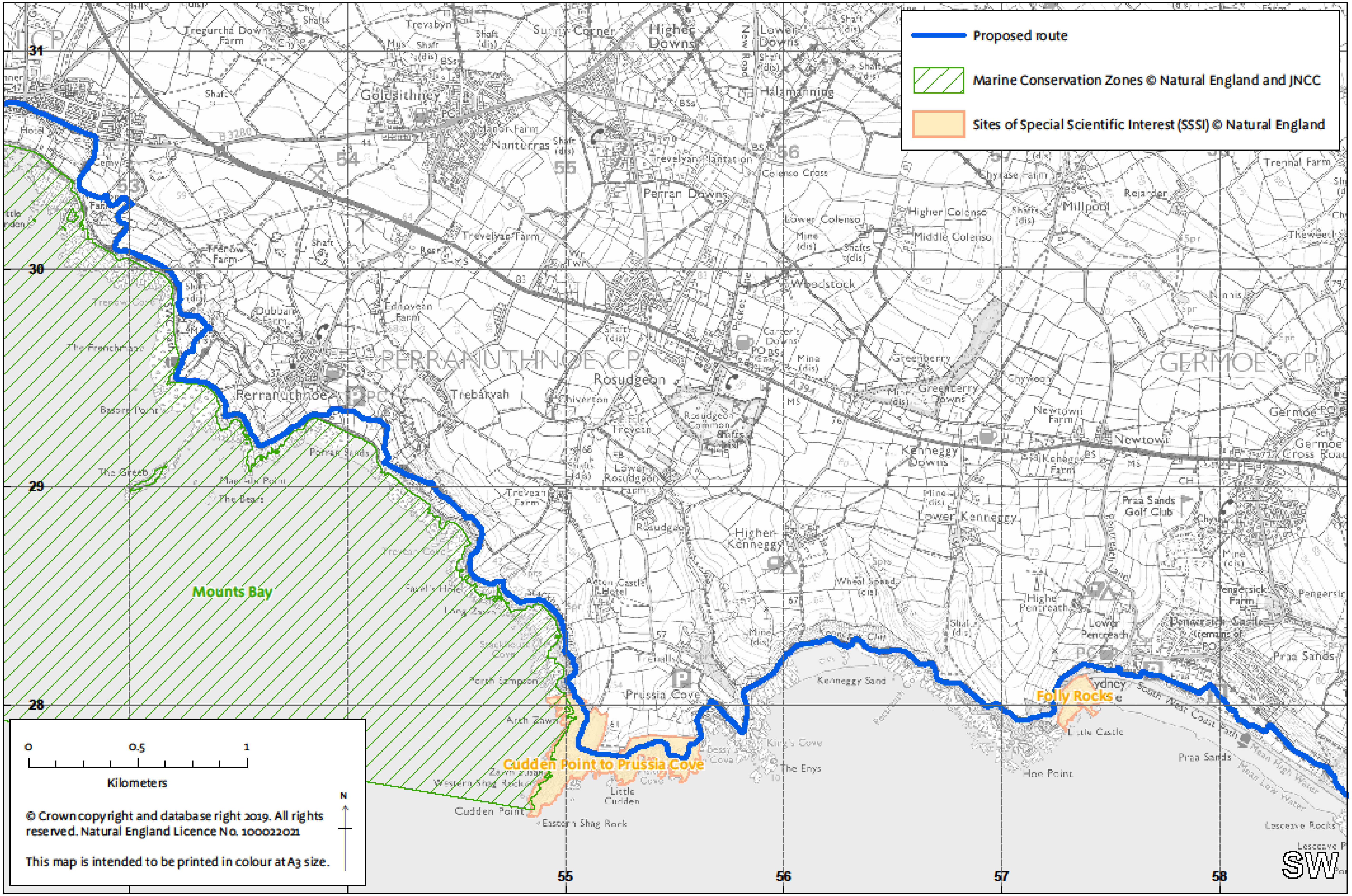
Marazion

SW

Coastal Access - Penzance to St Mawes - Natural England's Proposals

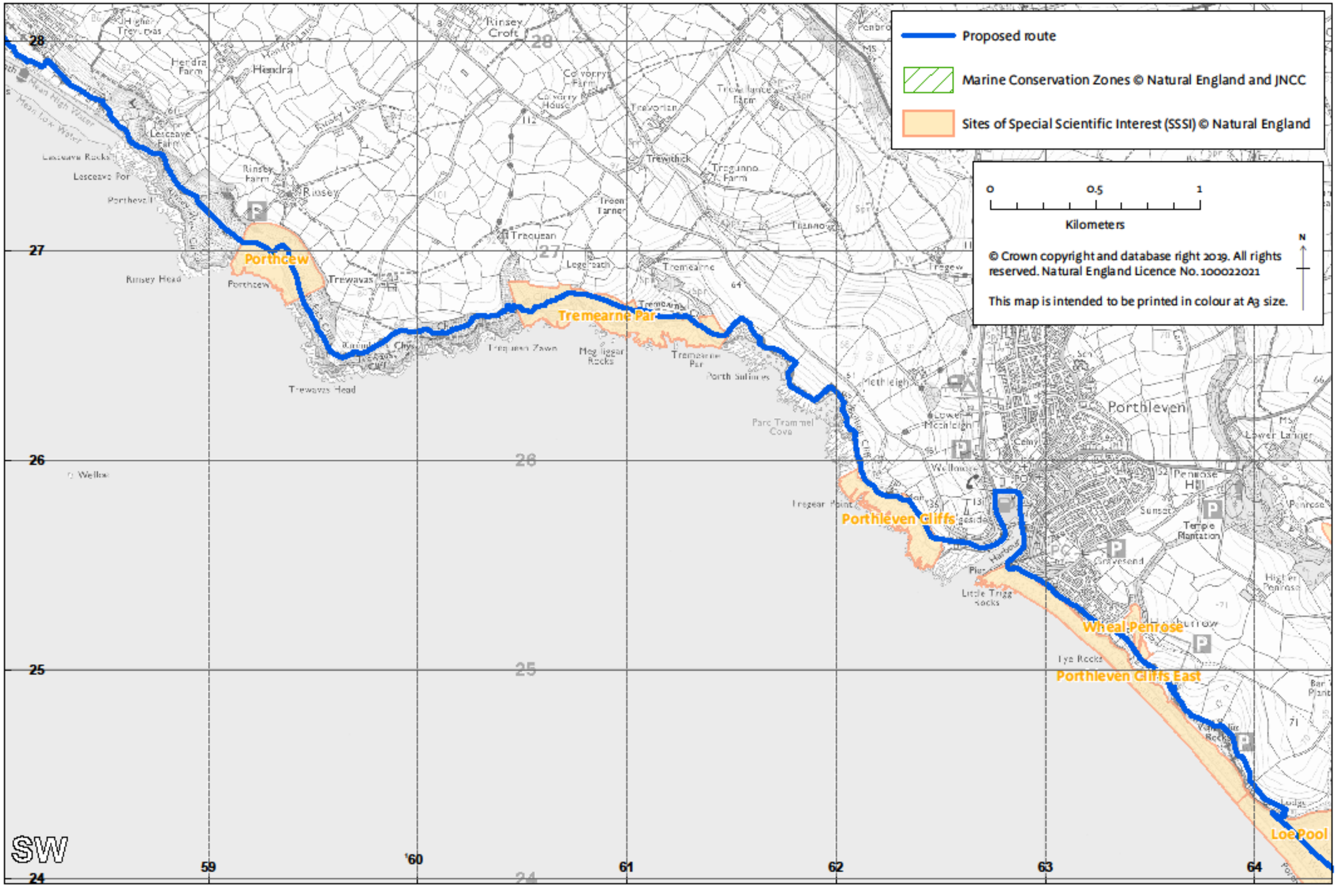
Report PSM 2: East Marazion to Sea Meads

