



# England Coast Path Stretch:

## Penzance to St Mawes

### PSM 3: Sea Meads to Loe Bar

### Part 3.1: Introduction

<b>Start Point:</b>	<b>Sea Meads (grid reference: SW58232790)</b>
<b>End Point:</b>	<b>Loe Bar (grid reference: SW64142425)</b>
<b>Relevant Maps:</b>	<b>PSM 3a to PSM 3e</b>

3.1.1 This is one of a series of linked but legally separate reports published by Natural England under section 51 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, which make proposals to the Secretary of State for improved public access along and to this stretch of coast between Penzance and St Mawes.

3.1.2 This report covers length PSM 3 of the stretch, which is the coast between Sea Meads to Loe Bar. It makes free-standing statutory proposals for this part of the stretch, and seeks approval for them by the Secretary of State in their own right under section 52 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

3.1.3 The report explains how we propose to implement the England Coast Path (“the trail”) on this part of the stretch, and details the likely consequences in terms of the wider ‘Coastal Margin’ that will be created if our proposals are approved by the Secretary of State. Our report also sets out:

- any proposals we think are necessary for restricting or excluding coastal access rights to address particular issues, in line with the powers in the legislation; and
- any proposed powers for the trail to be capable of being relocated on particular sections (“roll-back”), if this proves necessary in the future because of coastal change.

3.1.4 There is also a single Overview document for the whole of this stretch of coast, explaining common principles and background. **This and the other individual reports relating to the stretch should be read in conjunction with the Overview. The Overview explains, among other things, how we have considered any potential environmental impacts of improving public access to this part of the coast, and this report, and other separately published assessments we refer to, then provides more detail on these aspects where appropriate.**

## Part 3.2: Proposals Narrative

### The trail:

3.2.1 Follows the existing South West Coast Path as currently walked and managed between Sea Meads and Lesceave Cliff (route sections PSM-3-S001 to PSM-3-S012) and between Porthcew and Loe Bar (route sections PSM-3-S019 to PSM-3-S078); these lengths generally follow close to the line of public rights of way. See maps PSM 3a to PSM 3e and associated table 3.3.1 below for more details.

3.2.2 Differs from the existing South West Coast Path along a 600m length at Rinsey Head between Lesceave Cliff and Porthcew (route sections PSM-3-S013 to PSM-3-S018). This new length follows an existing walked route across the headland seaward of the existing South West Coast Path. See maps PSM 3a and associated table 3.3.2 below for details.

3.2.3 Mainly follows the coastline quite closely and maintains good views of the sea. In Porthleven, it follows the harbour-side providing views of the harbour area. The new length of the England Coast Path (ECP) at Rinsey Head will significantly improve views along that length of coast.

### The South West Coast Path

3.2.4 For the majority of this report length we propose adopting the walked line of the South West Coast Path as the line of the England Coast Path. However, there are places where we have proposed improvements to the existing route line (at Rinsey Head), and furthermore there may be places where the walked line differs slightly from the route originally approved by the Secretary of State, as the path has evolved over time to cope with coastal erosion and other processes. In both situations, as explained at part 6a of the Overview, assuming these proposals are approved we intend to use a separate variation report to the Secretary of State to change the route of the existing national trail to reflect the approved line of the England Coast Path insofar as the two are different.

### Protection of the environment:

In this part of the report, we explain how we have taken account of environmental protection objectives in developing our proposals for improved coastal access.

3.2.5 The following designated sites affect this length of coast:

- Porthcew Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geological/wildlife interest
- Tremearne Par Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geological/wildlife interest
- Porthleven Cliffs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geological/wildlife interest
- Porthleven Cliffs East Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geological/wildlife interest
- Loe Pool Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geological/wildlife interest
- Wheal Prosper pumping engine house 210m south of Eastcliff Farm Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)
- Wheal Trewavas copper mine 310m south of Trewavas Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)
- Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS)

Map C and Map D in the Overview shows the extent of the designated areas listed.

3.2.6 We consider that the coastal environment, including features of the sites listed above, along this length of coast is unlikely to be sensitive to the improvements to coastal access envisaged and that no special measures are needed in respect of our proposals.

3.2.7 Natural England is satisfied that the proposals for coastal access in this report are made in accordance with relevant environmental protection legislation. In respect of cultural heritage, we have taken advice from Historic England and others before confirming this conclusion. For more information about how we came to this conclusion in respect of the natural environment; see the following assessment of the access proposals that we have published separately:

- Our Nature Conservation Assessment, in which we document our conclusions in relation to other potential impacts on nature conservation.

