

Title of Report:	Clare Park, Ballycastle – Causeway Coast Way – Public Right of Way
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	16th March 2021
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and Enhancing our Environments and Assets Promote our tourism offer locally and internationally Prosperity, Health and Wellbeing and Cohesive Community
Outcome	Improved access to our natural environment. Development of visitor economy and health and well-being opportunities.
Lead Officer	Head of Tourism & Recreation

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	n/a
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to assert a Public Right of Way at Atlantic View Holiday Park, Clare Park adjacent to Clare Road on the western side of Ballycastle. This is a non-contested assertion from the land owner in order to secure future public access on this path.

2.0 Background

In April 2018 Council Officers presented a blueprint document on the Causeway Coast Way which received Members' approval to pursue the strategic direction and where possible deliver on the proposed interventions that were detailed. These interventions included the creation of new off road sections at coastal locations and where the walking experience can be taken off road.

A section identified for development as part of the Causeway Coast Way is the coastal strip within the boundary of Atlantic View Holiday Park, Ballycastle. **Annex A** details the existing Public Right of Way (in blue) and the proposed new Public Right of Way (in orange).

The Atlantic View Holiday Park owner has plans for redevelopment of the field on the eastern side of the wooded area on Clare Road and Officers are keen to secure a connection from Clare Road to the perimeter of the holiday park along the coastal fringe and back again to the road. By securing this perimeter it also allows for future development to take the Causeway Coast Way off road where possible.

The landowner has agreed to facilitate the assertion of the Public Right of Way subject to the condition that when Council develop the Public Right of Way, a fence will be erected to prevent the public from straying off the Public Right of Way into the Holiday Park.

3.0 Future Proposals

The site is located at the holiday park adjacent to Clare Road on the western side of the town and was once part of the Hugh McGildowny's Estate. A Public Rights Of Way (PROW) exists at the eastern end of the site and there is an opportunity to link this PROW, with a new PROW, which can in the interim return to the road and in the future extend westwards. The site enjoys panoramic views of Rathlin Island, Fairhead, Mull of Kintyre and Islay.

Subject to funding being secured, future works will require construction of a path, along with cliff edge stabilisation and fencing.

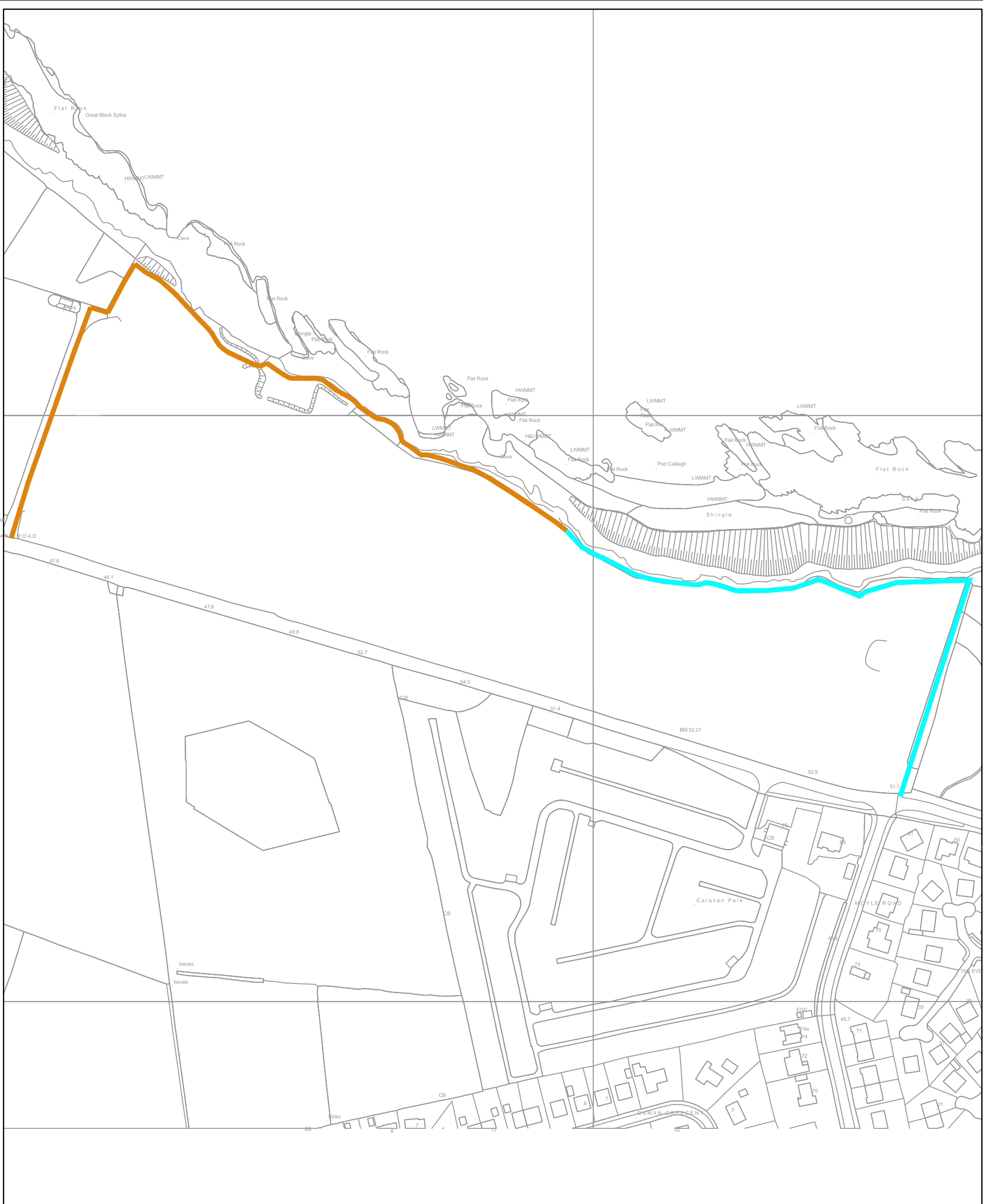
The new section of public right of way and associated works will only be developed if funding has been secured.