Nature Conservation Assessment Sites

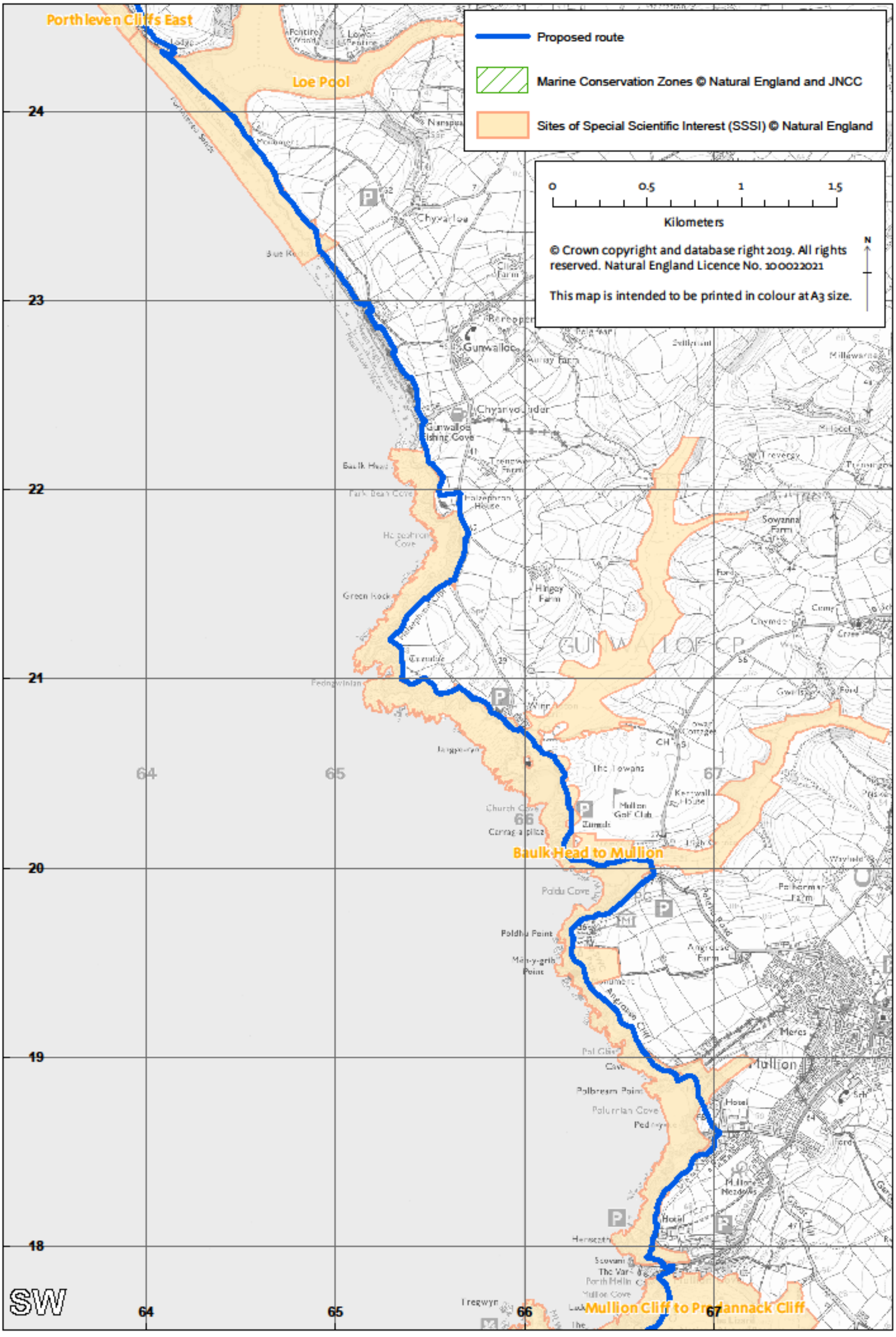


Nature Conservation Assesement Sites

Nature Conservation Assessment Sites



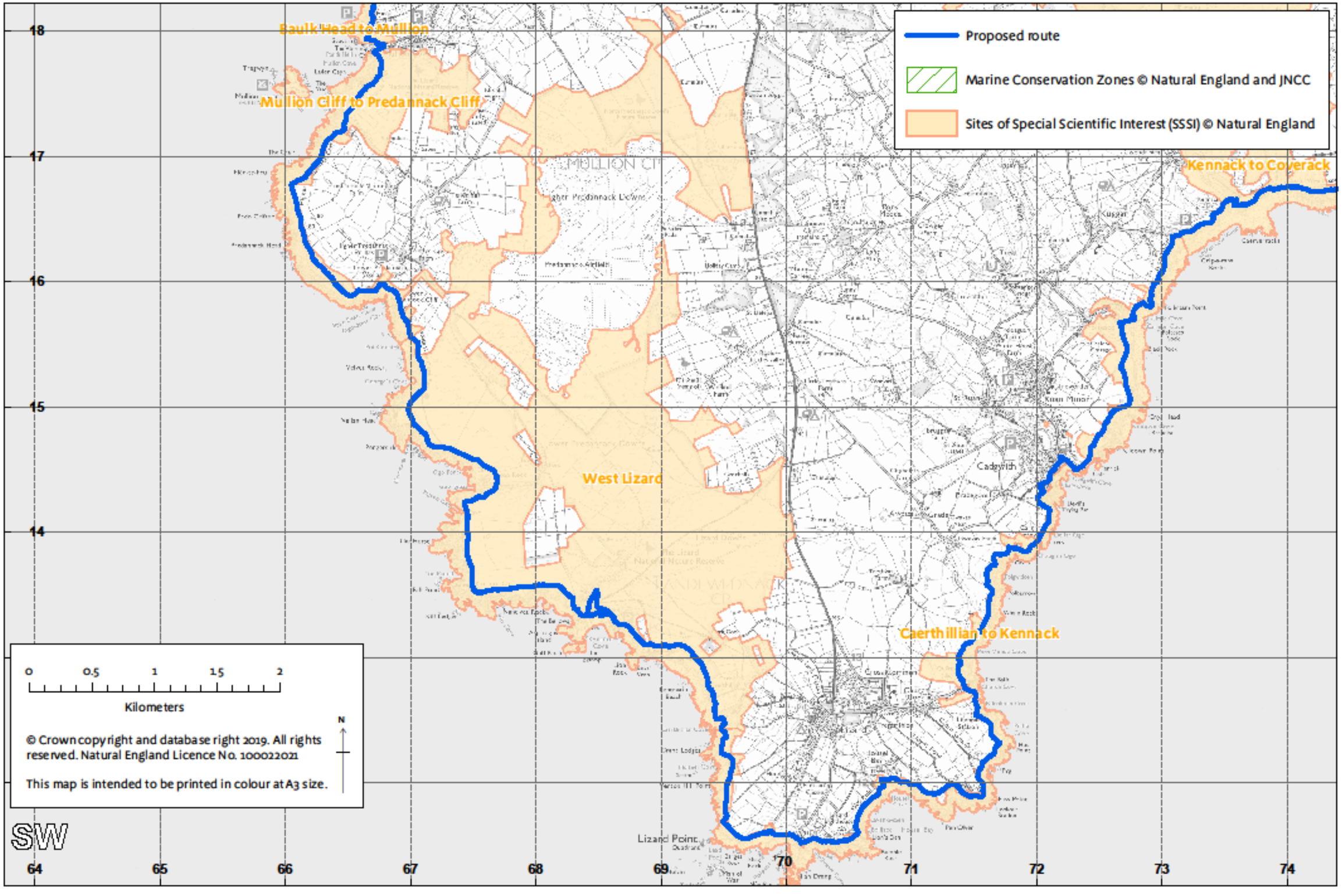
