



England Coast Path Stretch: Marsland Mouth to Newquay

Report MNQ 2: Duckpool to Wanson Mouth

Part 2.1: Introduction

Start Point:	Duckpool (grid reference: SS 2026 1164)
End Point:	Wanson Mouth (grid reference: SS 1964 0094)
Relevant Maps:	MNQ 2a to MNQ 2g

2.1.1 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 Marsland Mouth and Newquay.

2.1.2 This report covers length MNQ 2 of the stretch, which is the coast between Duckpool and Wanson Mouth. 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.

2.1.3 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.

2.1.4 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 2.2: Proposals Narrative

The trail:

2.2.1 Follows the existing South West Coast Path as currently walked and managed along all of this length. See maps MNQ 2a to MNQ 2g and table 2.3.1 below for more details.

2.2.2 Mainly follows the coastline closely and maintains good views of the sea except through the centre of Bude and along the highway at Upton.

2.2.3 Is aligned on the shingle beach at Northcott Mouth (route sections MNQ-2-S024 to MNQ-2-S026). See map MNQ 2b and table 2.3.1 below for more details.

The South West Coast Path

2.2.4 The South West Coast Path (SWCP) generally follows the coast over this length and we propose adopting the walked line of this route as the line of the England Coast Path. There are places where the walked line differs slightly from the route originally approved by the Secretary of State, as the path has evolved over time to cope with coastal erosion and other processes. 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.

2.2.5 The following designated sites affect this length of coast:

- Tintagel-Marsland-Clovelly Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Hartland Point to Tintagel Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)
- Duckpool to Furzey Cove Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its geological interest
- Bude Coast SSSI for its geological and wildlife interest
- Boscastle to Widemouth SSSI for its geological and wildlife interest
- Post medieval sea lock at Bude canal - Scheduled Monument (SM)
- Three bowl barrows on the coastal ridges above Bude Bay (SM)
- Two bowl barrows, one 220m east of Lower Longbeak and the other 320m east of Higher Longbeak (SM)

Maps C and D in the Overview shows the extent of designated areas along this stretch of coast.

2.2.6 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.

2.2.7 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 assessments of the access proposals that we have published separately:

- A Habitats Regulations Assessment relating to any potential impact on the conservation objectives of European sites.
- 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:

2.2.8 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 cliff top for the majority of this length, excluding the settlements of Bude and Upton;
- The trail would follow sections of uneven shingle beach and sand dunes at Northcott Mouth and Widemouth Bay, respectively;
- There are steep slopes in places where it would be necessary to ascend/descend steps.

2.2.9 At Northcott Mouth (route section MNQ-2-S024) the existing footbridge will be replaced to make crossing the stream safer when in spate (see map 2b).

2.2.10 At Higher Longbeak (route section MNQ-2-S065) a boardwalk will be constructed to traverse boggy ground (see map 2e).

We envisage these works happening before the new access rights come into force 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:

2.2.11 **Landward boundary of the coastal margin:** We have used our discretion on some sections of the route to map the landward extent of the coastal margin to an adjacent physical boundary such as a fence line, pavement or track to make the extent of the new access rights clearer. See table 2.3.1 below.

2.2.12 In some places we have used our discretion to propose the inclusion of additional, more extensive landward areas within the coastal margin, to secure or enhance public enjoyment of this part of the coast. The owner of this land is content for us to propose this. See maps MNQ 2a, MNQ 2b and MNQ 2c and table 2.3.1 below for more details.

2.2.13 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 2.3.1. Where these columns are left blank, we are making no such proposals, so the default landward boundary applies. See the note relating to these columns above table 2.3.1 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.

2.2.14 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.

2.2.15 Column 3 of table 2.3.1 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 MNQ 2a to MNQ 2g as the proposed route of the trail.

2.2.16 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.

2.2.17 On sections for which roll-back is not proposed in table 2.3.1, the route is to be at the centre of the line shown on maps MNQ 2a to MNQ 2g as the proposed route of the trail.

Other future change:

1.2.18 As a result of on-going coastal erosion of the cliffs at Upton (SS 2004 0487), the access authority has advised that the proposed route seaward of Upton Terrace cottages will soon have to be permanently closed (section MNQ-2-S060, map MNQ 2d). When this happens, we will choose a route landward of them, following discussions with owners and occupiers.

