England Coast Path Stretch:

Bamburgh to the Scottish Border (including Holy Island)

Report BBS 3: Beal to Berwick-upon-Tweed

Part 3.1: Introduction

Start Point:	Beal (grid reference: NU 0792 4269)
End Point:	Berwick-upon-Tweed (grid reference: NT 9972 5278)
Relevant Maps:	BBS 3a to BBS 3i

- 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 Bamburgh and the Scottish Border (including Holy Island).
- 3.1.2 This report covers length BBS 3 of the stretch, which is the coast between Beal and Berwick-upon-Tweed. 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.
- 1 England Coast Path | Bamburgh to the Scottish Border (including Holy Island) | BBS 3: Beal to Berwick-upon-Tweed

Part 3.2: Proposals Narrative

The trail:

- 3.2.1 Generally follows existing walked routes, including public rights of way, along most of this length.
- 3.2.2 Mainly follows the coastline guite closely and maintains good views of the sea.
- 3.2.3 Includes sections of new path, at Goswick Links and Cheswick Sands.
- 3.2.4 Follows a route similar to the existing Northumberland Coast Path but departs from this in places in order to maintain coastal views or a coastal aspect.

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:
 - Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - North Northumberland Dunes Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - Berwick to St Mary's Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)
 - Tweed Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - Northumbria Coast Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Lindisfarne Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Northumberland Marine Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Lindisfarne Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its wildlife interest
 - Tweed Catchment Rivers England: Lower Tweed and Whiteadder Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its wildlife interest
 - Northumberland Shore Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Maps BBS C and BBS D in the Overview show the extent of designated areas listed.

The following table brings together design features included in our access proposals to help to protect the environment along this length of the coast.

3.2.6 Measures to protect the environment

Map(s)	Route section number(s)	Design features of the access proposals	Reason included
BBS 3c	BBS-3- S014	Natural England proposes to exclude access relevant to this length of coast, see Restrictions and Exclusions (3.2.17 to 3.2.19)	To prevent disturbance to a potential little tern nesting site.

- 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. For more information about how we came to this conclusion; 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:

3.2.8 There are few artificial barriers to accessibility on the proposed route, which makes use of existing surface paths wherever these meet the criteria in the Coastal Access Scheme.

However, the natural coastal terrain is often challenging for people with reduced mobility and this is the case on sections of our proposed route because:

- At BBS-3-S014, BBS-3-S015, BBS-3-S016, BBS-3-S017, BBS-3-S018 and BBS-3-S019 the trail ascends/descends the dunes at Cheswick Sands. See maps BBS 3c and 3d.
- At BBS-3-S025 BY, BBS-3-S026 BY and BBS-3-S027 BY, the trail would follow an uneven grass or bare soil path along the cliff top between Sea House and Toppye Knowe. See maps BBS 3f and 3g.

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

Where we have proposed exercising statutory discretions:

3.2.9 **Estuary:** This report proposes that the trail should contain sections aligned on the estuary of the River Tweed, extending upstream from the open coast. Natural England proposes to exercise its functions as if the sea included the estuarial waters of that river as far as Berwick Bridge, as indicated by the extent of the trail shown on map(s) 3i.

See part 5 of the Overview for a detailed analysis of the options considered for this estuary and our resulting proposals.

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 Table 3.3.1 below.

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.

3.2.11 **Restrictions or exclusions:** We have proposed to exclude access by direction under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) in one place along this section of coast.

Exclusion of access at Goswick Sands

- 3.2.12 Natural England proposes to exclude access relevant to this length of coast, as follows: Access to the land in the coastal margin at route section BBS-3-S014 is to be excluded from 1st April to 31st August each year under section 26(3)(a) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to protect nesting little terns. This does not apply to the route itself and will have no legal effect on land where coastal access rights do not apply.
- 3.2.13 Local managers are managing the sandbank at this point with fencing and a volunteer warden as a potential nesting site for little terns, a feature of the Lindisfarne Special Protection Area. The details are covered in the Habitats Regulations Assessment that accompanies this report.

See part 8 of the Overview - 'Restrictions and exclusions' - for a summary for the entire stretch.

3.2.14 **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.
- 3.2.15 Column 4 of table 3.3.1 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 BBS 3a to BBS 3i as the proposed route of the trail.
- 3.2.16 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.