Nature Conservation Assessment Sites



Coastal Access - Penzance to St Mawes - Natural England's Proposals

Report PSM 5: Mullion Cove to Devil's Frying Pan

Nature Conservation Assessment Sites

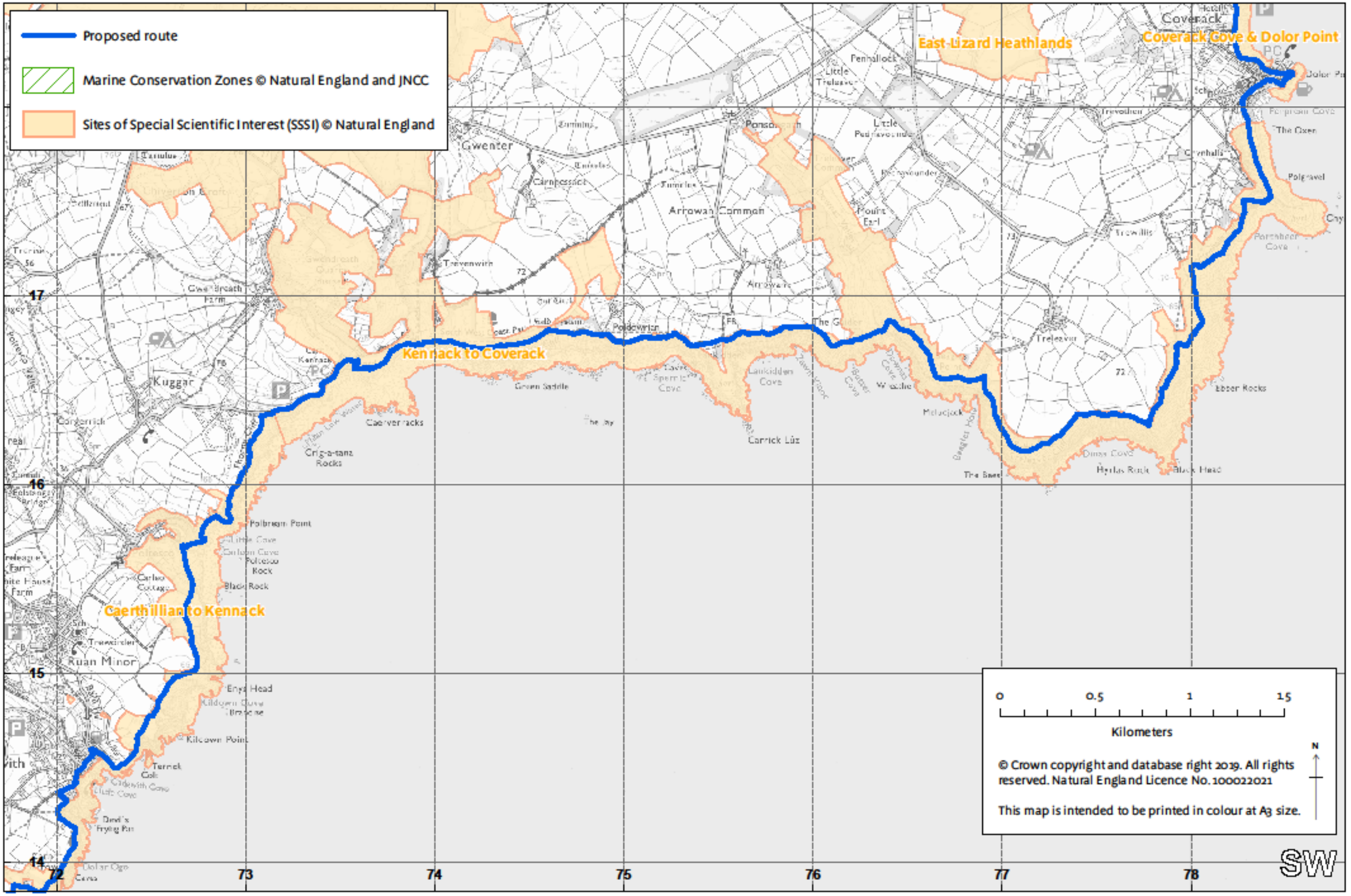