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

Establishment of the trail:

2.2.19 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.

2.2.20 Our estimate of the capital costs for physical establishment of the trail on the proposed route is £29,900 and is informed by:

- information already held by the access authority (Cornwall Council) 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.

2.2.21 The surfaces and access furniture of the existing paths and footways on the proposed route are generally of a suitable standard for the trail, but there are some places where drainage improvements, a new boardwalk and a longer footbridge would enhance the convenience of the trail. The significant items of establishment works are shown on the relevant maps accompanying this report.

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

Item	Cost (£)
Signs and interpretation	2,000
Improvements to existing route	24,000
Project management	3,900
Total	29,900 (Exclusive of any VAT payable)

2.2.22 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:

2.2.23 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).

2.2.24 We estimate that the annual cost to maintain the trail will be £7,640 (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 2.3: Proposals Tables

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

2.3.1 Details for sections that follow the existing South West Coast Path - Maps MNQ 2a to MNQ 2g: Duckpool to Wanson Mouth

Key notes on table:

1. Column 2 – an asterisk (*) against the route section number means see also table 2.3.3: Other options considered.
2. 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.
3. Column 3 – ‘Yes – see table 2.3.2’ means roll-back is proposed, but refer to that table below about our likely approach to implementing it for this route section. This is because a more complex situation exists in this case and consideration must be given to how roll-back may happen in relation to excepted land, a protected site etc.
4. 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.
5. 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
MNQ 2a	MNQ-2-S001 & MNQ-2-S002	Yes - Normal	No	Various	Additional landward area	Landward boundaries: hedge bank and fence line
	MNQ-2-S003 to MNQ-2-S012*	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Additional landward area	
MNQ 2b	MNQ-2-S013	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Additional landward area	
	MNQ-2-S014 to MNQ-2-S020*	Yes - Normal	No	Hedge bank	Additional landward area	
	MNQ-2-S021 to MNQ-2-S023	Yes - Normal	No			
	MNQ-2-S024 to MNQ-2-S026	Yes – See table 2.3.2	Yes - beach			

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
	MNQ-2-S027	Yes - Normal	No	Seaward edge of road	Additional landward area	
	MNQ-2-S028	Yes - Normal	No	Seaward edge of track	Additional landward area	
MNQ 2c	MNQ-2-S029	No	No	Landward edge of track	Clarity and cohesion	
	MNQ-2-S030* to MNQ-2-S032	Yes – See table 2.3.2	No	Seaward edge of track	Additional landward area	
	MNQ-2-S033	Yes - Normal	No	Various	Additional landward area	Landward boundaries: hedge bank and fence line
	MNQ-2-S034 to MNQ-2-S041	No	No	Landward edge of path	Clarity and cohesion	
MNQ 2d	MNQ-2-S042 & MNQ-2-S043	No	No			
	MNQ-2-S044 & MNQ-2-S045	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	
	MNQ-2-S046	No	No	Landward edge of road	Clarity and cohesion	
	MNQ-2-S047 to MNQ-2-S049	No	No	Landward edge of path	Clarity and cohesion	
	MNQ-2-S050 to MNQ-2-S052	No	No	Pavement edge	Clarity and cohesion	
	MNQ-2-S053	No	No	Landward edge of road	Clarity and cohesion	
	MNQ-2-S054	Yes – See table 2.3.2	No	Landward edge of path	Clarity and cohesion	
	MNQ-2-S055	Yes – See table 2.3.2	No			
	MNQ-2-S056 & MNQ-2-S057	Yes – See table 2.3.2	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	
	MNQ-2-S058*	Yes - Normal	No			
	MNQ-2-S059 & MNQ-2-S060	Yes – See table 2.3.2	No			
MNQ 2e	MNQ-2-S061	Yes - Normal	No			
	MNQ-2-S062	Yes - Normal	No	Seaward edge of road	Clarity and cohesion	
	MNQ-2-S063 to MNQ-2-S065	Yes – See table 2.3.2	No			