**Part 6b of the Overview includes some contextual information about protecting the environment along this length of coast.**

### **Accessibility:**

3.2.8 There are few artificial barriers to accessibility on the proposed route. However, the natural coastal terrain is often challenging for people with reduced mobility and this is the case on sections of our proposed route because:

- The trail would follow an uneven grass or bare soil path along the cliffs from Lesceave cliff to Porthleven with steep gradients and historic stiles in places;
- There are lengthy sections with steps in places such as the steep zigzag route at Trequean cliffs.

3.2.9 At Trequean cliffs, the existing steps along a long steep zigzag section will be improved, so as to make them easier to use. We envisage this happening as part of the physical establishment work described below.

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

### **Where we have proposed exercising statutory discretions:**

3.2.10 **Landward boundary of the coastal margin:** We have used our discretion on some sections of the route to map the landward extent of the coastal margin to an adjacent physical boundary such as a fence line, pavement or track to make the extent of the new access rights clearer. See Tables 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 below.

3.2.11 East of Sea Meads and at Rinsey Head to Trewavas Head, we have used our discretion to propose the inclusion of additional, more extensive landward areas within the coastal margin, to secure or enhance public enjoyment of this part of the coast. The owner of this land is content for us to propose this.

3.2.12 The Proposals Tables show where we are proposing to alter the default landward boundary of the coastal margin. These proposals are set out in columns 4b and 4c of table 3.3.1 and 5b and 5c of table 3.3.2. Where these columns are left blank, we are making no such proposals, so the default landward boundary applies. See the note relating to Columns 4b & 4c above Table 3.3.1 and the note relating to Column 5b & 5c above Table 3.3.2 explaining what this means in practice.

**See also part 3 of the Overview - ‘Understanding the proposals and accompanying maps’, for a more detailed explanation of the default extent of the coastal margin and how we may use our discretion to adjust the margin, either to add land or to provide clarity.**

**3.2.13 Coastal erosion:** Natural England is able to propose that the route of the trail would be able to change in the future, without further approval from the Secretary of State, in response to coastal change. This would happen in accordance with the criteria and procedures for ‘roll-back’ set out in part 7 of the Overview.

Natural England may only propose the use of this roll-back power:

- as a result of coastal erosion or other geomorphological processes or encroachment by the sea, or
- in order to link with other parts of the route that need to roll back in direct response to such changes.

3.2.14 Column 3 of table 3.3.1 and column 4 of table 3.3.2 indicates where roll-back has been proposed in relation to a route section. Where this is the case, the route, as initially determined at the time the report was prepared, is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps PSM 3a to PSM 3e as the proposed route of the trail.

3.2.15 If at any time in the future any part of a route section upon which roll-back has been specified needs, in Natural England’s view, to change in order for the overall route to remain viable, the new route for the part in question will be determined by Natural England without further reference to the Secretary of State. This will be done in accordance with the criteria and procedures described under the title ‘Roll-back’ in part 7 of the Overview and section 4.10 of the Coastal Access Scheme. If this happens, the new route will become the approved route for that section for the purposes of the Order which determines where coastal access rights apply.

On sections for which roll-back is not proposed in table 3.3.1, the route is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps PSM 3b, PSM 3d and PSM 3e as the proposed route of the trail.

### Other future change:

3.2.16 At this point we do not foresee any other need for future changes to the access provisions that we have proposed within this report.

**See parts 7 - ‘Future changes’ of the Overview for more information.**

### Establishment of the trail:

3.2.17 Below we summarise how our proposed route for the trail would be physically established to make it ready for public use before any new rights come into force.

Establishment works will only start on this length of coast once these proposals have been approved by the Secretary of State. The works may therefore either precede or follow the start of establishment works on other lengths of coast within the stretch, and detailed in their separate reports.

3.2.18 Our estimate of the capital costs for physical establishment of the trail on the proposed route is £17,020 and is informed by:

- information already held by Cornwall Council, Cormac and National Trust, in relation to the management of the existing South West Coast Path;
- the conclusions of our deliberations in relation to potential impacts on the environment; and

- information gathered while visiting affected land and talking to the people who own and manage it about the options for the route.

3.2.19 There are three main elements to the overall cost:

- A number of new signs would be needed on the trail, in particular on route sections where the proposed route differs from that of the existing South West Coast Path
- The surfaces and access furniture where the proposed route follows the existing South West Coast Path as walked and managed are generally of a suitable standard for the trail, but there are some places where improvements would enhance the convenience of the trail:
  - Improved steps along the zigzag section at Trequean Cliff.
- New surfaces and access furniture would be required on some route sections where the proposed route differs from that of the existing South West Coast Path:
  - At Rinsey Head resurfacing in places, a new boardwalk, steps, water management, and vegetation clearance.