Nature Conservation Assesement Sites

Coastal Access - Penzance to St Mawes - Natural England's Proposals

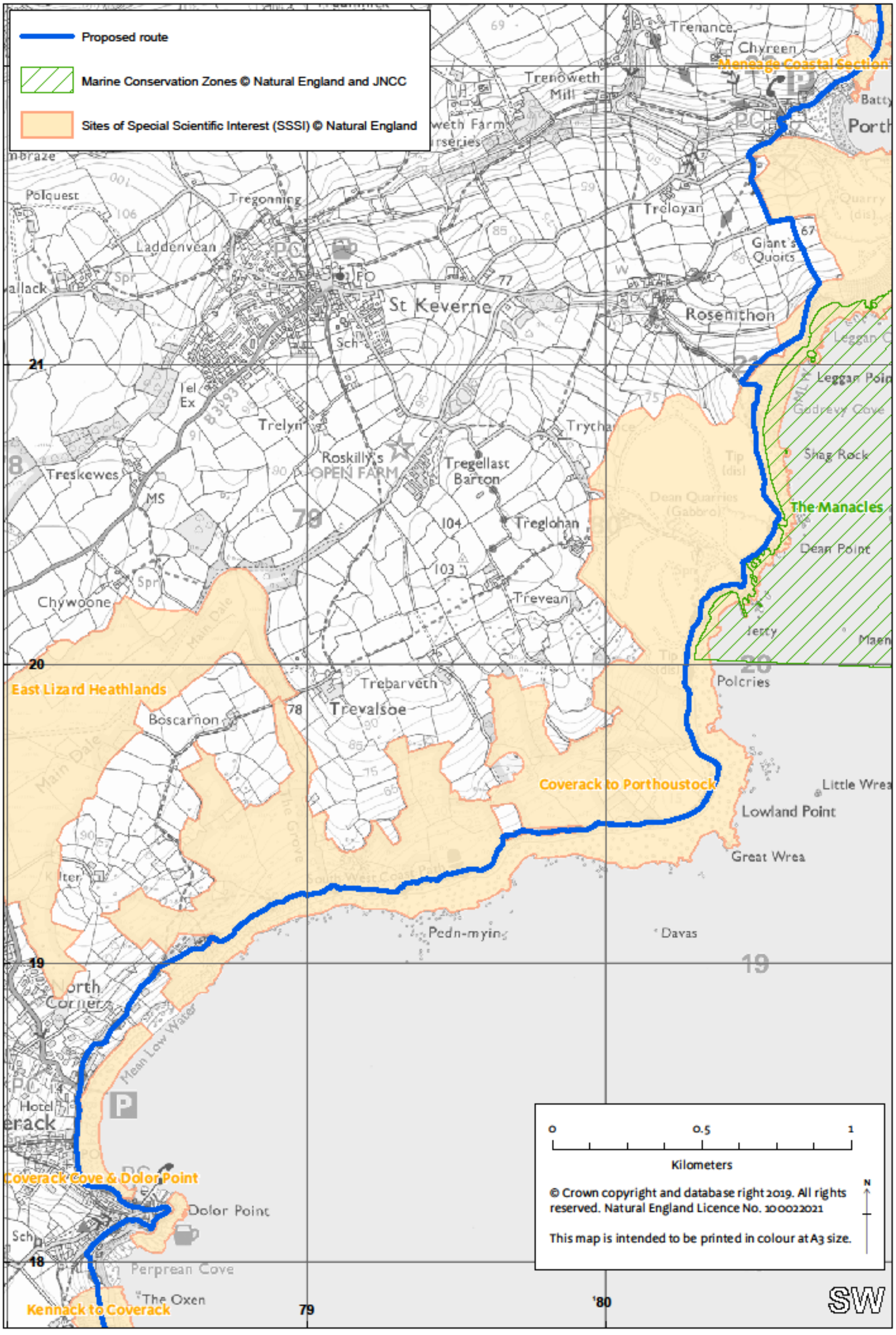
Report PSM 6: Devil's Frying Pan to Dolor Point