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
MNQ 2f	MNQ-2-S066 & MNQ-2-S067	Yes - Normal	No			
	MNQ-2-S068*	Yes - Normal	No			
	MNQ-2-S069 & MNQ-2-S070	Yes - Normal	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	
	MNQ-2-S071*	Yes – See table 2.3.2	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	
	MNQ-2-S072*	Yes – See table 2.3.2	No			
	MNQ-2-S073 & MNQ-2-S074*	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			
	MNQ-2-S075 & MNQ-2-S076*	Yes – See table 2.3.2	No			
	MNQ-2-S077 to MNQ-2-S079*	Yes - Normal	No			
MNQ 2g	MNQ-2-S080	Yes – See table 2.3.2	No			
	MNQ-2-S081 & MNQ-2-S082	Yes – See table 2.3.2	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	
	MNQ-2-S083 to MNQ-2-S088*	Yes – See table 2.3.2	No			
	MNQ-2-S089 to MNQ-2-S091*	Yes – See table 2.3.2	No	Fence line	Clarity and cohesion	
	MNQ-2-S092 to MNQ-2-S095*	Yes – See table 2.3.2	No			
	MNQ-2-S096*	No	No			

2.3.2 Roll-back implementation – more complex situations: Maps MNQ 2b, MNQ 2c, MNQ 2d, MNQ 2e, MNQ 2f and MNQ 2g: Duckpool to Wanson Mouth

Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Feature(s) or site(s) potentially affected	Our likely approach to roll-back
MNQ 2b	MNQ-2-S024 to MNQ-2-S026	Buildings, houses and gardens	If it is no longer possible to find a viable route seaward of the specified excepted land, we will choose a route landward of it, following discussions with owners and occupiers.
MNQ 2d	MNQ-2-S059 & MNQ-2-S060		
MNQ 2f	MNQ-2-S071 & MNQ-2-S072; MNQ-2-S075 & MNQ-2-S076		
MNQ 2g	MNQ-2-S080 to MNQ-2-S082		
MNQ 2c	MNQ-2-S030 to MNQ-2-S032	Designated feature (SM)	If it is no longer possible to find a viable route seaward of a scheduled monument whose designated features are sensitive to public access, we will choose a new route after detailed discussions with the relevant experts and with any potentially affected owners or occupiers, which will, if necessary, be routed landward of it.
MNQ 2e	MNQ-2-S063 to MNQ-2-S065		
MNQ 2d	MNQ-2-S054 & MNQ-2-S057	Designated site (SSSI or SAC)	If it is no longer possible to find a viable route seaward of a designated site (e.g. SSSI, SAC) whose designated features are sensitive to public access, or where the existing route already passing through such a site must be altered, we will choose a new route after detailed discussions with the relevant experts and with any potentially affected owners or occupiers, which will either (a) pass through the site, if appropriate or (b) if necessary, be routed landward of it.
MNQ 2g	MNQ-2-S083 to MNQ-2-S095		

In relation to all other sections where roll-back has been proposed, any later adjustment of the trail is likely to follow the current feature (e.g. cliff edge/beach) for the foreseeable future as any coastal change occurs.

2.3.3 Other options considered: Maps MNQ 2a, MNQ 2b, MNQ 2c, MNQ 2d, MNQ 2f and MNQ 2g: Duckpool to Wanson Mouth

Map(s)	Route section numbers(s)	Other option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option
MNQ 2a	MNQ-2-S009 to MNQ-2-S012	We considered aligning the trail on the public rights of way which are more seaward.	<p>We opted for the proposed route because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ it follows the existing South West Coast Path which over time has moved inland to its current route to avoid areas of cliff erosion and ground subsidence. The more seaward route is no longer appropriate or convenient; ■ under our proposals, land seaward of the route would remain available for people to use as part of the spreading room, but would not form part of the designated trail; ■ 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.
MNQ 2b	MNQ-2-S018 & MNQ-2-S019		
MNQ 2c	MNQ-2-S030		
MNQ 2d	MNQ-2-S058		
MNQ 2f	MNQ-2-S068, MNQ-2-S071 to MNQ-2-S079		
MNQ 2g	MNQ-2-S087 to MNQ-2-S096		

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 2.4: Proposals Maps

2.4.1 Map Index

Map reference	Map title
MNQ 2a	Duckpool to Sandy Mouth
MNQ 2b	Sandy Mouth to Northcott Mouth
MNQ 2c	Northcott Mouth to Summerleaze Beach
MNQ 2d	Summerleaze Beach to Upton
MNQ 2e	Upton to Lower Longbeak
MNQ 2f	Lower Longbeak to Widemouth Bay
MNQ 2g	Widemouth Bay to Wanson Mouth

