

Coastal Wildbelt &
King Charles III
England Coast Path

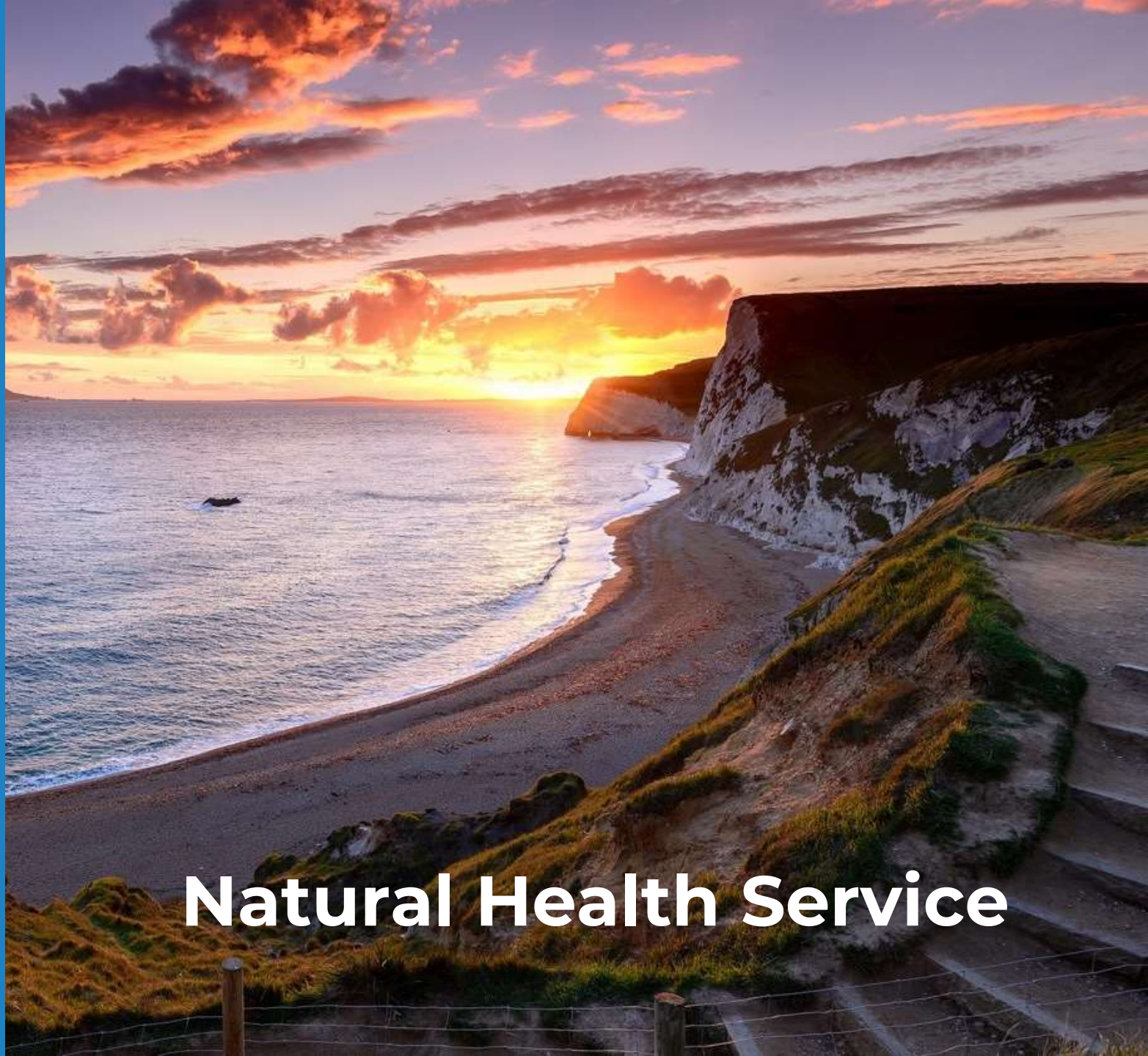
Julian Gray Director, South West Coast Path Association