Nature Conservation Assessment Sites



Nature Conservation Assessment Sites

Nature Conservation Assessment Sites



Nature Conservation Assessment Sites

Proposed route

Marine Conservation Zones © Natural England and JNCC

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) © Natural England

Helford Estuary

Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal

Meneage Coastal Section

Coverack to Porthoustock

The Manacles

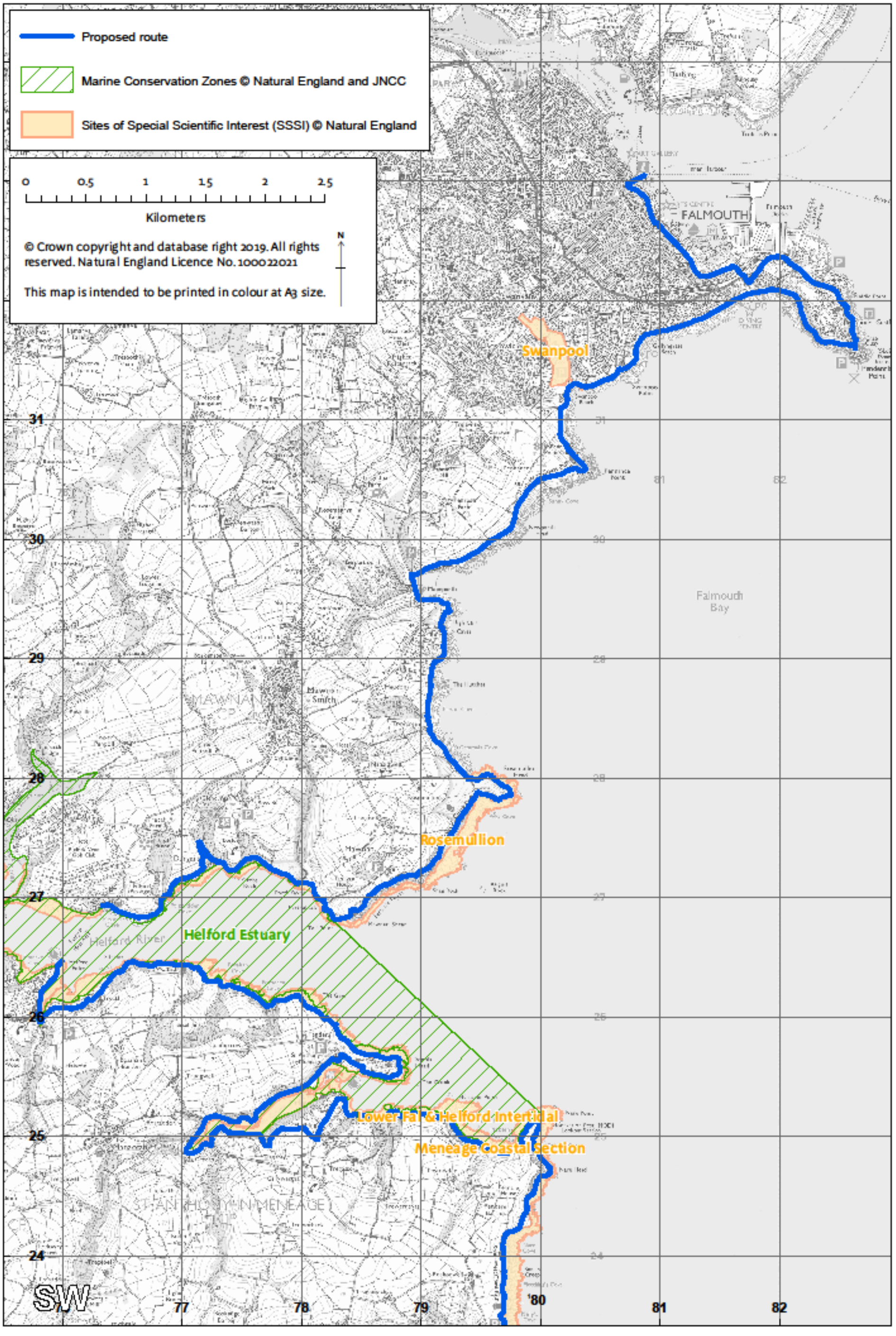
0 0.5 1 1.5

Kilometers

N

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

Nature Conservation Assessment Sites



Annex 1. Index to designated sites and features

Note: columns in grey are European sites for which a separate Habitats Regulations Assessment has been carried out.