On sections for which roll-back is <u>not</u> proposed in table 3.3.1, the route is to be at the centre of the line shown on map BBS 3i as the proposed route of the trail.

Other future change:

3.2.17 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:

3.2.18 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.

3.2.19 Our estimate of the capital costs for physical establishment of the trail on the proposed route is £43,820.75 and is informed by:

- information already held by the access authority, Northumberland County Council, in relation to the management of the existing Northumberland Coast Path;
- information gathered while visiting affected land and talking to the people who own and manage it about the options for the route.
- 3.2.20 There are three main elements to the overall cost:
 - A significant number of new signs would be needed on the trail.
 - Surfacing works will be carried out where necessary.
 - New fencing will be installed alongside the trail at sensitive locations.

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 & interpretation	£9,255.00
Bridges	£3,000.00
Surfacing works	£13,100.00
Boundary crossing	£12,750.00
Project management	£5,715.75

Total £43,820.75 (Exclusive of any VAT payable)

3.2.21 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, Northumberland County 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:

3.2.22 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).

Part 3.3: Proposals Tables

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

3.3.1 Section Details: Maps BBS 3 3a to 3i: Beal to Berwick-upon-Tweed

Key notes on table:

- 1. Column 2 an asterisk (*) against the route section number means see also table 3.3.2: 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
3a	BBS-3- S001*	Not an existing walked route	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3a	BBS-3- S002	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3a	BBS-3- S003 BW	Public Bridleway	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3a	BBS-3- S004 FP	Public Footpath	Yes - Normal	No	Path	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3a	BBS-3- S005 FP	Public Footpath	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3a	BBS-3- S006	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA

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
3a	BBS-3- S007	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3a and 3b	BBS-3- S008 FP	Public Footpath	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3b	BBS-3- S009 FP	Public Footpath	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3b	BBS-3- S010 FP	Public Footpath	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3b	BBS-3- S011 FP	Public Footpath	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3b	BBS-3- S012*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3c	BBS-3- S013*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3c	BBS-3- S014*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3c	BBS-3- S015*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3c	BBS-3- S016*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3c	BBS-3- S017*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3d	BBS-3- S018*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA

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
3d	BBS-3- S019*	Other existing walked route	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3d	BBS-3- S020 FP	Public Footpath	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3d	BBS-3- S021 FP	Public Footpath	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3d	BBS-3- S022 RB	Restricted Byway	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3e	BBS-3- S023 BY*	Byway Open To All Traffic	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3f	BBS-3- S024 RD	Public Highway	Yes - Normal	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3f	BBS-3- S025 BY	Byway Open To All Traffic	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3f & 3g	BBS-3- S026 BY	Byway Open To All Traffic	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3g	BBS-3- S027 BY	Byway Open To All Traffic	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3g	BBS-3- S028 BY	Byway Open To All Traffic	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3h	BBS-3- S029 FP	Public Footpath	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3h	BBS-3- S030 FP	Public Footpath	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA

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
3h	BBS-3- S031 FP	Public Footpath	Yes - Normal	No			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3h	BBS-3- S032 FP	Public Footpath	Yes - Normal	No	Promenade Edge	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3i	BBS-3- S033 RD	Public Highway	Yes - Normal	No	Promenade Edge	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3i	BBS-3- S034 FP	Public Footpath	No	No	Path	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3i	BBS-3- S035 FP	Public Footpath	No	No	Path	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3i	BBS-3- S036 FP	Public Footpath	No	No	Path	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3i	BBS-3- S037 RD	Public Highway	No	No	Edge of car park	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3i	BBS-3- S038	Other existing walked route	No	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3i	BBS-3- S039	Other existing walked route	No	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3i	BBS-3- S040	Other Existing Walked Route	No	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3i	BBS-3- S041	Other Existing Walked Route	No	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA
3i	BBS-3- S042	Other Existing Walked Route	No	Yes - dune			Detail of any roll back subject to HRA

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
3i	BBS-3- S043 FW	Public Footway	No	No	Pavement Edge	Clarity and cohesion	Detail of any roll back subject to HRA

