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NATURAL
ENGLAND

Proposed changes to the King Charles III England
Coast Path at

Carnforth, Lancashire

Natural England's Variation Report to the Secretary of
State

Coastal Access Variation Report SDC-VR27
March 2025



Part 1: Purpose of this report

1.1.1 Natural England has a statutory duty under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to improve access to the English coast. The duty is in two parts: one relating to securing a long-distance walking route around the coast; the other to creating an associated “margin” of land for the public to enjoy, either in conjunction with their access along the route line, or otherwise.

1.1.2 On 13 January 2021 and 27 July 2023, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs approved sections of coast path between Silverdale and Cleveleys, including Length 1 which included the parts of the coast covered by this Variation Report. The following link provides full details of work undertaken so far on this stretch: [King Charles III England Coast Path: Silverdale to Cleveleys - GOV.UK](#).



The coastal access rights on this stretch are anticipated to commence in 2025. Since the approval of the report, it has become clear that a change is necessary to the King Charles III England Coast Path. This report contains Natural England’s proposals relating to that change, which is at the location shown on the Variation Location Map below.

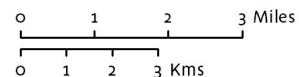
- Map SDC VR27 - Carnforth

1.1.3 In order for these proposed changes to come into force they must be approved by the Secretary of State.

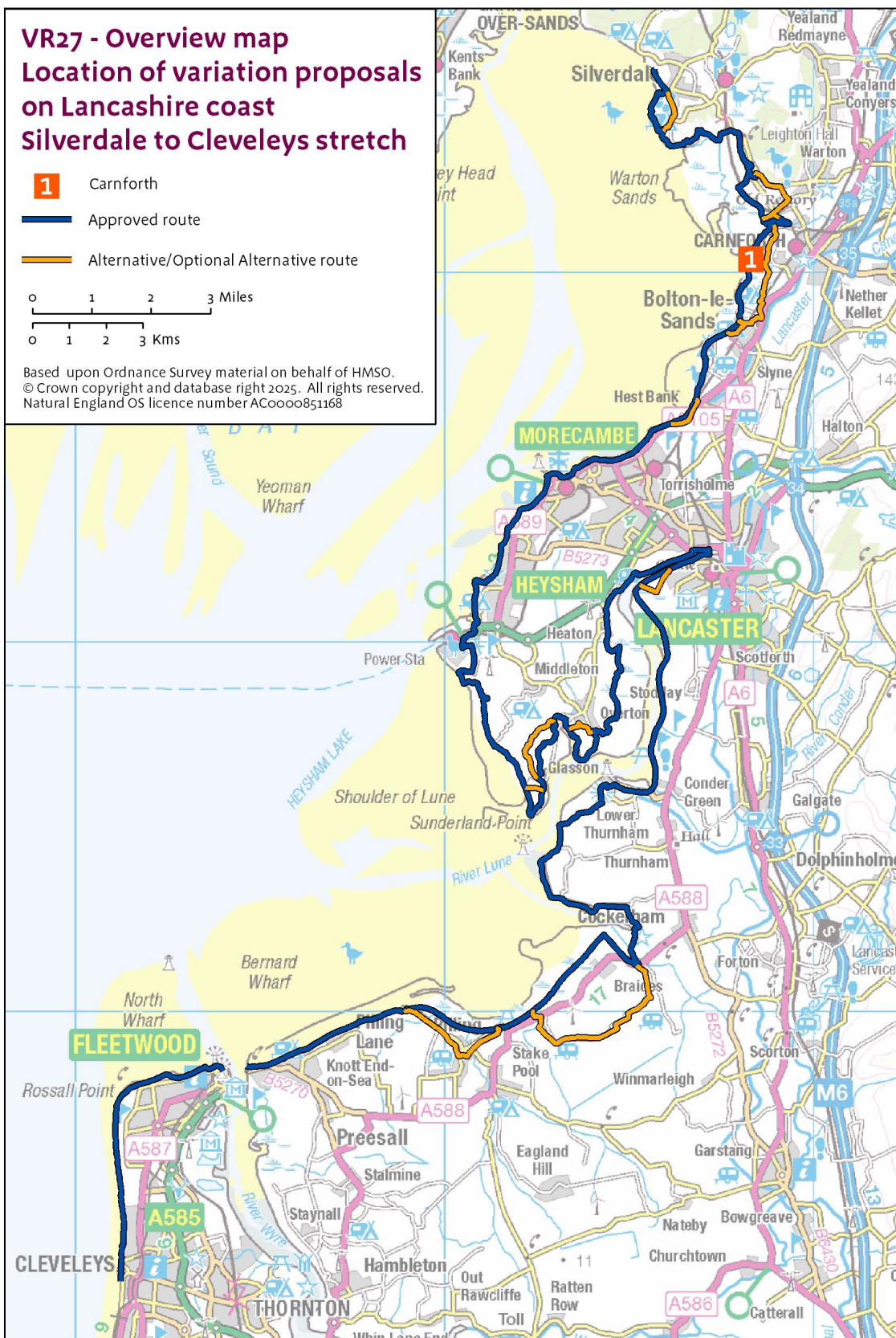
1.1.4 The original stretch [Overview](#) provides vital context to the proposal set out in this Variation Report.