National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

- National Parks
- National Landscapes
- National Trails

*“to take people to and
through our finest
landscapes”*



Natural Health Service

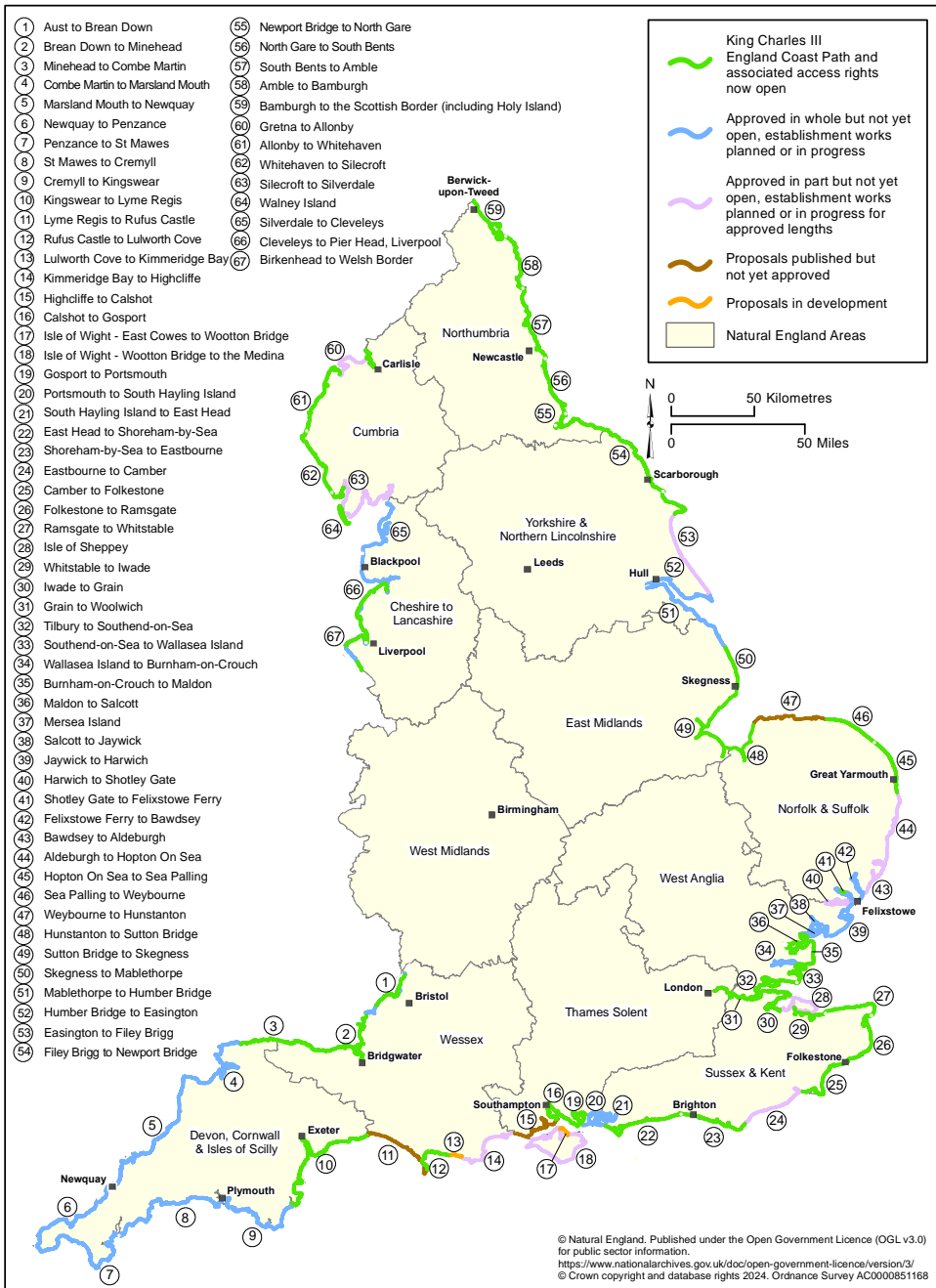


Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

- 2,800 miles – 4,500 kms
- New Rollback Powers
- Coastal Margin

“One of the most ambitious ways we are opening up the natural world is through the England Coast Path.”

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs: 25yr Environment Plan



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Establishment

Statutory Duty

Natural England has to create a long-distance walking route around the whole 2,700 mile English coast, and to identify land beside it, 'coastal margin', which will be accessible to the public on foot.