Features – of the designated sites listed in 2.2	The Lizard SAC	Lizard Point SAC	Fal and Helford SAC	Marazion Marsh SPA	Marazion Marsh SSSI	St Michaels Mount SSSI	Cudden Point to Prussia cove SSSI	Folly rocks SSSI	Porthcew SSSI	Tremearne Par SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs East SSSI	Loe Pool SSSI	Baulk Head to Mullion SSSI	Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff SSSI	West Lizard SSSI	Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI	Kennack to Coverack SSSI	Coverack cove and Dolor Point SSSI	Coverack to Porthoustock SSSI	Meneage Coastal Section SSSI	Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSI	Rosemullion SSSI	Swanpool SSSI	Mounts Bay MCZ	Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA	The Manacles MCZ	Helford Estuary MCZ
Geological Features																												
EC- Marine Devonian														✓	✓						✓							
EC- Mineralogy of South- West England						✓																						
EC- South- West England Igneous							✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
FM- Mineralogy										✓																		
EC- Quaternary of South- West England											✓																	
IS- Quaternary of South- West England											✓																	
EC- Varsican Structures												✓																
IA- Coastal Geomorphology												✓	✓															

Features – of the designated sites listed in 2.2	The Lizard SAC	Lizard Point SAC	Fal and Helford SAC	Marazion Marsh SPA	Marazion Marsh SSSI	St Michaels Mount SSSI	Cudden Point to Prussia cove SSSI	Folly rocks SSSI	Porthcew SSSI	Tremearne Par SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs East SSSI	Loe Pool SSSI	Baulk Head to Mullion SSSI	Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff SSSI	West Lizard SSSI	Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI	Kennack to Coverack SSSI	Coverack cove and Dolor Point SSSI	Coverack to Porthoustock SSSI	Meneage Coastal Section SSSI	Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSI	Rosemullion SSSI	Swanpool SSSI	Mounts Bay MCZ	Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA	The Manacles MCZ	Helford Estuary MCZ
EA- South- West England Igneous																			✓									
EA- Mineralogy																			✓									
ED- Mineralogy																			✓									
Lower Plant Species																												
Bryophytes Assemblage																✓	✓	✓										
Lichen Assemblage																✓		✓										
Plant Species																												
S1441 *Rumex rupestris*; Shore dock			✓																									
Population of Schedule 8 plant – *Polygonum maritimum*, Sea Knotgrass														✓														
Population of RDB plant – *Asparagus prostrates*, Wild Asparagus															✓													
Population of RDB plant – *Erica vagans*, Cornish Heath															✓	✓		✓		✓								

Features – of the designated sites listed in 2.2	The Lizard SAC	Lizard Point SAC	Fal and Helford SAC	Marazion Marsh SPA	Marazion Marsh SSSI	St Michaels Mount SSSI	Cudden Point to Prussia cove SSSI	Folly rocks SSSI	Porthcew SSSI	Tremearne Par SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs East SSSI	Loe Pool SSSI	Baulk Head to Mullion SSSI	Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff SSSI	West Lizard SSSI	Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI	Kennack to Coverack SSSI	Coverack cove and Dolor Point SSSI	Coverack to Porthoustock SSSI	Meneage Coastal Section SSSI	Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSI	Rosemullion SSSI	Swanpool SSSI	Mounts Bay MCZ	Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA	The Manacles MCZ	Helford Estuary MCZ
Population of RDB plant – *Genista pilosa*, Hairy Greenweed															✓	✓		✓										
Population of RDB plant – *Herniaria ciliolate*, Fringed Rupturewort															✓	✓		✓										
Population of RDB plant – *Hypochaeris maculate*, Spotted Cat's-ear															✓	✓												
Population of RDB plant – *Isoetes histrix*, Land Quillwort															✓	✓		✓										
Population of RDB plant – *Juncus capitatus*, Dwarf rush															✓	✓		✓		✓								
Population of RDB plant – *Trifolium bocconei*, Twin-headed Clover															✓	✓		✓		✓								
Population of RDB plant – *Trifolium incarnatum*, Long-headed Clover															✓	✓												
Population of RDB plant – *Trifolium strictum*, Upright Clover															✓	✓												

Features – of the designated sites listed in 2.2	The Lizard SAC	Lizard Point SAC	Fal and Helford SAC	Marazion Marsh SPA	Marazion Marsh SSSI	St Michaels Mount SSSI	Cudden Point to Prussia cove SSSI	Folly rocks SSSI	Porthcew SSSI	Tremearne Par SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs East SSSI	Loe Pool SSSI	Baulk Head to Mullion SSSI	Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff SSSI	West Lizard SSSI	Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI	Kennack to Coverack SSSI	Coverack cove and Dolor Point SSSI	Coverack to Porthoustock SSSI	Meneage Coastal Section SSSI	Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSI	Rosemullion SSSI	Swanpool SSSI	Mounts Bay MCZ	Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA	The Manacles MCZ	Helford Estuary MCZ
Population of RDB plant – *Asparagus officinalis*, Sea Asparagus																✓												
Population of RDB plant – *Juncus pygmaeus*, Pygmy Rush																✓												
Population of Schedule 8 plant – *Mentha pulegium*, Pennyroyal																				✓								
Vascular plant assemblage														✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓								
Open Coastal Habitats																												
H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	✓																✓											
H4030 European dry heaths	✓																											
Lowland Dry Heath															✓	✓		✓		✓								
H4040 Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with *Erica vagans*; Dry coastal heaths with Cornish Heath	✓																✓											