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

Bridges:

- Clapper bridge
- Footbridge
- Quad bike bridge
- Sleeper bridge
- Vehicle bridge

Stiles:

- Ladder stile
- Lift-up stile
- Squeeze stile
- Step stile
- Stone stile

Gates:

- Bristol gate
- Field gate
- Gateway with no gate
- Kissing gate
- Pedestrian gate
- Wheelchair gate

Miscellaneous:

- Barrier
- Boardwalk
- Bollard
- Cattle grid
- Culvert
- Cycle chicane
- Drainage
- Drop-kerb
- Gap in fence
- Hurdle
- Interpretation panel
- Ramp
- Revetment
- Stepping stones
- Steps

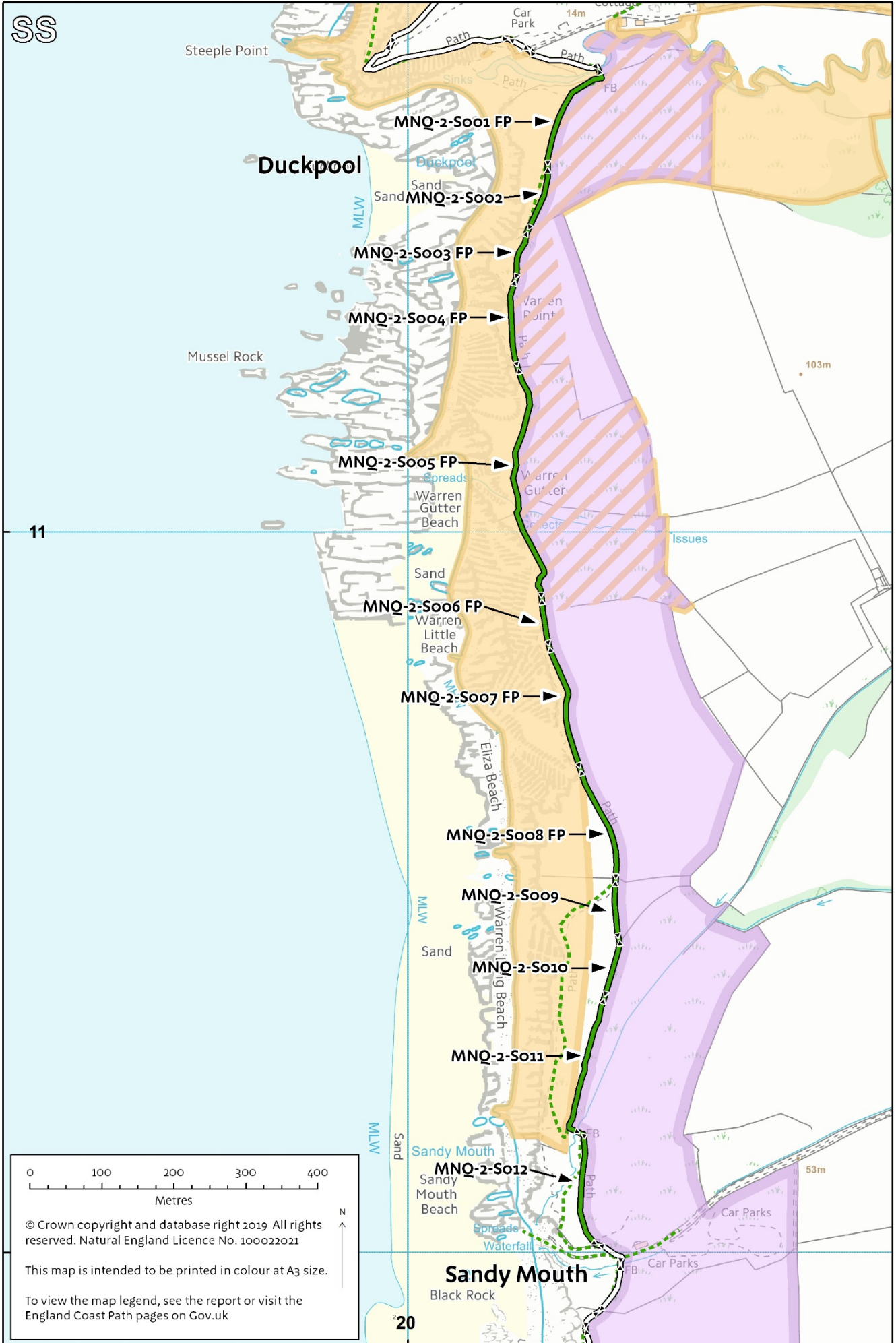
Infrastructure status

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

Map MNQ 2a: Duckpool to Sandy Mouth

Map MNQ 2a: Duckpool to Sandy Mouth