When completed it will be the longest managed coastal walking route in the world.

(European E9 longer)





Coastal Access Duty

“Walking route for whole English coast - the England Coast Path (ECP) and associated coastal “margin” accessible on foot.”

Coastal Access: Approved Scheme 2013

Statutory guidance NE follow.

Key criteria and features:

- Safety, convenience of path
- Path near to coast and views of the sea
- Continuity – minimum interruption
- Use of existing walked lines
- Aim to strike a fair balance between public and private interests
- Uniquely low occupiers’ liability



Coastal Access

Natural England’s Approved Scheme
2013



Five stage process

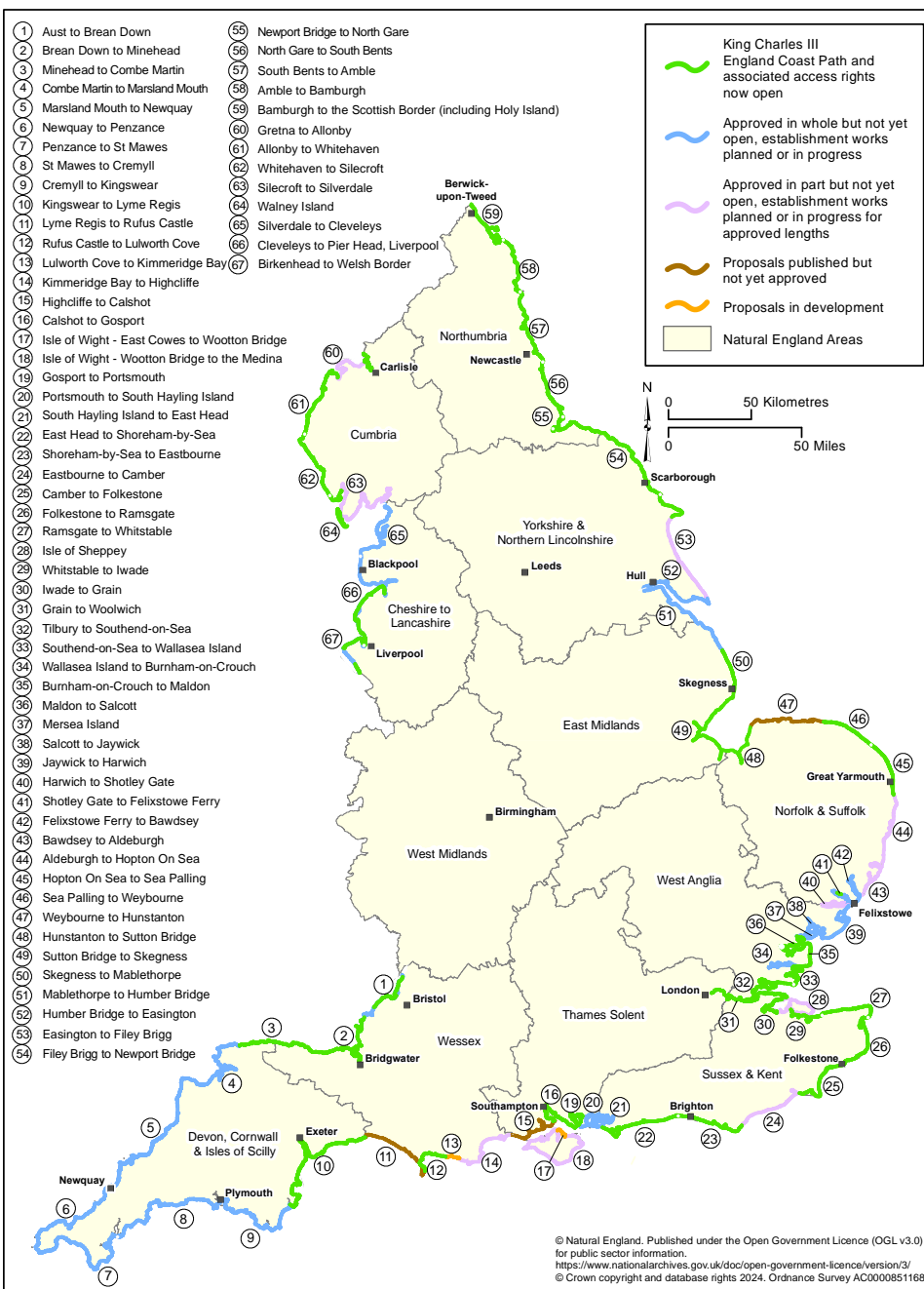
1. Prepare

2. Develop

3. Propose

4. Determine

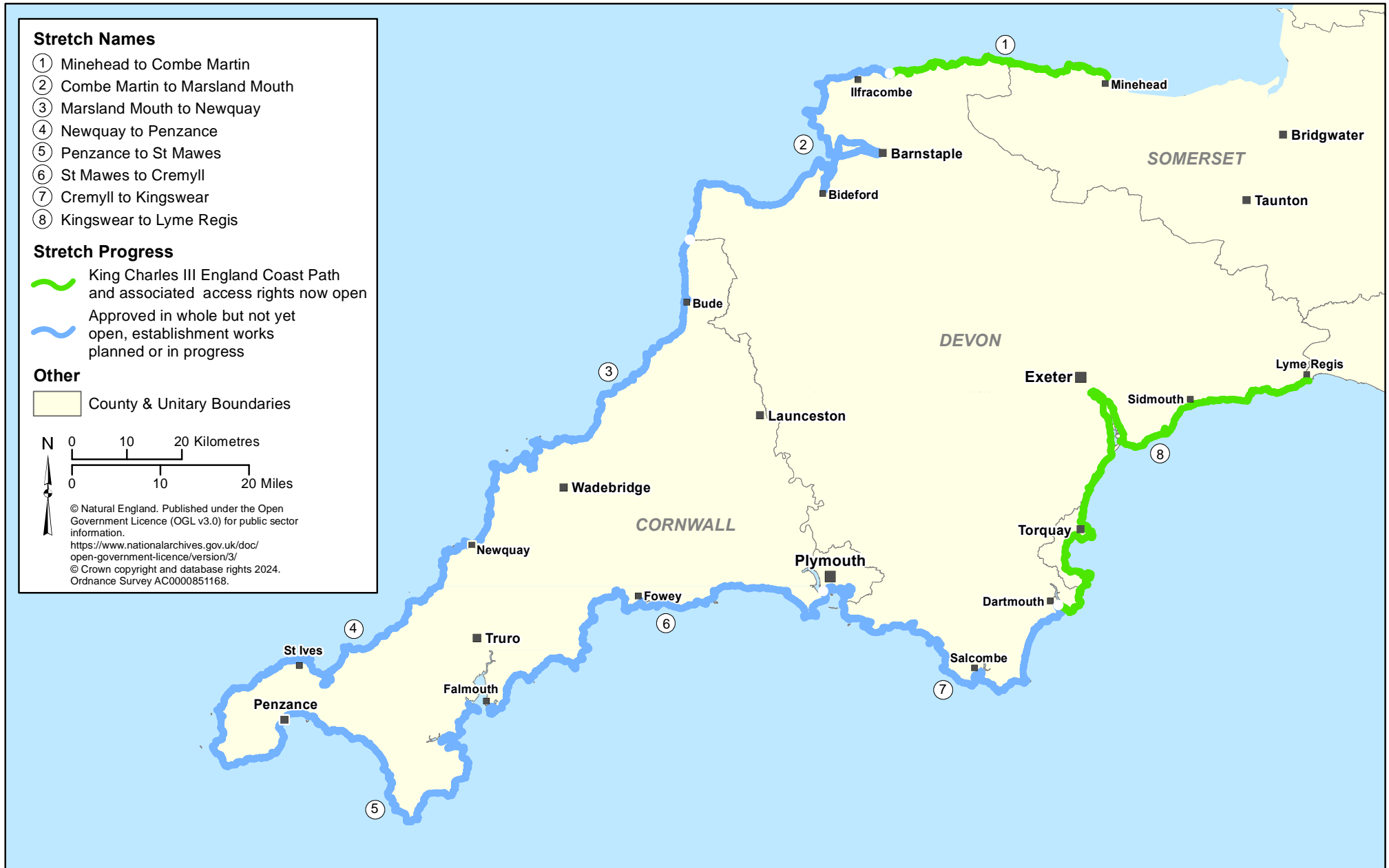
5. Open

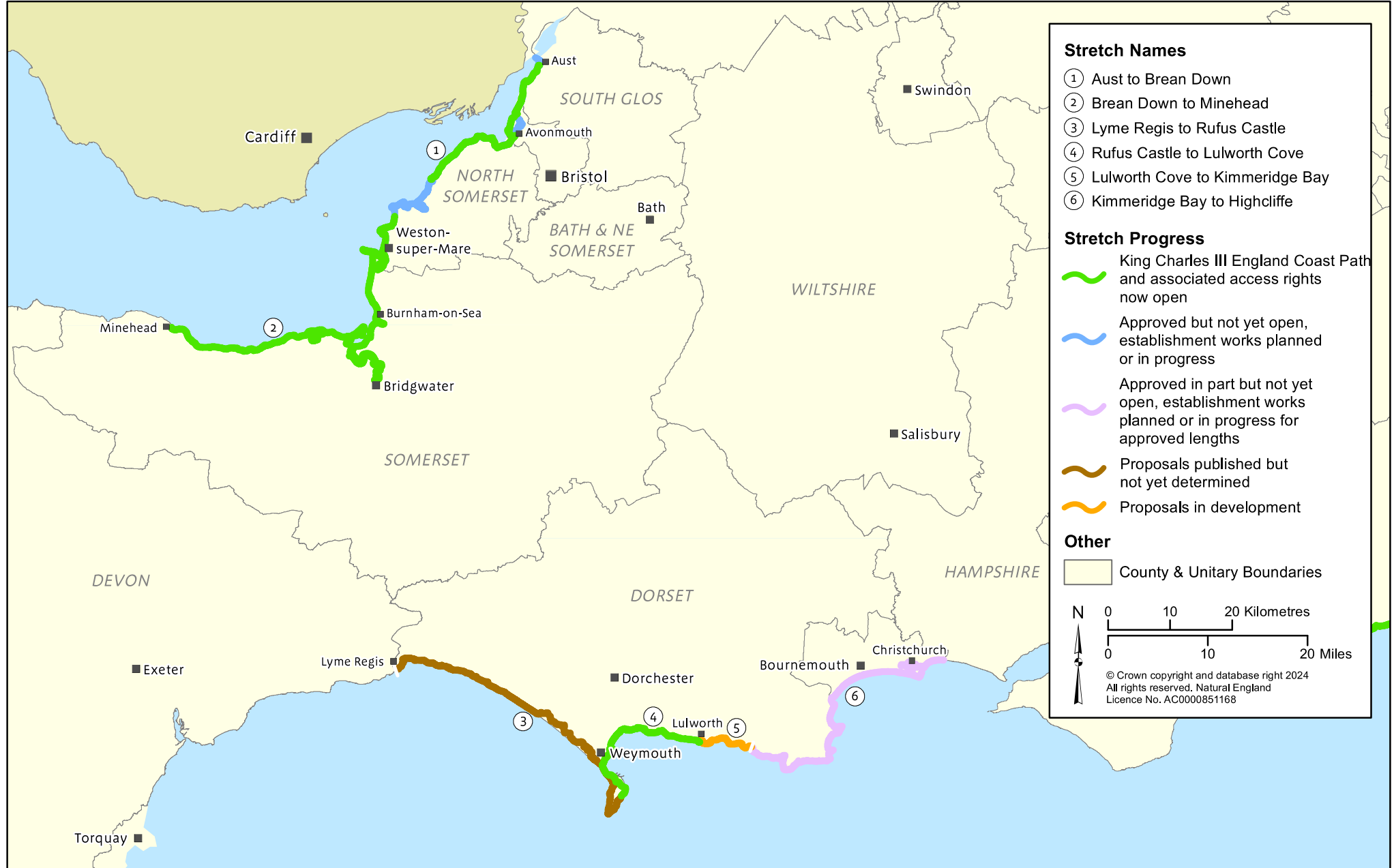




King Charles III England Coast Path - Stretch Progress

South West Hub Team - 31st July 2024





Porthoustock to Porthallow

- 2.5km realignment of SWCP following permissive routes, private tracks, historic walked routes, a historic tramway and new sections of path
- Provides uninterrupted sea views and takes path off narrow public roads offering limited coastal views



Roll Back

- Gives the power to realign the National Trail within a defined area to manage the impacts of coastal erosion





This coastline is a special home to birds such as kittiwakes, herring gulls and razorbills, and mammals such as seals. Please respect their home.