Table 1 shows our estimate of the capital cost for each of the main elements of physical establishment described above.

**Table 1: Estimate of capital costs**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Signage and interpretation	£2,770
Improvements of existing trail sections	£2,400
New trail sections	£9,300
Project management	£2,550
<b>Total</b>	<b>£17,020 (Exclusive of any VAT payable)</b>

3.2.20 Once the Secretary of State’s decision on our report has been notified, and further to our conversations with land managers during the route planning stage, Cornwall Council will liaise with affected land owners and occupiers about relevant aspects of the design, installation and maintenance of the new signs and infrastructure that are needed on their land. Prior to works being carried out on the ground, all necessary permissions, authorisations and consents will be obtained. All such works would conform to the published standards for National Trails and the other criteria described in our Coastal Access Scheme.

**Maintenance of the trail:**

3.2.21 Because the trail on this length of coast will form part of the National Trail being created around the whole coast of England called the England Coast Path, we envisage that it will be maintained to the same high quality standards as other National Trails in England (see The New Deal; Management of National Trails in England from April 2013: details at Annex A of the Overview).

3.2.22 We estimate that the annual cost to maintain the trail will be £5164.48 (exclusive of any VAT payable). In developing this estimate we have taken account of the formula used to calculate Natural England’s contribution to the maintenance of other National Trails.

## Part 3.3: Proposals Tables

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

Table 3.3.1 includes sections of the trail that follow the existing South West Coast Path as currently walked and managed. Table 3.3.2 includes sections of the trail that differ from the existing South West Coast Path.

### 3.3.1 Details for sections that follow the existing South West Coast Path: Maps PSM 3a to PSM 3e, Sea Meads to Loe Bar

#### Key notes on table:

1. Column 3 – ‘No’ means no roll-back is proposed for this route section. ‘Yes – normal’ means roll-back is proposed and is likely to follow the current feature (e.g. cliff edge/beach) for the foreseeable future as any coastal change occurs.
2. Column 4a - Certain coastal land types are included automatically in the coastal margin where they fall landward of the trail if they touch it at some point. The relevant land type (foreshore, cliff, bank, barrier, dune, beach, flat or section 15 land – see Glossary) is shown in this column where appropriate. “No” means none present on this route section.
3. Columns 4b and 4c – Any entry in these columns means we are proposing to align the landward boundary of the coastal margin on this route section with the physical feature(s) shown in 4b, for the reason in 4c. No text here means that for this route section the landward edge of the margin would be that of the trail itself - or if any default coastal land type is shown in 4a, that would be its landward boundary instead.

1	2	3	4a	4b	4c	5
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
PSM 3a	PSM-3-S001 and PSM-3-S002	Yes - Normal	No	Landward edge of road	Clarity and cohesion	
	PSM-3-S003 to PSM-3-S007	Yes - Normal	No	Road	Additional landward area	Eastern Green Common
	PSM-3-S008 to PSM-3-S011	Yes - Normal	No	Hedge bank	Additional landward area	
	PSM-3-S012	Yes - Normal	No			
PSM 3b	PSM-3-S019 to PSM-3-S021	No	No	Hedge bank	Additional landward area	
	PSM-3-S022	No	No	Fence line	Additional landward area	

1	2	3	4a	4b	4c	5
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
	PSM-3-S023 to PSM-3-S025	No	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	
	PSM-3-S026 to PSM-3-S030	No	No			
	PSM-3-S031	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to Scheduled Monument consent
PSM 3c	PSM-3-S032 to PSM-3-S035	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to SSSI assent
	PSM-3-S036 and PSM-3-S037	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	
	PSM-3-S038 to PSM-3-S041	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to SSSI assent
	PSM-3-S042 and PSM-3-S043	Yes - Normal	No			
PSM 3c and PSM 3d	PSM-3-S044 to PSM-3-S048	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	
PSM 3d	PSM-3-S049	Yes - Normal	No			
	PSM-3-S050 to PSM-3-S052	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to SSSI assent
	PSM-3-S053	Yes - Normal	No	Hedge bank	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to SSSI assent
	PSM-3-S054 and PSM-3-S055	No	No	Landward edge of track	Clarity and cohesion	
PSM 3d	PSM-3-S056	No	No	Landward edge of road	Clarity and cohesion	