Features – of the designated sites listed in 2.2	The Lizard SAC	Lizard Point SAC	Fal and Helford SAC	Marazion Marsh SPA	Marazion Marsh SSSI	St Michaels Mount SSSI	Cudden Point to Prussia cove SSSI	Folly rocks SSSI	Porthcew SSSI	Tremearne Par SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs East SSSI	Loe Pool SSSI	Baulk Head to Mullion SSSI	Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff SSSI	West Lizard SSSI	Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI	Kennack to Coverack SSSI	Coverack cove and Dolor Point SSSI	Coverack to Porthoustock SSSI	Meneage Coastal Section SSSI	Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSI	Rosemullion SSSI	Swanpool SSSI	Mounts Bay MCZ	Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA	The Manacles MCZ	Helford Estuary MCZ
Fixed dune grassland														✓														
Hard maritime cliffs and slopes														✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓								
Wet Heathland and Wet Woodland habitats																												
H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	✓																											
Wet woodland																								✓				
Lowland Wet Heath																		✓		✓								
Terrestrial wetland habitats																												
H3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.	✓																											
H3170 Mediterranean temporary ponds	✓																											
S4 - Phragmites australis swamp and reed-beds					✓																							

Features – of the designated sites listed in 2.2	The Lizard SAC	Lizard Point SAC	Fal and Helford SAC	Marazion Marsh SPA	Marazion Marsh SSSI	St Michaels Mount SSSI	Cudden Point to Prussia cove SSSI	Folly rocks SSSI	Porthcew SSSI	Tremearne Par SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs East SSSI	Loe Pool SSSI	Baulk Head to Mullion SSSI	Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff SSSI	West Lizard SSSI	Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI	Kennack to Coverack SSSI	Coverack cove and Dolor Point SSSI	Coverack to Porthoustock SSSI	Meneage Coastal Section SSSI	Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSI	Rosemullion SSSI	Swanpool SSSI	Mounts Bay MCZ	Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA	The Manacles MCZ	Helford Estuary MCZ
Mesotrophic lakes													✓															
Floodplain fen (lowland)														✓														
Lowland wetland including basin fen, valley fen, floodplain fen, waterfringe fen, spring/flush fen and raised bog lagoon																								✓				
Terrestrial Invertebrate species																												
Invert. Assemblage F1 unshaded early successional mosaic													✓															
Invert. Assemblage F111 bare sand & chalk													✓		✓	✓	✓											
Invert. Assemblage F112 open short sward													✓		✓	✓	✓											
Invert. Assemblage F2 grassland and scrub matrix													✓															
Breeding and non- breeding birds on terrestrial wetland sites																												

Features – of the designated sites listed in 2.2	The Lizard SAC	Lizard Point SAC	Fal and Helford SAC	Marazion Marsh SPA	Marazion Marsh SSSI	St Michaels Mount SSSI	Cudden Point to Prussia cove SSSI	Folly rocks SSSI	Porthcew SSSI	Tremearne Par SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs East SSSI	Loe Pool SSSI	Baulk Head to Mullion SSSI	Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff SSSI	West Lizard SSSI	Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI	Kennack to Coverack SSSI	Coverack cove and Dolor Point SSSI	Coverack to Porthoustock SSSI	Meneage Coastal Section SSSI	Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSI	Rosemullion SSSI	Swanpool SSSI	Mounts Bay MCZ	Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA	The Manacles MCZ	Helford Estuary MCZ
A021 *Botaurus stellaris*; Great bittern (Non-breeding)				✓																								
A294 *Acrocephalus paludicola*; Aquatic warbler (Non-breeding)				✓																								
Aggregations of breeding birds – Cetti's warbler					✓																							
Assemblages of breeding birds – lowland fen without open water					✓																							
Coastal / Open water bird species																												
Aggregations of non-breeding birds - Shoveler, *Anas clypeata*													✓															
Black-throated diver, *Gavia arctica*																										✓		
Great northern diver *Gavia immer*																										✓		
Slavonian grebe, *Podiceps auritus*																										✓		
Vegetated Coastal Fringe Habitats																												

Features – of the designated sites listed in 2.2	The Lizard SAC	Lizard Point SAC	Fal and Helford SAC	Marazion Marsh SPA	Marazion Marsh SSSI	St Michaels Mount SSSI	Cudden Point to Prussia cove SSSI	Folly rocks SSSI	Porthcew SSSI	Tremearne Par SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs East SSSI	Loe Pool SSSI	Baulk Head to Mullion SSSI	Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff SSSI	West Lizard SSSI	Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI	Kennack to Coverack SSSI	Coverack cove and Dolor Point SSSI	Coverack to Porthoustock SSSI	Meneage Coastal Section SSSI	Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSI	Rosemullion SSSI	Swanpool SSSI	Mounts Bay MCZ	Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA	The Manacles MCZ	Helford Estuary MCZ
Coastal vegetated shingle (SD1-3)													✓															
Sand dune; strandline, embryo and mobile dunes (SD1-6)														✓														
H1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)			✓																									
Intertidal Sediments																												
H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats			✓																									
Intertidal sand and muddy sand																								✓				
Littoral sediment																						✓						
Intertidal coarse sediment																								✓				
Intertidal rock and reef																												
Moderate energy intertidal rock																								✓		✓		

Features – of the designated sites listed in 2.2	The Lizard SAC	Lizard Point SAC	Fal and Helford SAC	Marazion Marsh SPA	Marazion Marsh SSSI	St Michaels Mount SSSI	Cudden Point to Prussia cove SSSI	Folly rocks SSSI	Porthcew SSSI	Tremearne Par SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs East SSSI	Loe Pool SSSI	Baulk Head to Mullion SSSI	Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff SSSI	West Lizard SSSI	Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI	Kennack to Coverack SSSI	Coverack cove and Dolor Point SSSI	Coverack to Porthoustock SSSI	Meneage Coastal Section SSSI	Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSI	Rosemullion SSSI	Swanpool SSSI	Mounts Bay MCZ	Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA	The Manacles MCZ	Helford Estuary MCZ
H1170 Reefs		✓	✓																									
High energy intertidal rock																									✓			
Littoral rock and inshore sublittoral rock																						✓	✓					
Subtidal habitats																												
Subtidal sand																									✓		✓	
H1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks			✓																									
Maerl beds																											✓	
Subtidal macrophyte dominated sediment																											✓	
Moderate energy infralittoral rock																											✓	
Moderate energy circalittoral rock																											✓	
Subtidal coarse sediment																											✓	
High energy infralittoral rock																									✓			