Scotland via the Thames
1,973 miles



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs



England Coast Path establishment is part funded through the Rural Development Programme for England

Hayle Estuary Nature Reserve

Hayle estuary: A special place for birds

Hayle estuary is a special place for birds. It is also one of the most important estuaries in Great Britain. It is also one of the most important estuaries in Great Britain. It is also one of the most important estuaries in Great Britain.

Did you know... 129 different types of birds have been recorded here, as well as 32 types of fish which can be found in the streams and ponds. In cold winters as many as 18,000 birds have been spotted here!

To recognise how special this site is for birds, it has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Helping to keep these areas special for wildlife

The nature reserve is managed by the RNL. It is a special place and we need to make sure it stays that way. We need to make sure it stays that way. We need to make sure it stays that way.

- 1. Please keep to the path - this helps to protect the areas where wildlife lives.
- 2. Please do not feed wildlife - this can be harmful to their health.
- 3. Please do not pick flowers or plants - this can be harmful to the wildlife that lives there.

What to see at Hayle estuary



DoNotDisturb • KeepYourDistance • UseYourBin



The Coast Path is a special place for wildlife

The Coast Path is a special place for wildlife. It is a special place for wildlife. It is a special place for wildlife.

Marazion and Mounts Bay

Mounts Bay: A special place for wildlife

The Coast Path along Penzance borders on to the coastal area known as Mounts Bay which is an important place for marine wildlife. To recognise this, in 2016 the Government designated it as a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) so that the special plants, animals and habitats here are protected and marine activities can be managed. The 11km MCZ protects a range of reef and sand habitats which support a fascinating variety of life.



What wildlife is found here
In the bay you can see seals, otters, and many other animals. There are also many different types of plants and animals. There are also many different types of plants and animals.



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What to see at Mounts Bay
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The Coast Path is special for the Mounts
The Coast Path is a special place for wildlife. It is a special place for wildlife. It is a special place for wildlife.

- Please keep to the Path
- Keep dogs under effective control (preferably on a short lead)
- Be alert and move away to avoid wildlife disturbance
- Keep a good distance from any wild animals
- Use camera zooms or binoculars so you do not get close
- Avoid making loud noises
- Be extra careful February-July when birds are breeding, and August-December for seal pups
- Never follow, chase or feed wildlife
- Use a bin or take litter home with you



COAST PATH

This path forms part of a 2,700 mile coast path National Trail



Wales via the Severn
367 miles
Scotland including the Wales Coast Path
1,588 miles



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs



Coast Path establishment is part funded through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

COAST PATH

Connecting People to Nature

943 square miles
2442 square kms of
new **open access land**

Over **5,000 km** of
Public Rights of Way

Almost **11,000,000**
people live within 5 km
of the Coastal Margin =
19% of England's
population.




Coastal Margin



What is the Coastal Wildbelt?

A once in a generation opportunity to develop a new national initiative for people and nature along our dynamic coastline



*conservation of 30% of
Earth's land and sea by
2030 through protected
areas and other
conservation methods*



30by30 at the Coastal Margin

211,336 hectares has the potential to contribute to our 30by30 biodiversity target = 1.6% of England