3.3.2 Other options considered: Maps BBS 3a to BBS 3i: Beal to Berwick-upon-Tweed

Map(s)	Route section numbers(s)	Other option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option
3a	BBS-3-S001	We considered aligning the trail along the existing public footpath round Beal Point.	 the existing public footpath can get quite wet and boggy in places; the proposed route addresses local conservation issues with migratory winter geese; this proposal is made with the support of the landowner; under our proposals, the public footpath would remain available for people to use as part of the spreading room, but would not form part of the designated trail.
3b, 3c and 3d	BBS-3-S012 to BBS-3- S019	We considered aligning the trail along the route of the existing Northumberland Coast Path.	 it is closer to the sea and maintains views of the sea and/or a better coastal aspect; it keeps users clear of the golf course.

Map(s)	Route section numbers(s)	Other option(s) considered	Reasons for not proposing this option
3e	BBS-3-S023 BY	We considered aligning the trail closer to the coast along desire lines that run seaward of the byway.	 We opted for the proposed route because: the route we had hoped to take was no longer viable due to erosion; this proposal is made with the support of the Access Authority. under our proposals, the desire lines would remain available for people to use as part of the spreading room, but would not form part of the designated trail.

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
BBS 3a	Holy Island Causeway to Goswick Links (1)
BBS 3b	Holy Island Causeway to Goswick Links (2)
BBS 3c	Goswick Links to Cheswick Links
BBS 3d	Cheswick Links to Cheswick Burn
BBS 3e	Cheswick Burn to Cockley Burn
BBS 3f	Cockley Burn to Cuddy's Cove
BBS 3g	Cuddy's Cove to Toppye Knowe
BBS 3h	Toppye Knowe to Spittal
BBS 3i	Spittal to Berwick-upon-Tweed

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

* Please note that the items in this legend may not all be present on an individual map or report.

Infrastructure types

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

Bridges:	Stiles:	Gates:
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	Redestrian gate
		& Wheelchair gate
Miscellaneous:		
Barrier	Oycle chicane	i Interpretation panel
Boardwalk	Drainage	Ramp
Bollard	Drop-kerb	Revetment
Cattle grid	Gap in fence	Stepping stones
Culvert	Hurdle	Steps

Infrastructure status

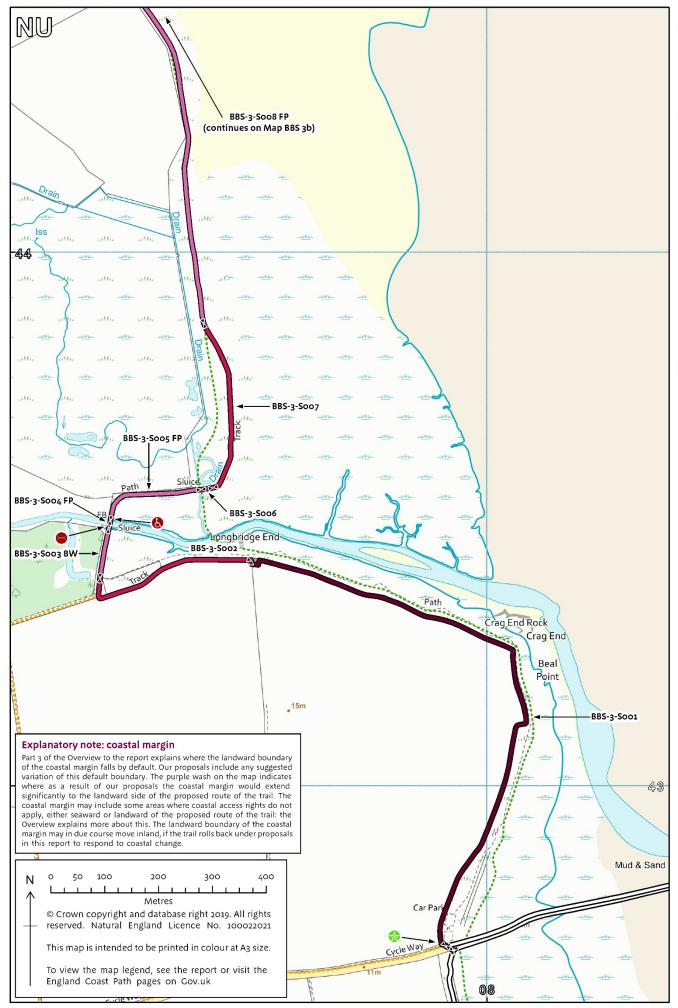
Each symbol shown on the map is colour coded as appropriate, as in this example for a set of steps:

Existing steps to be retained

New steps required

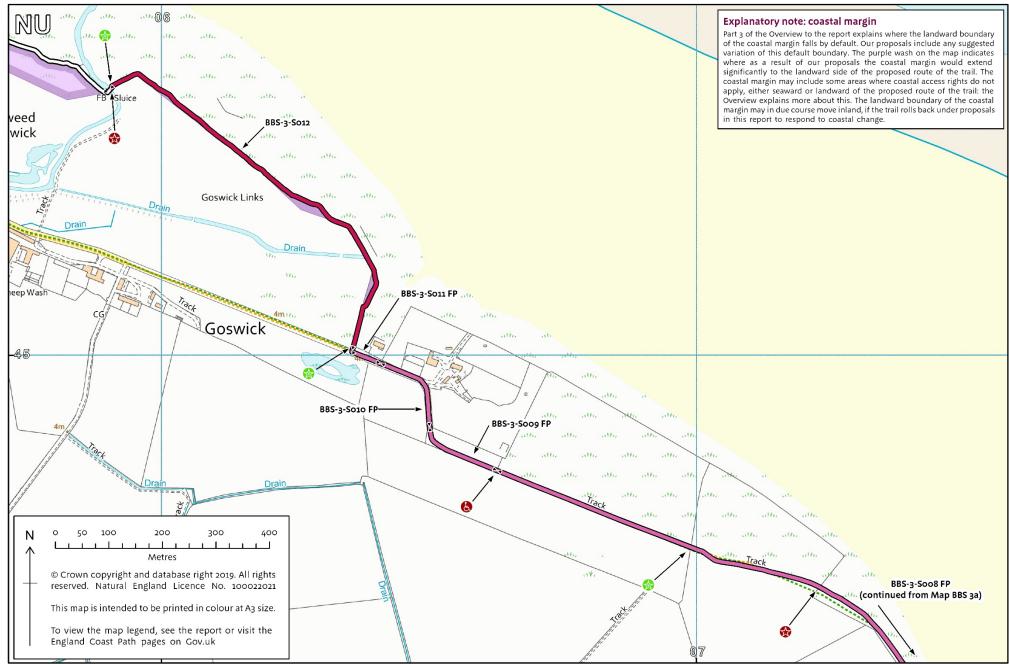
 Existing steps to be removed

Map BBS 3a Holy Island Causeway to Goswick Links (1)