Features – of the designated sites listed in 2.2	The Lizard SAC	Lizard Point SAC	Fal and Helford SAC	Marazion Marsh SPA	Marazion Marsh SSSI	St Michaels Mount SSSI	Cudden Point to Prussia cove SSSI	Folly rocks SSSI	Porthcew SSSI	Tremearne Par SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs East SSSI	Loe Pool SSSI	Baulk Head to Mullion SSSI	Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff SSSI	West Lizard SSSI	Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI	Kennack to Coverack SSSI	Coverack cove and Dolor Point SSSI	Coverack to Porthoustock SSSI	Meneage Coastal Section SSSI	Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSI	Rosemullion SSSI	Swanpool SSSI	Mounts Bay MCZ	Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA	The Manacles MCZ	Helford Estuary MCZ
Subtidal species																												
Spiny lobster (Palinurus elephas)																											✓	
Sea-fan anemone (Amphianthus dohrnii)																											✓	
Pink sea-fan (Eunicella verrucosa)																											✓	
Stalked jellyfish species																												
Stalked jellyfish (Haliclystus spp.)																									✓		✓	
H1130 Estuaries – Fal and Helford SAC																												
H1130 Estuaries			✓																									
H1160 Large shallow inlets and bays – Fal and Helford SAC																												
H1160 Large shallow inlets and bays			✓																									
Saline coastal lagoons																												
Saline coastal lagoons																								✓				

Features – of the designated sites listed in 2.2	The Lizard SAC	Lizard Point SAC	Fal and Helford SAC	Marazion Marsh SPA	Marazion Marsh SSSI	St Michaels Mount SSSI	Cudden Point to Prussia cove SSSI	Folly rocks SSSI	Porthcew SSSI	Tremearne Par SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs East SSSI	Loe Pool SSSI	Baulk Head to Mullion SSSI	Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff SSSI	West Lizard SSSI	Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI	Kennack to Coverack SSSI	Coverack cove and Dolor Point SSSI	Coverack to Porthoustock SSSI	Meneage Coastal Section SSSI	Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSI	Rosemullion SSSI	Swanpool SSSI	Mounts Bay MCZ	Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA	The Manacles MCZ	Helford Estuary MCZ
Population of Schedule 5 bryozoan – *Victorella pavida*, Trembling sea mat																												
Population of Schedule 5 bryozoan – Victorella pavida, Trembling Sea-mat																								✓				
Algae assemblage – Rosemullion SSSI																												
Algae assemblage																							✓					
Seagrass beds – Mounts Bay MCZ																												
Seagrass beds																									✓			
Open Water Invertebrate Species																												
Invert. Assemblage W211 open water on distributed sediments													✓															
Giant Goby – Mounts Bay MCZ																												
Giant goby, (Gobius cobitis)																									✓			

Features – of the designated sites listed in 2.2	The Lizard SAC	Lizard Point SAC	Fal and Helford SAC	Marazion Marsh SPA	Marazion Marsh SSSI	St Michaels Mount SSSI	Cudden Point to Prussia cove SSSI	Folly rocks SSSI	Porthcew SSSI	Tremearne Par SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs SSSI	Porthleven Cliffs East SSSI	Loe Pool SSSI	Baulk Head to Mullion SSSI	Mullion Cliff to Predannack Cliff SSSI	West Lizard SSSI	Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI	Kennack to Coverack SSSI	Coverack cove and Dolor Point SSSI	Coverack to Porthoustock SSSI	Meneage Coastal Section SSSI	Lower Fal & Helford Intertidal SSSI	Rosemullion SSSI	Swanpool SSSI	Mounts Bay MCZ	Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA	The Manacles MCZ	Helford Estuary MCZ
Native oyster *Ostrea edulis*																												
Native oyster Ostrea edulis																												✓

Annex 2: SSSI features to be considered when path improvement / establishment works are undertaken

SSSI Site	SSSI Notified Feature	Improvement / Establishment Works	Action
Mullion Cove to Predannack Cliffs SSSI	Land Quillwort, *isoetes histrix*, (part of the vascular plant assemblage)	Improvement works to steep gradient from Mullion Harbour south up onto Mullion Cliffs	The exact location of the plants should be identified and marked before improvements works commence to avoid any damage to the species during construction works.
West Lizard SSSI	Dwarf rush, *Juncus capitatus*, found landward of the trail and Autumn squil, *scila autumnalis*, (part of the vascular plant assemblage), is recorded on the seaward side of the trail in this location.	Soapy cove, (unit 21) includes improved drainage and stone water deflectors.	The exact location of the plants should be identified and marked before improvements works commence to avoid any damage to the species during construction works
West Lizard SSSI	Broomrape, *orabranche alba*,(part of the notified assemblage)	Coast Path route behind Pentreath Beach includes heavy scarring from walkers avoiding wet areas on the trail. Improvement works are proposed to fill in rutting and fence off areas to allow them to re-vegetate.	The exact location of the plants should be identified and marked before improvements works commence to avoid any damage to the species during construction works
Caerthillian to Kennack SSSI	Bryophytes - Tortula atrovirens, Tortula wilsonii Vascular Plants - *Trifolium strictum*, *Trifolium suffocatum* and *Juncus capitatus*	Caerthillian Cove - improve the steps and associated drainage alongside the steps in this area.	The exact location of the plants should be identified and marked before improvements works commence to avoid any damage to the species during construction works