1	2	3	4a	4b	4c	5
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
	PSM-3-S057	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	
	PSM-3-S058	No	No	Landward edge of road	Clarity and cohesion	
	PSM-3-S059 and PSM-3-S060	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	
PSM 3d and PSM 3e	PSM-3-S061 and PSM-3-S063	No	No	Landward edge of road	Clarity and cohesion	
PSM 3e	PSM-3-S064	No	No	Landward edge of path	Clarity and cohesion	
	PSM-3-S065 and PSM-3-S066	No	No	Landward edge of road	Clarity and cohesion	
	PSM-3-S067 and PSM-3-S068	Yes - Normal	No	Hedge bank	Clarity and cohesion	
	PSM-3-S069 and PSM-3-S070	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	
	PSM-3-S071	Yes - Normal	No	Hedge bank	Clarity and cohesion	
	PSM-3-S072 and PSM-3-S073	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	
	PSM-3-S074	Yes - Normal	No			
	PSM-3-S075	Yes - Normal	No	Wall	Clarity and cohesion	
	PSM-3-S076 to PSM-3-S078	Yes - Normal	No	Track	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to SSSI assent



### 3.3.2 Details for sections that differ from the existing South West Coast Path: Maps 3a to PSM 3b, Lesceave Cliff to Porthcew

#### Key notes on table:

1. Column 2 – an asterisk (\*) against the route section number means see also table 3.3.3: Other options considered.
2. Column 4 – ‘No’ means no roll-back is proposed for this route section. ‘Yes – normal’ means roll-back is proposed and is likely to follow the current feature (e.g. cliff edge/beach) for the foreseeable future as any coastal change occurs.
3. Column 5a - Certain coastal land types are included automatically in the coastal margin where they fall landward of the trail if they touch it at some point. The relevant land type (foreshore, cliff, bank, barrier, dune, beach, flat or section 15 land – see Glossary) is shown in this column where appropriate. “No” means none present on this route section.
4. Columns 5b and 5c – Any entry in these columns means we are proposing to align the landward boundary of the coastal margin on this route section with the physical feature(s) shown in 5b, for the reason in 5c. No text here means that for this route section the landward edge of the margin would be that of the trail itself - or if any default coastal land type is shown in 5a, that would be its landward boundary instead.

1	2	3	4	5a	5b	5c	6
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of route section(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
PSM 3a	PSM-3-S013*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	No	Hedge bank	Additional landward area	
	PSM-3-S014*	Public footpath	Yes - Normal	No	Hedge bank	Additional landward area	
PSM 3a and PSM 3b	PSM-3-S015* to PSM-3-S017*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	No	Hedge bank	Additional landward area	Detail of any roll back subject to SSSI assent
PSM 3b	PSM-3-S018*	Public footpath	Yes - Normal	No	Hedge bank	Additional landward area	Detail of any roll back subject to SSSI assent and Scheduled

1	2	3	4	5a	5b	5c	6
Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Current status of route section(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See Part 7 of Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin (See maps)	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
							Monument consent

### 3.3.3 Other options considered: Maps PSM 3a to PSM 3b: Sea Meads to Trewavas Cliff

Map(s)	Route section numbers(s)	Other option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option
PSM 3a	PSM-3-S013 to PSM-3-S018	We considered aligning the trail along the route of the existing South West Coast Path at Rinsey Head	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ it is closer to the sea and maintains views of the sea</li> <li>■ this proposal is made with the support of the landowner</li> <li>■ we concluded that overall the proposed route struck the best balance in terms of the criteria described in chapter 4 of the Coastal Access Scheme</li> </ul>
PSM 3a	PSM-3-S013 to PSM-3-S018	We considered aligning the trail seaward of the property on Rinsey Head.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ It is not possible to identify a safe route seaward of the property which did not go through excepted land</li> <li>■ this proposal is made with the support of the landowner</li> </ul>

Note: Any public rights of way not forming part of the proposed trail would remain available for people to use under their pre-existing rights.

## Part 3.4: Proposals Maps

### 3.4.1 Map Index

Map reference	Map title
PSM 3a	Sea Meads to Porthcew
PSM 3b	Porthcew to Trewavas Cliff
PSM 3c	Trewavas Cliff to Porth Sulinces
PSM 3d	Porth Sulinces to Gravesend
PSM 3e	Gravesend to Loe Bar

### PROPOSALS

#### Trail Sections

- Trail using existing public right of way or highway
- Trail using other existing walked route
- Trail not using existing walked route
- Alternative route
- Trail shown on other maps
- Approved or open England Coast Path

Maps that show sections of the trail that follow the existing South West Coast Path as currently walked and managed use the following trail categories. Information on the existing status and infrastructure is not shown.