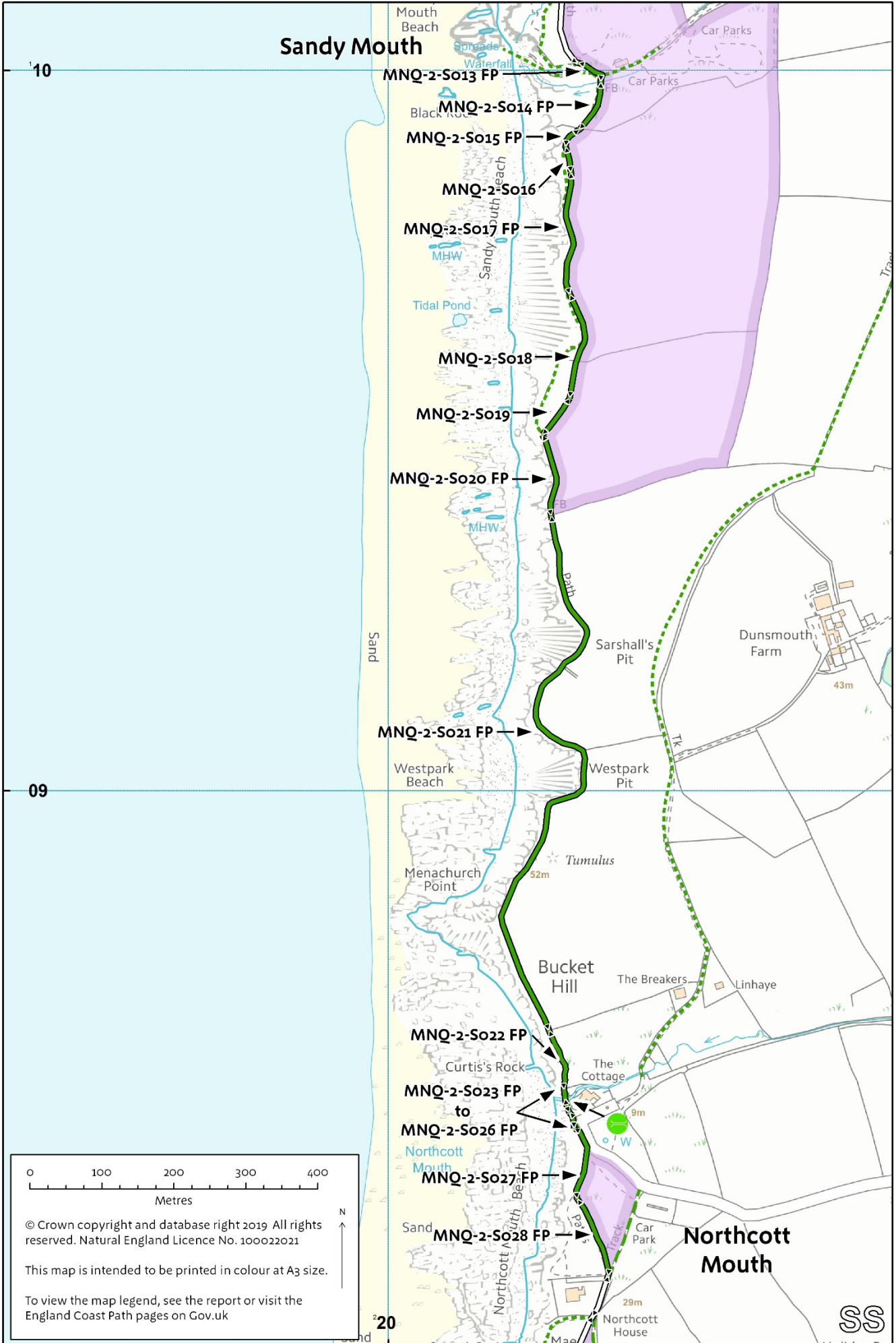


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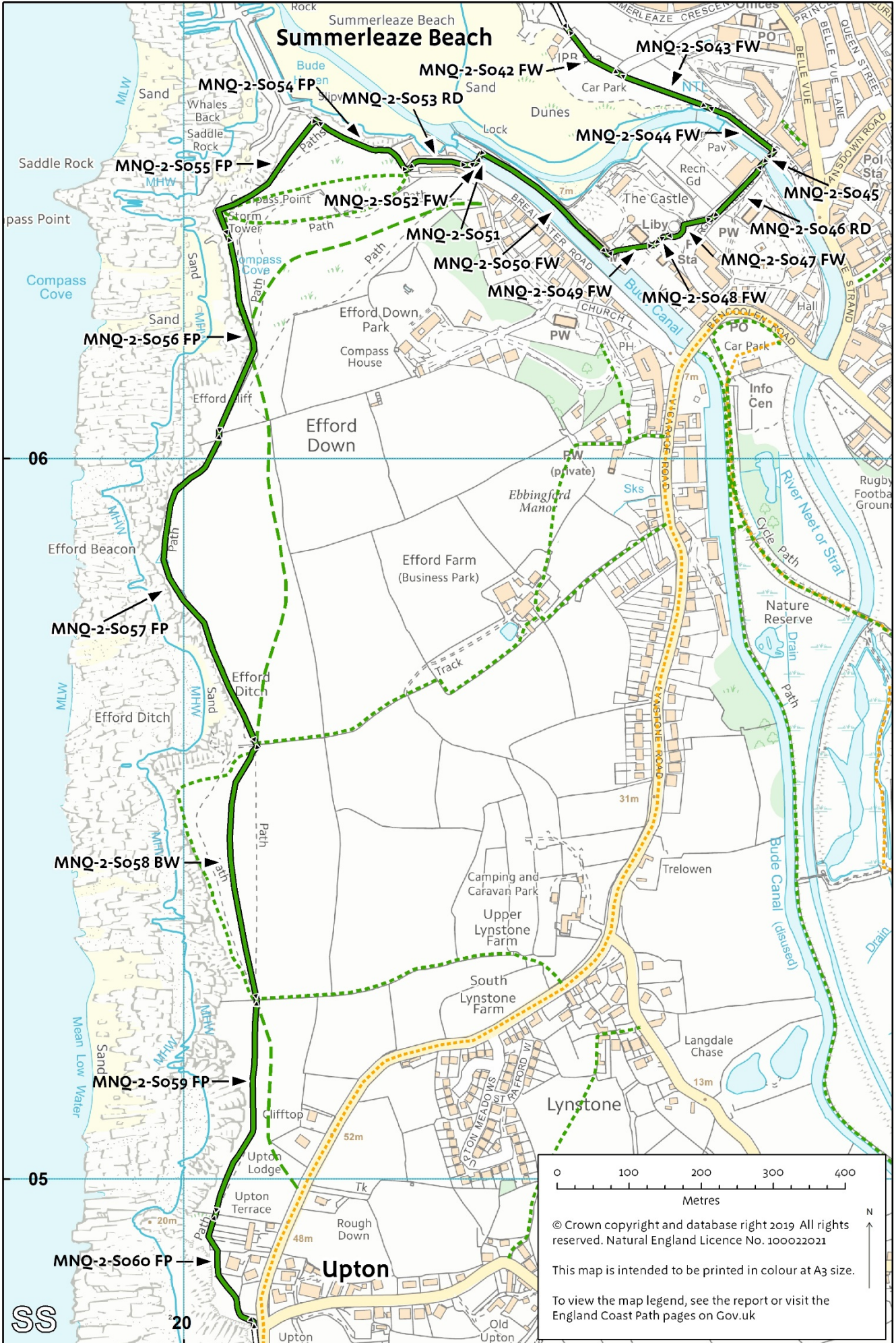
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Map MNQ 2c: Northcott Mouth to Summerleaze Beach



Map MNQ 2c: Northcott Mouth to Summerleaze Beach



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Map MNQ 2e: Upton to Lower Longbeak