The Public Right of Way Assertion protects access on foot for members of the public and prevents future opportunities to obstruct access. At this stage, an assertion does not require Council's agreement to maintain or provide indemnity on the land. The new section of Public Right of Way will only become accessible to the public once the pathway has been developed.

Council Officers hope that future funding programmes will allow for coastal walking opportunities at this site.

4.0 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Leisure & Development Committee recommends to Council the assertion of the proposed Public Right of Way at Clare Park, Ballycastle, as indicated on Annex A. This is subject to a signed Public Right of Way Assertion Statement.



Legend:

█ Existing Right of Way to be maintained

1:2500

█ NEW Public Right of Way



NOTES

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 3. Contractors to carry out their own due diligence and report any errors to this office.
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A3

paper size

Michael McNicholl

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Clare Park
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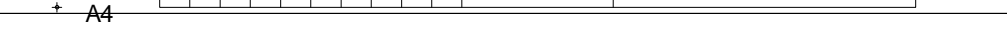
Right of Way

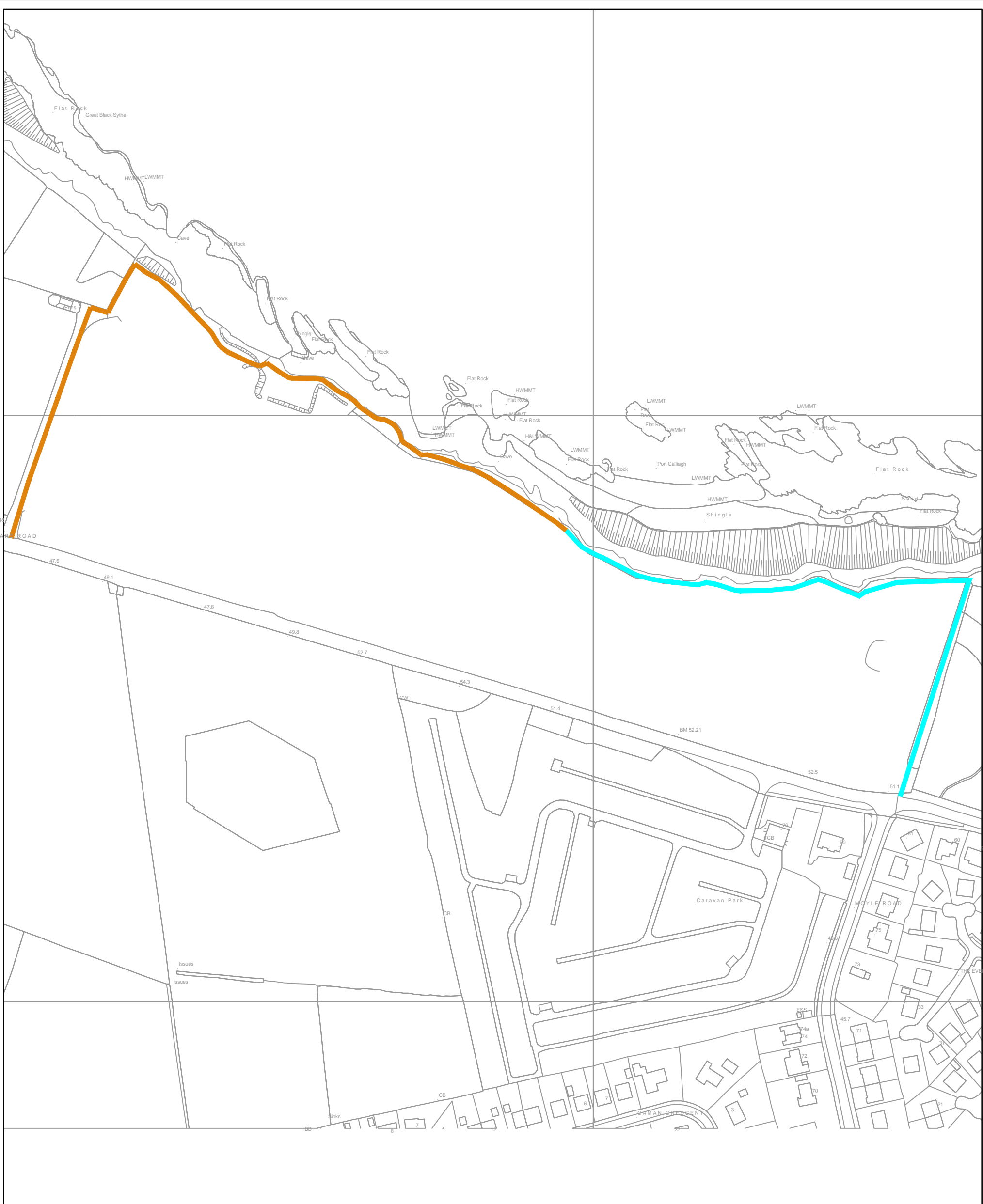
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Map

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