

Notice by the Secretary of State under section 52 [and 55(1)] of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

Sheepway Lane to Portbury Wharf

August 2021

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Introduction

On 25 July 2019 Natural England submitted a compendium of coastal access reports relating to the stretch of land between Aust and Brean Down to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under section 51 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (“the 1949 Act”), pursuant to its duty under section 296(1) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (“the 2009 Act”).

On 9 July 2020 the Secretary of State gave notice under Section 52(2) that the Aust to Brean Down proposals for lengths ABD2 to ABD5 and ABD7 to ABD10 were approved (“the approved coastal access provisions”).

On 17 March 2021, under section 55(1) of the 1949 Act, Natural England submitted a coastal access variation report relating to proposed changes to the approved coastal access provisions (“the coastal access variation report”) to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The coastal access variation report proposed changes to the approved coastal access provisions between Sheepway Lane and Portbury Wharf.

In reaching their determination under section 52 of the 1949 Act the Secretary of State has considered:

- a. Proposed changes to the England Coast Path between the Sheepway Lane and Portbury Wharf - Natural England’s coastal access variation report submitted to the Secretary of State on 17 March 2021.

No representations or objections were submitted to Natural England during the eight-week consultation period.

In this notice –

(a) “objection” means an objection about the coastal access report which is made under paragraph 3 of the Schedule; and

(b) “representation” means a representation about the coastal access report which is made under paragraph 7 of the Schedule.

Secretary of State’s approval of coastal access proposals

The Secretary of State has determined to approve in full the proposals for the route and associated coastal margin as set out in the coastal access variation report, in relation to which no objections were made.

The approved variation to the route is set out at **Annex A**.

The Secretary of State has made available at www.gov.uk:

a. a copy of this notice.

Natural England has also made available here:

b. Sheepway Lane to Portbury Wharf – the coastal access variation report.

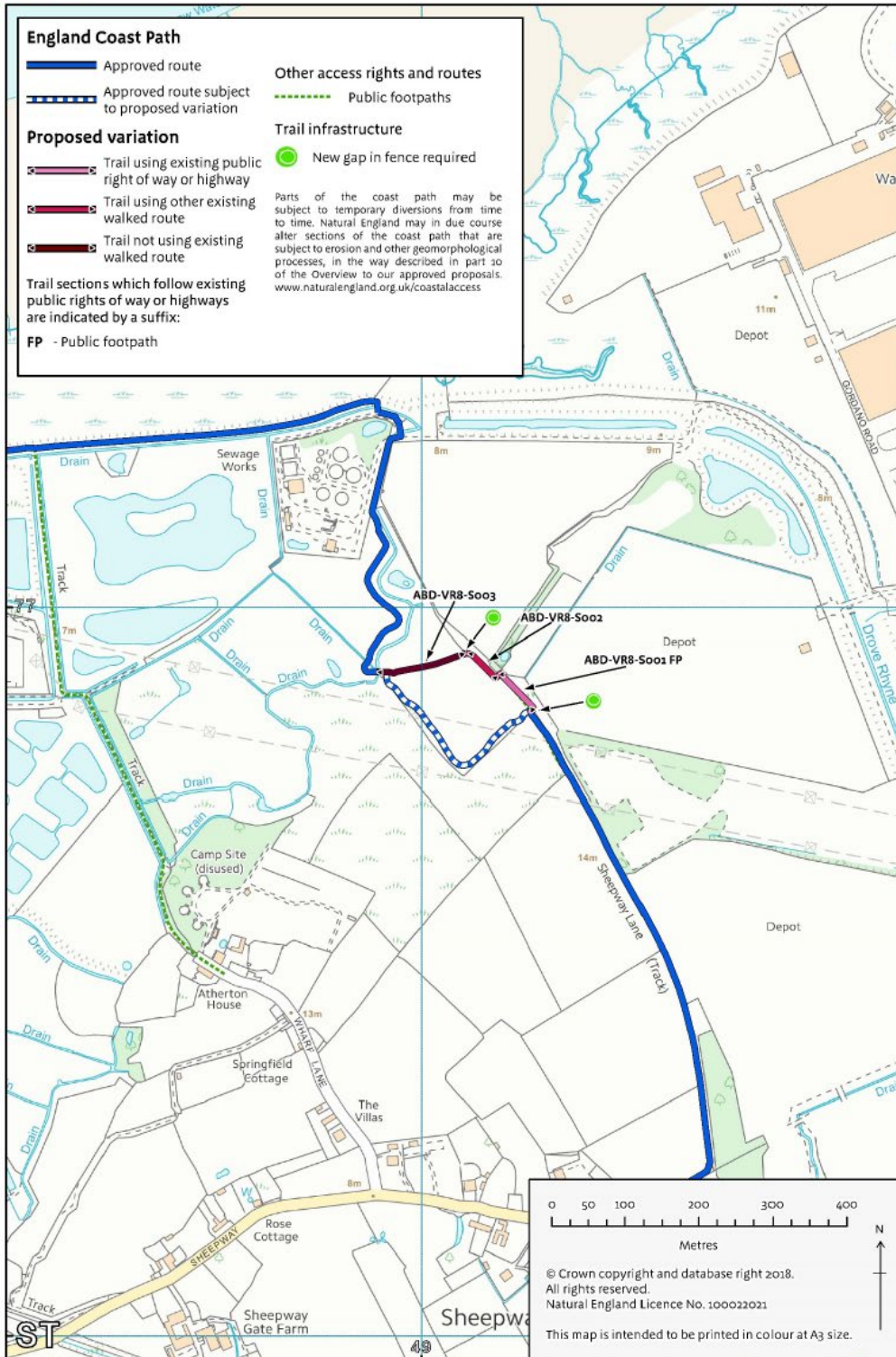
Annex A: Approved variation between Sheepway Lane and Portbury Wharf

The approved variation is to move 280m of the approved route further seaward.



Coastal Access - Aust to Brean Down - Natural England's Proposed Variation to Approved Route

Map VR8 - Route between Sheepway Lane and Portbury Wharf



Map VR8 - Route between Sheepway Lane and Portbury Wharf

Table 2.3.1: Map VR8 - Route between Sheepway Lane and Portbury Wharf

Key notes on table:

1. 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.
2. Column 4 – ‘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.
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 in Annex B to the 2017 Overview) 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)	New route section number(s)	Current status of route section(s)	Roll-back proposed? (See part 8 of report Overview)	Landward margin contains coastal land type?	Proposal to specify landward boundary of margin	Reason for landward boundary proposal	Explanatory notes
VR8	ABD-VR8-S001	Public footpath	Yes – see table 2.3.2	No	Fence	Clarity and cohesion	
VR8	ABD-VR8-S002	Existing walked route	Yes – see table 2.3.2	No	Fence	Clarity and cohesion	
VR8	ABD-VR8-S003	Not an existing walked route	Yes – see table 2.3.2	No	Fence	Clarity and cohesion	

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