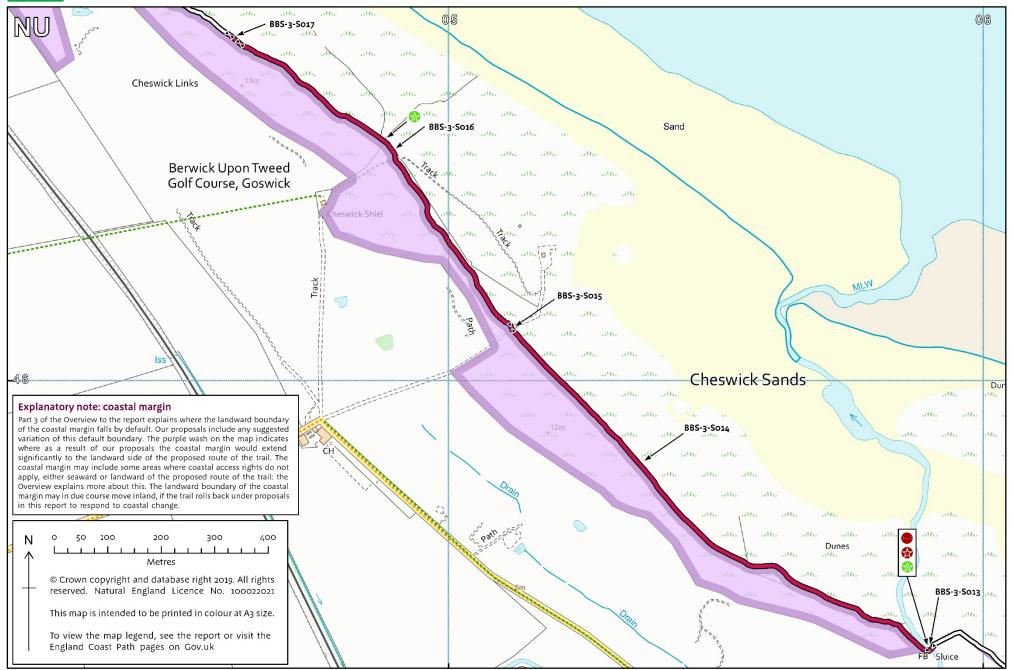


Map BBS 3b Holy Island Causeway to Goswick Links (2)