- Trail using existing South West Coast Path
- Alternative or optional alternative route using existing South West Coast Path

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

- BW** - Public bridleway
- BY** - Public byway
- CP** - Cycletrack (pedestrian)
- CT** - Cycletrack (cycles only)
- FP** - Public footpath
- FW** - Public footway (Pavement)
- RB** - Restricted byway
- RD** - Public road

#### Coastal Margin

##### Explanatory note

Part 3 of the Overview to the report explains where the landward boundary of the coastal margin falls by default. Our proposals include any suggested variation of this default boundary. The purple wash on the map indicates where as a result of our proposals the coastal margin would extend significantly to the landward side of the proposed route of the trail. The coastal margin may include some areas where coastal access rights do not apply, either seaward or landward of the proposed route of the trail: the Overview explains more about this. The landward boundary of the coastal margin may in due course move inland, if the trail rolls back under proposals in this report to respond to coastal change.

- Coastal margin landward of the trail
- Coastal margin landward of the trail which is existing access land

#### Other Information

##### Other access rights and routes

- Public bridleways
- Public byways
- Public footpaths
- Restricted byways
- South West Coast Path
- Sustrans national routes
- Existing access land

#### Infrastructure types

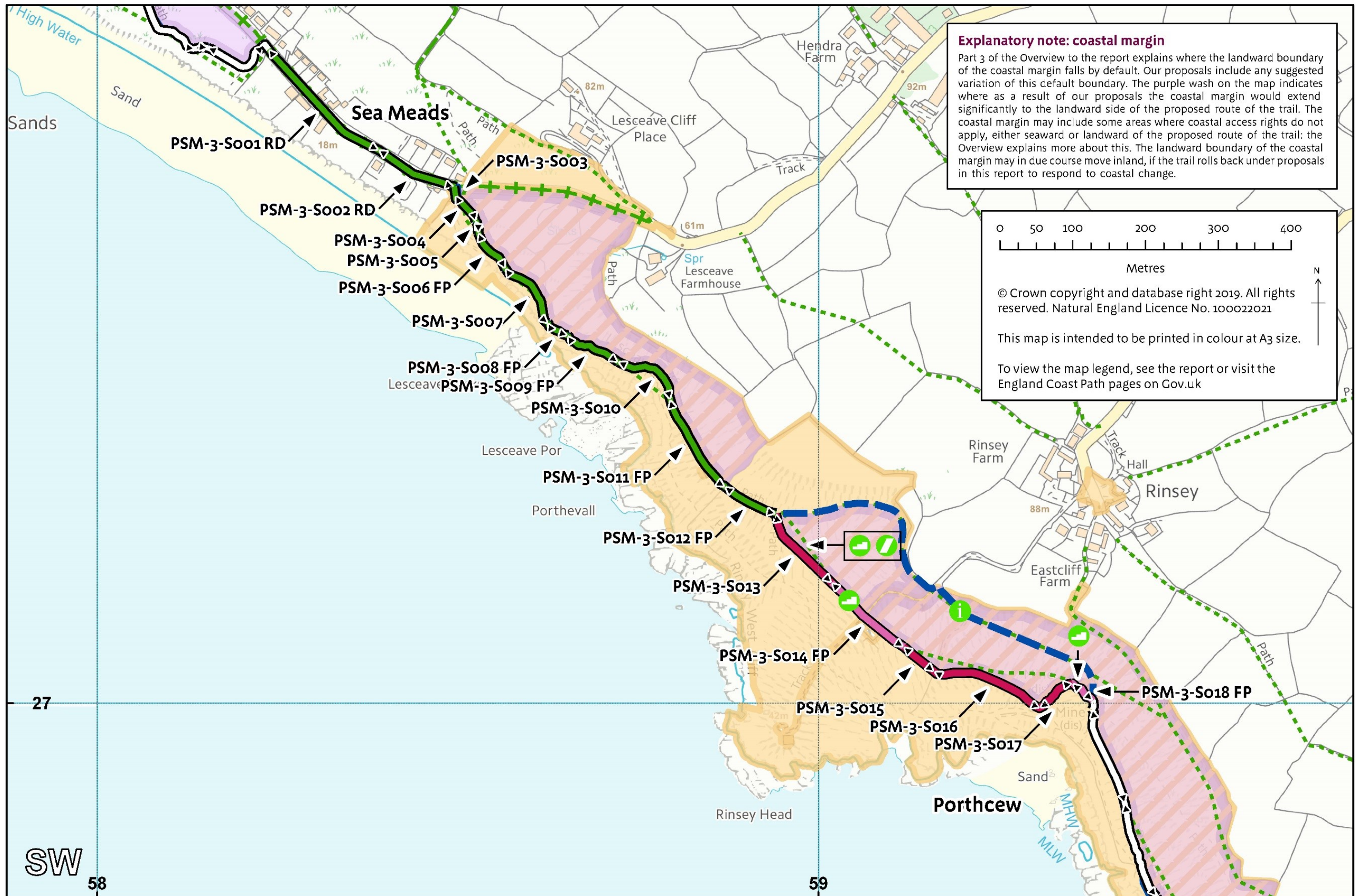
For status of each, where shown on map, see colour codes below