VR27 - Overview map
Location of variation proposals
on Lancashire coast
Silverdale to Cleveleys stretch

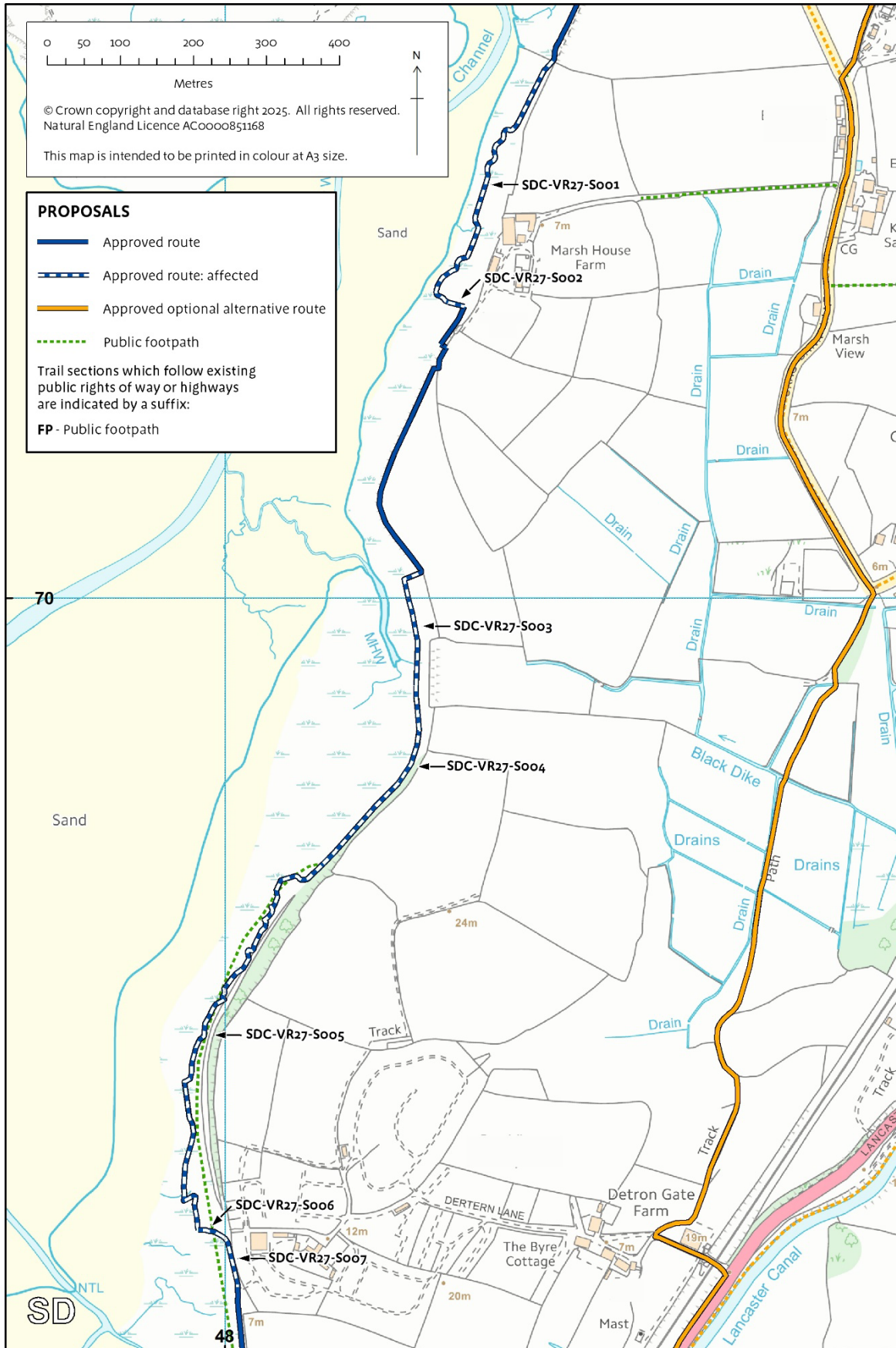
- 1** Carnforth
-  Approved route
-  Alternative/Optional Alternative route