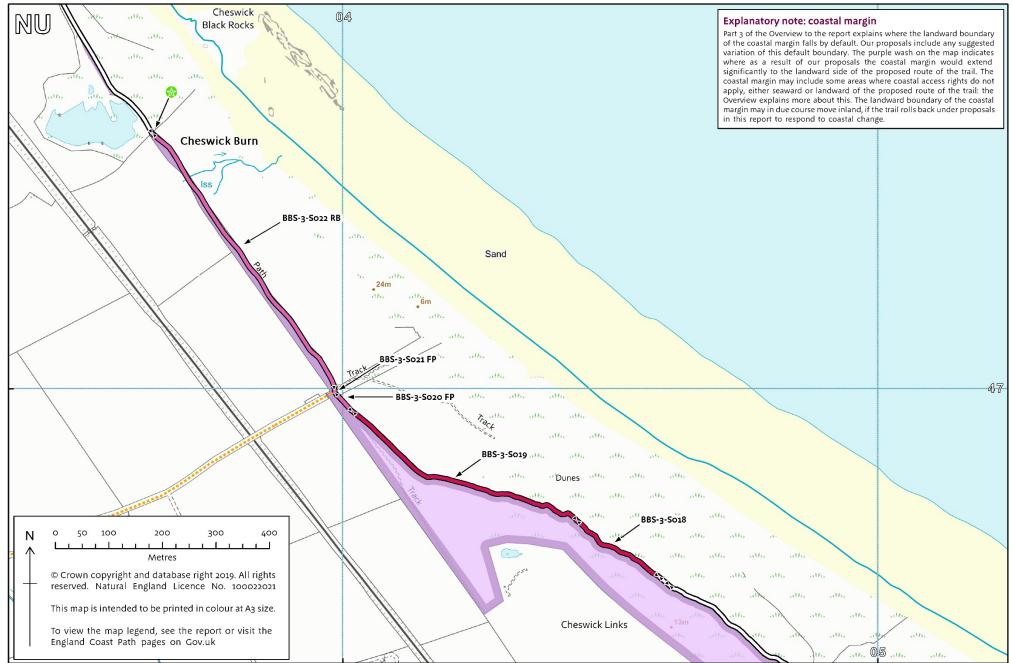


Map BBS 3c Goswick Links to Cheswick Links



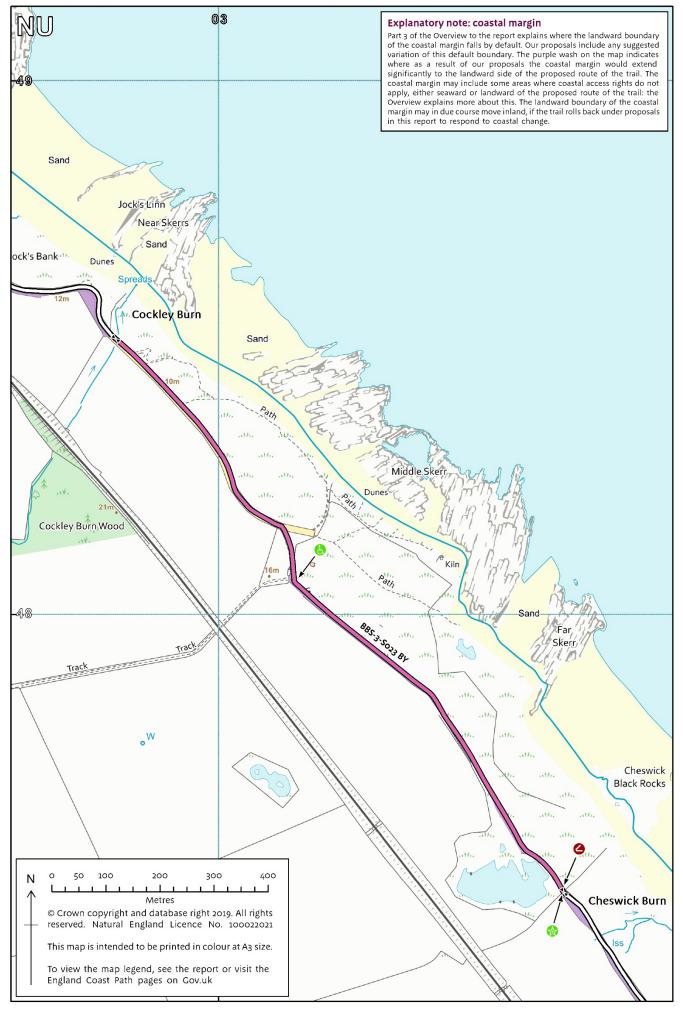


Map BBS 3d Cheswick Links to Cheswick Burn



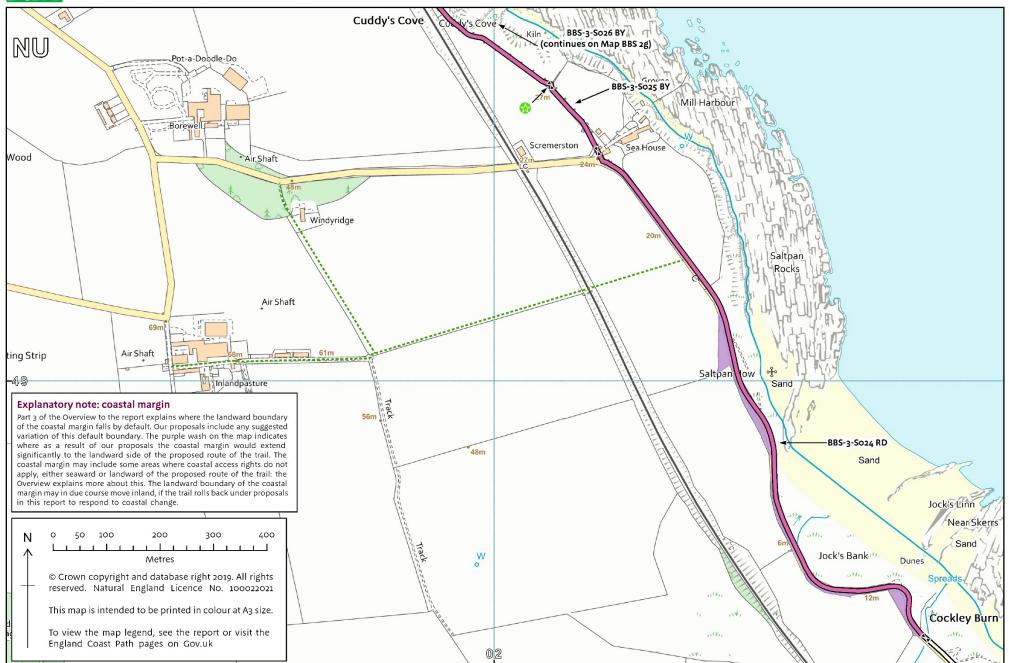


Map BBS 3e Cheswick Burn to Cockley Burn