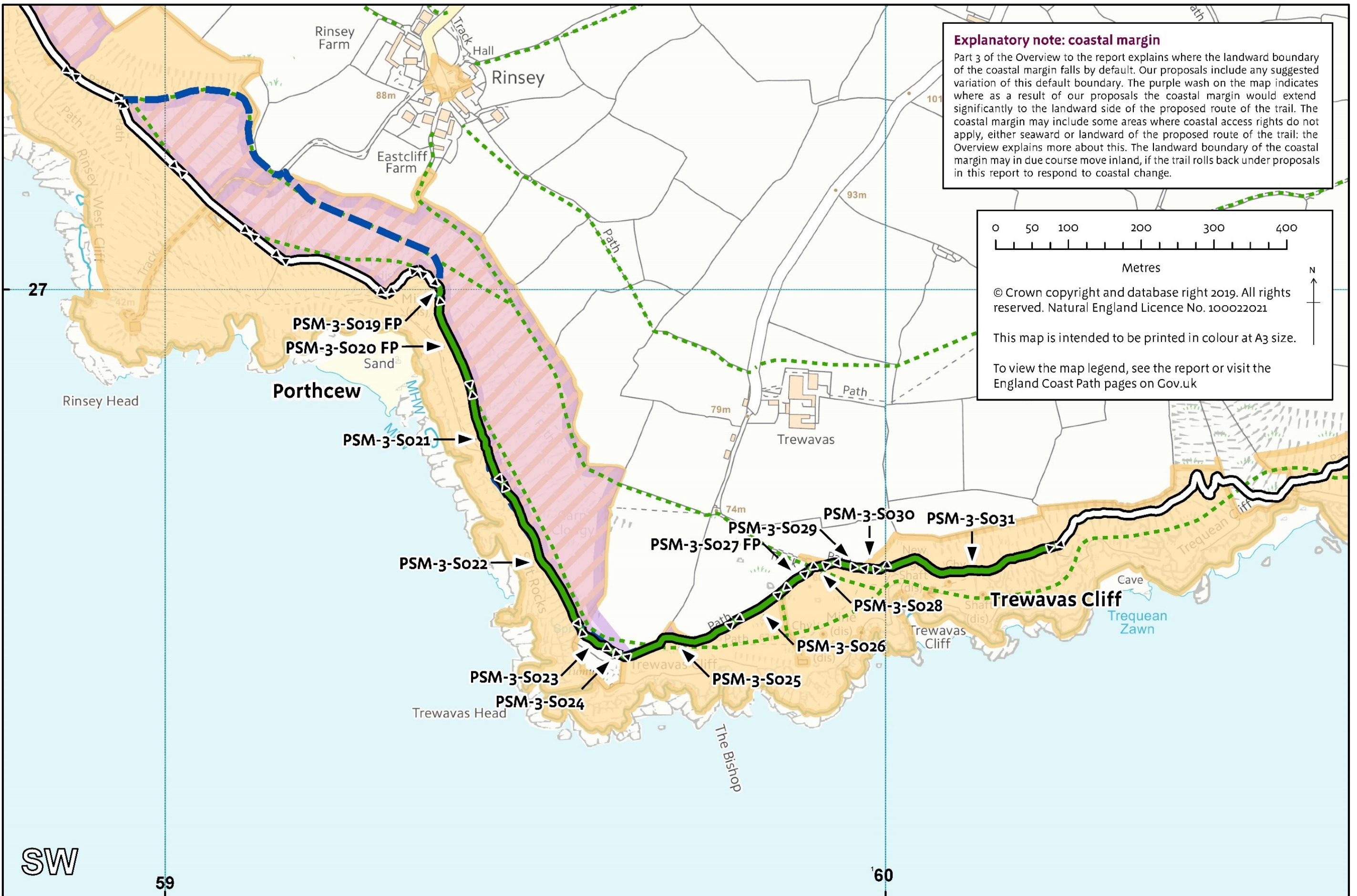
- |                       |                |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Bridges:</b>       | <b>Stiles:</b> | <b>Gates:</b>        |
| Clapper bridge        | Ladder stile   | Bristol gate         |
| Footbridge            | Lift-up stile  | Field gate           |
| Quad bike bridge      | Squeeze stile  | Gateway with no gate |
| Sleeper bridge        | Step stile     | Kissing gate         |
| Vehicle bridge        | Stone stile    | Pedestrian gate      |
|                       |                | Wheelchair gate      |
| <b>Miscellaneous:</b> |                |                      |
| Barrier               | Cycle chicane  | Interpretation panel |
| Boardwalk             | Drainage       | Ramp                 |
| Bollard               | Drop-kerb      | Revetment            |
| Cattle grid           | Gap in fence   | Stepping stones      |
| Culvert               | Hurdle         | Steps                |