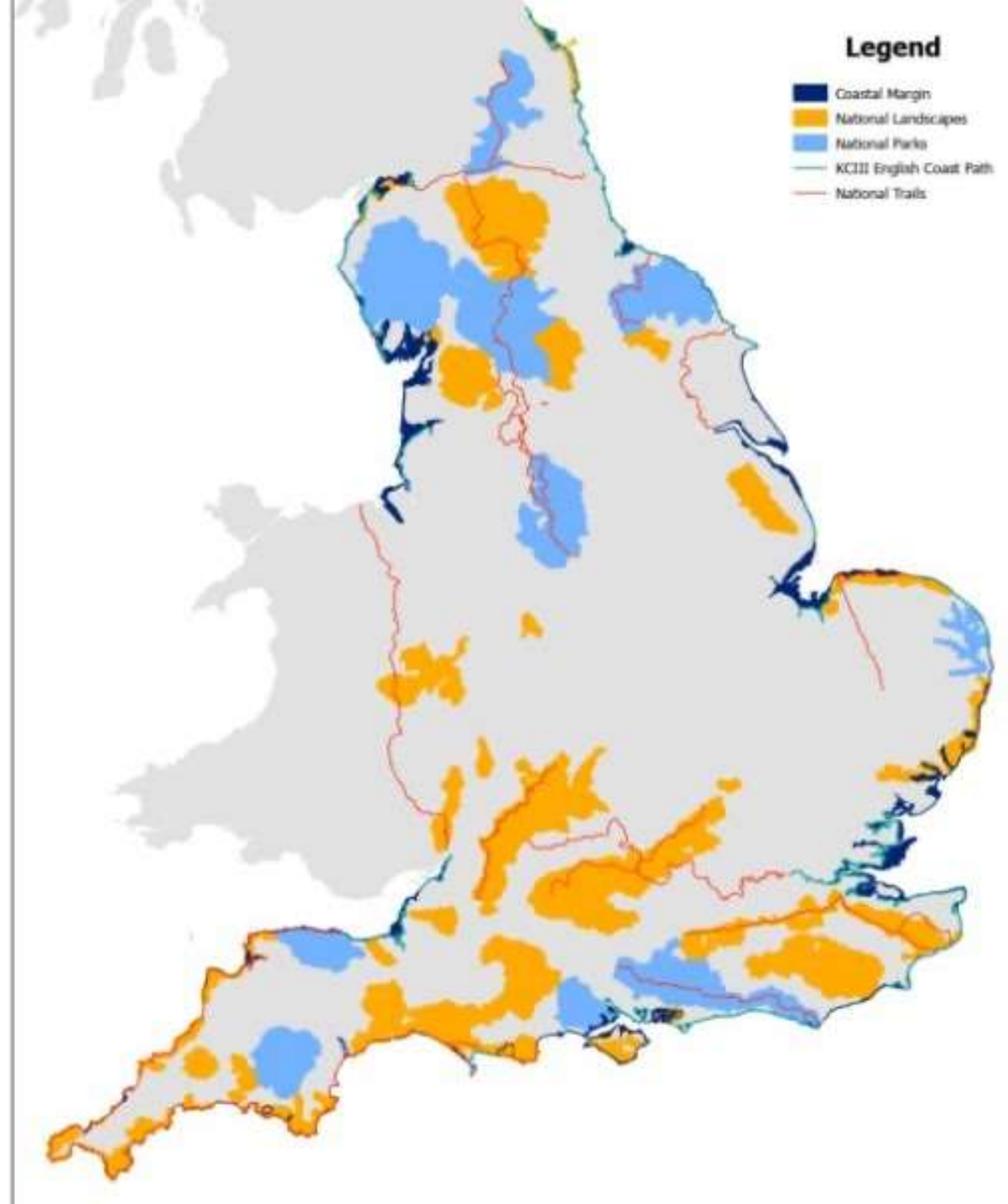
71% of the Coastal Margin is made up of priority habitats including:

- Mudflats
- Coastal saltmarsh
- Maritime cliff and slope
- Coastal sand dunes
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Protected Landscapes and the Coastal Margin

79% of the Coastal Margin falls outside a **National Park** or a **National Landscape**

The Coastal Margin could have a key role providing **connectivity** between these important landscapes – which is key to nature's recovery





coastal Wildbelt

✓ Advocacy + campaign plan



BETTER ACCESS & NATURE FOR PEOPLE ALONG OUR DYNAMIC COAST



OUR KEY THEMES



- INSPIRE
 - CHAMPION
 - SUPPORT
-
- PROTECT
 - IMPROVE
 - PROMOTE
 - COLLABORATE

DEVELOPMENT

2025 - 2027

DELIVERY

2027 - 2032

(phase 1)



2024-2025 SCOPING YEAR

incubating our ideas

PROTECTED LANDSCAPES PARTNERSHIP



Next Steps

Two Pilot Projects underway to understand opportunities, barriers and delivery mechanisms

- Test and trial small grants
- Vision development workshops
- Evidence and Research

March 2025 – initial report