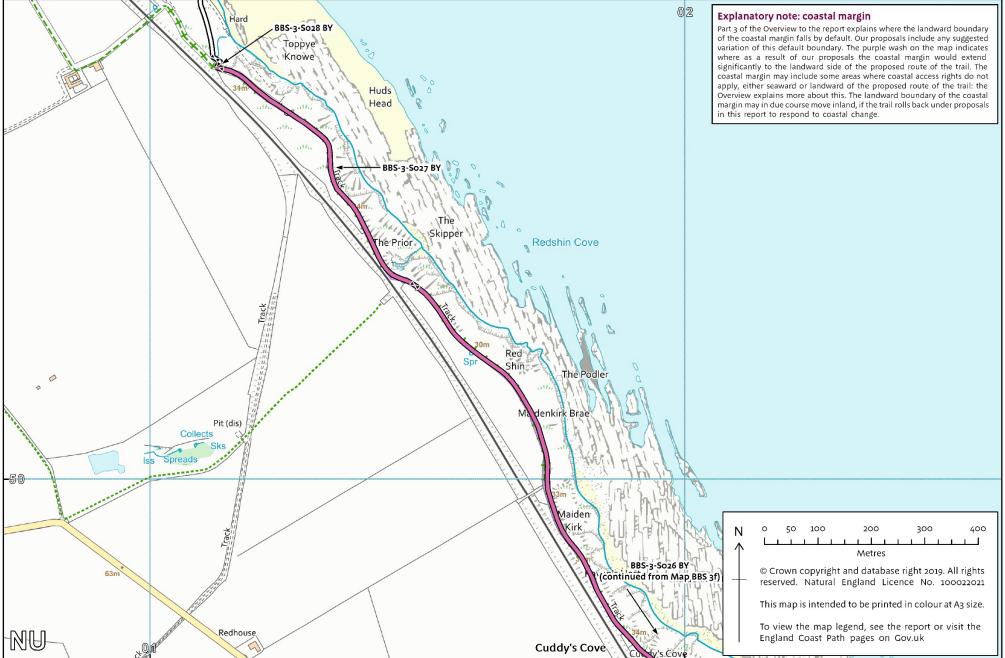


Map BBS 3f Cockley Burn to Cuddy's Cove

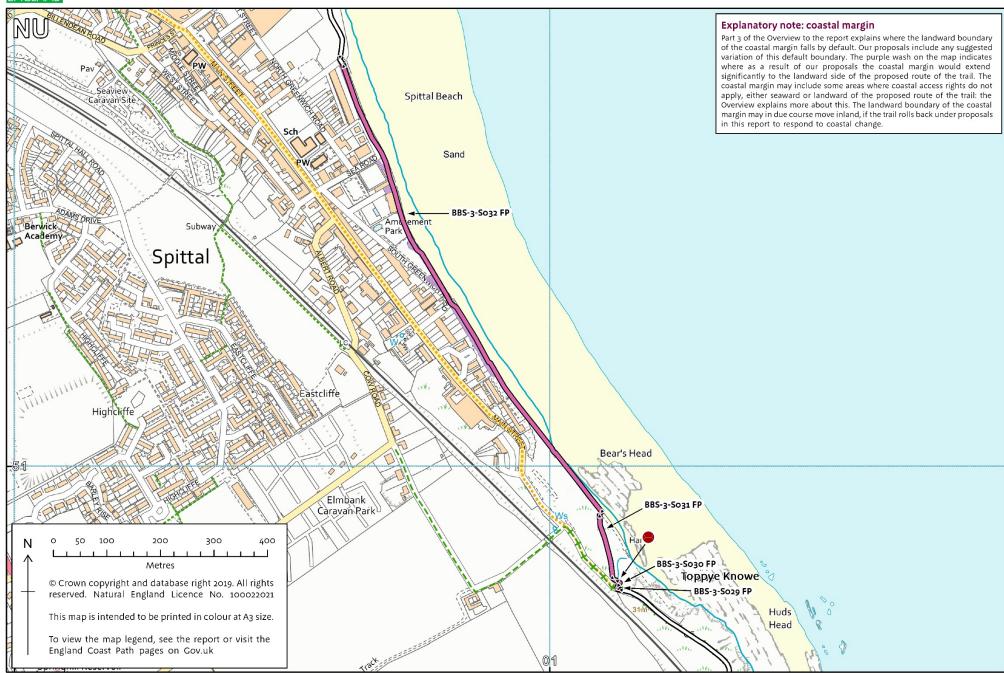




Map BBS 3g Cuddy's Cove to Toppye Knowe



Map BBS 3h Toppye Knowe to Spittal





Map BBS 3i Spittal to Berwick-upon-Tweed