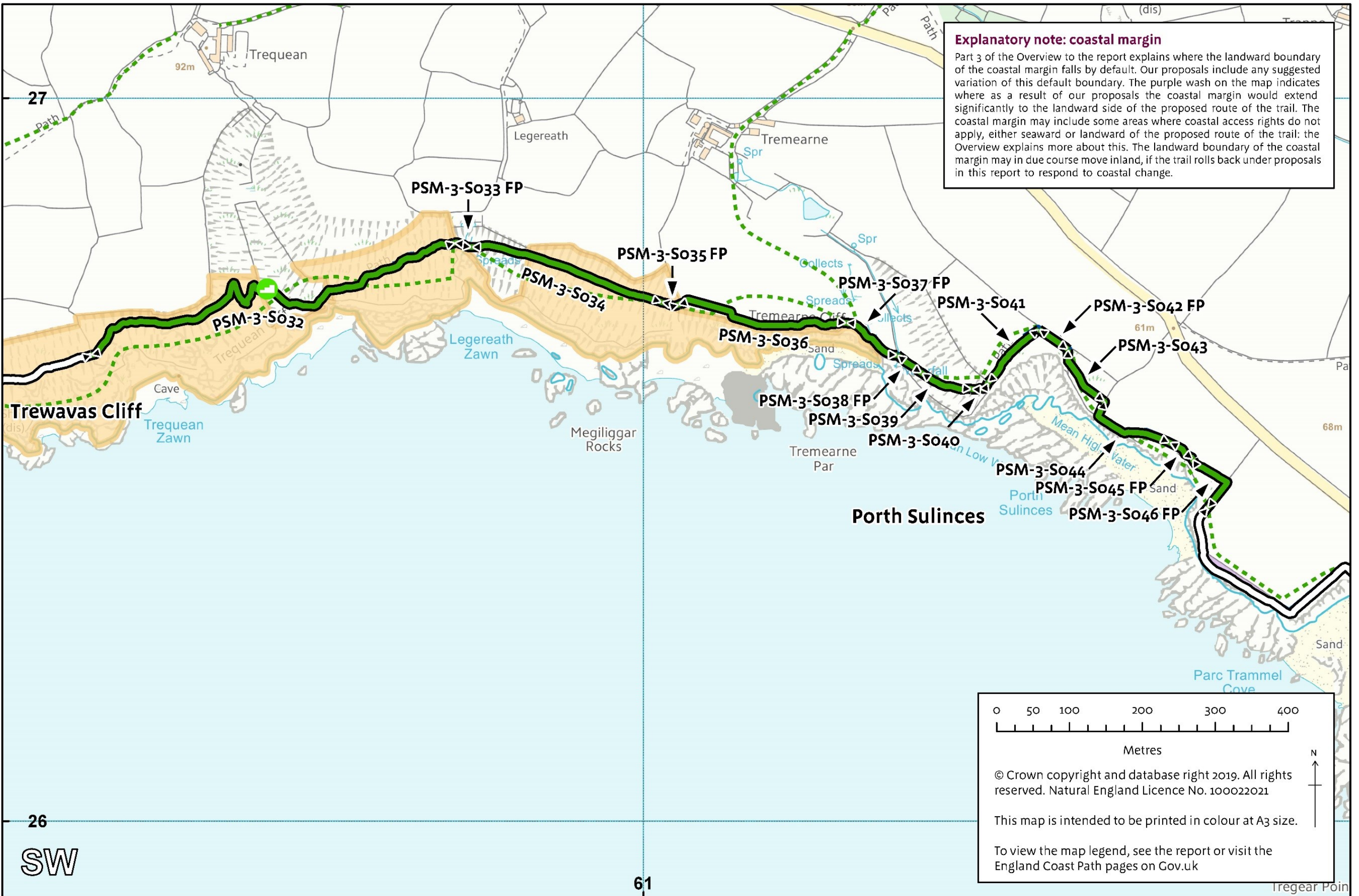
#### Infrastructure status

Each symbol shown on the map is colour coded as appropriate, as in this example for a set of steps:

- Existing steps to be retained
- New steps required
- Existing steps to be removed