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Map SDC VR27a - Carnforth



Part 2: Proposed variation between Edenbrook House and Bay View Holiday Park

Start Point:	Edenbrook House (Grid reference: SD 4841 7066)
End Point:	Bay View Holiday Park (Grid reference: SD 4801 6922)
Relevant Original Proposal Maps:	Report map SDC 1f

Reason for variation:

2.1.1 Report 1 for the Silverdale to Cleveleys stretch contains sections of the England Coast Path aligned seaward of Marsh House Farm in the north and Bay View Holiday Park in the south.

2.1.2 At the time of proposal, the England Coast Path was aligned along an area of salt marsh at sections SDC-1-073 and SDC-1-074 and SDC-1-079 to SDC-1-083 inclusive. It was expected that at certain times of the year these sections would be subject to exceptionally high tides. For this reason, an optional alternative route was included in the Coastal Access report between Galley Hall and Wild Duck Hall (Report Maps SDC 1e, 1F and 1g) and approved by the secretary of state. These proposals are detailed in section 1.2.28 of the Coastal Access Report SDC 1: Cove Well, Silverdale to Wild Duck Hall, Bolton-le-Sands.

However, upon further inspection it has been found that tidal inundation occurs more frequently than originally anticipated. Sea level rise projections also show this area to be highly vulnerable over the next decade, with seasonal flooding events posing an increasingly significant impact. As a result, threats to the availability of the trail availability are likely to rise over time.

2.1.3 Although access on foot would currently be possible when the tide allows, its safety and/or convenience will start to become less reliable. Walkers not using the optional alternative route may at times be forced to use the associated accessible landward margin to find a safer / drier route.

2.1.4 Given this, and the ecological complexity of the site (the sections are within designated SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites), we are not yet able to confirm a final, sustainable route for the trail. As such, we believe that applying rollback status to the trail at these locations provides the most efficient and sustainable way of responding to ongoing coastal change and fulfilling the legislation's requirement for continuity and ease of use without repeatedly submitting new Variation Reports. The exact new alignment of the trail will be determined shortly before establishment for these sections is due to be undertaken, following engagement with affected owners and occupiers.

Proposed variation:

2.2.1 Natural England now proposes that the route of the trail in these locations 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 8 of the Overview.

Natural England may only exercise this roll-back power:

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

2.2.2 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 8 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.

2.2.3 This variation report proposes that roll back is applied to route sections SDC-1-073 to SDC-1-074 and SDC-1-079 to SDC-1-083 inclusive. Refer to map SDC 1f in Report 1 of the original compendium of reports for Silverdale to Cleveleys in addition to the maps below.

2.2.4 On all these sections a more complex situation exists, and consideration must be given to how roll back may be implemented in relation to excepted land or a protected site etc. Table 2.3.1 below sets out our likely approach to implementing roll back on these trail sections.

2.3.1 Roll-back implementation. More complex situations: Map SDC VR27a

Map(s)	New route section number(s)	Feature(s) or site(s) potentially affected	Our likely approach to roll-back
SDC VR27a	SDC-1-073 to SDC-1-074	Salt Marsh, SPA, SAC, SSSI, Ramsar (see map SDC VR 27b)	If it is not possible during establishment to find a viable route on the salt marsh, we will choose a new route after detailed discussions with any potentially affected owners or occupiers, which will either (a) pass through or alongside the site, if appropriate or (b) if necessary, be routed landward of it.
SDC VR27a	SDC-1-079 to SDC-1-083	Salt Marsh, SPA, SAC, SSSI, Ramsar (see map SDC VR27b)	If it is not possible during establishment to find a viable route on the salt marsh, we will choose a new route after detailed discussions with any potentially affected owners or occupiers, which will either (a) pass through or alongside the site, if appropriate or (b) if necessary, be routed landward of it.

Enquiries should be addressed to:

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