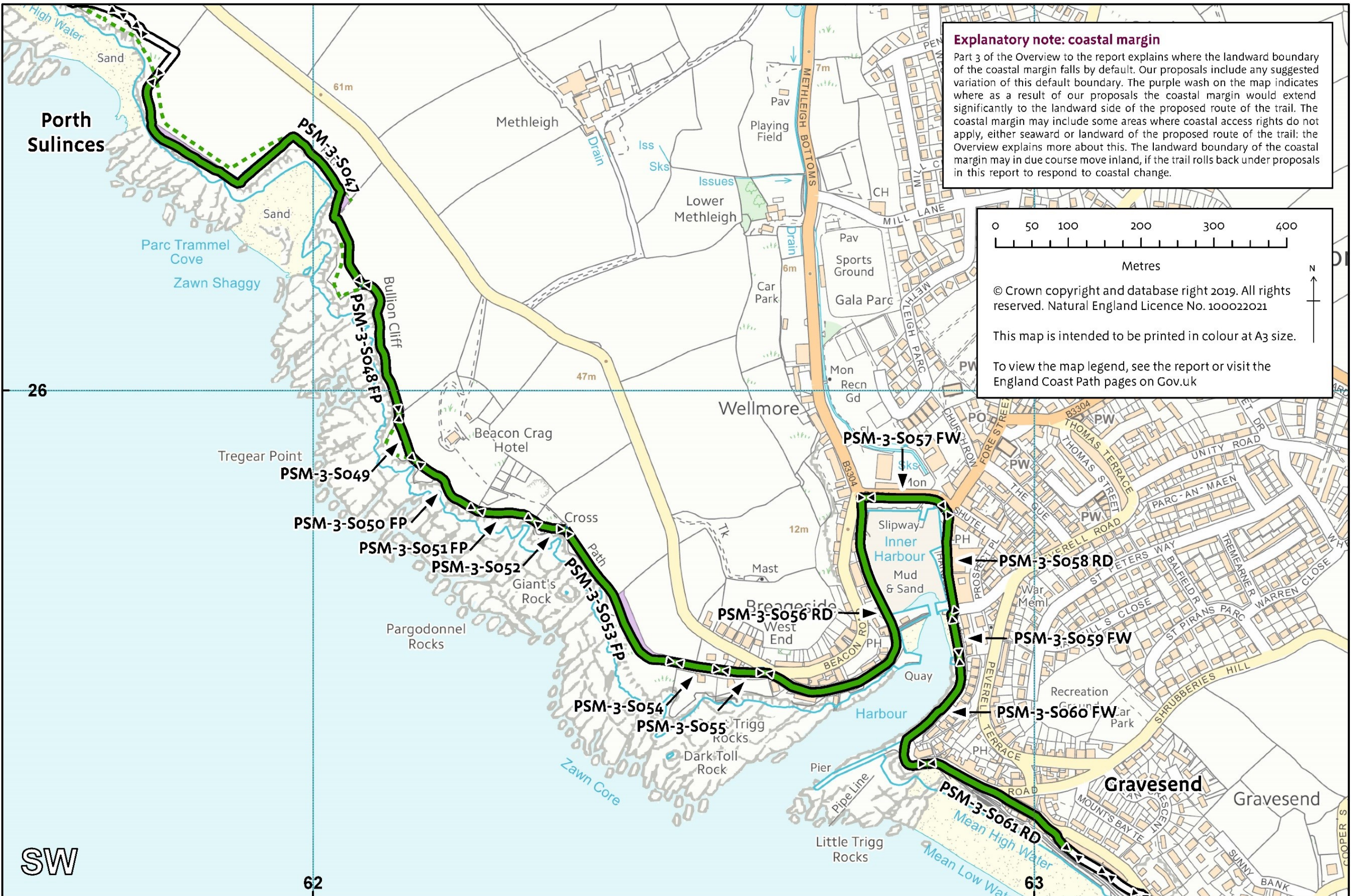
27

26

SW

61

Tregear Point



**Explanatory note: coastal margin**  
 Part 3 of the Overview to the report explains where the landward boundary of the coastal margin falls by default. Our proposals include any suggested variation of this default boundary. The purple wash on the map indicates where as a result of our proposals the coastal margin would extend significantly to the landward side of the proposed route of the trail. The coastal margin may include some areas where coastal access rights do not apply, either seaward or landward of the proposed route of the trail: the Overview explains more about this. The landward boundary of the coastal margin may in due course move inland, if the trail rolls back under proposals in this report to respond to coastal change.

0 50 100 200 300 400  
 Metres

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

To view the map legend, see the report or visit the England Coast Path pages on Gov.uk

Map PSM 3d: Porth Sulinces to Gravesend

SW

62

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