

STEP FOUR - Field check

1. Record ground truth information on both physical and human limitations to public access on the 1:10,000 and 1:2,000 scale Cadastral sheets that record both the status of legal access and the distribution of advancing, retreating, and dynamic equilibrium coastlines.

*The purpose of this step is to check the mapped information obtained in the preceding steps and to verify (as far as possible) the actual existence of areas of **legally and physically restricted or unrestricted** public access to and along the seacoast. **This step should only be taken after Steps One to Three, above, have been completed.***

2. Record the coastal geomorphology on the base maps noting the location and extent of landforms and features that pose severe physical limitations to legal access, and those that allow easy public access such as wide beaches and exposed wave-cut shore platforms. The former include; rocky seacliffs with deep water at the toe; unstable seacliffs or steep slopes prone to landslip; narrow beaches at the base of impassable seacliffs that are only accessible during low tide (see Figure 7b); rocky promontories, tidal inlets or river mouths that block access along the coast; dense impenetrable stands of vegetation such as mangroves, salt marshes, gorse or boxthorn hedges.

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3. As reversals from long-term trends of coastline erosion to accretion and vice versa occur along the coast from time to time, it is important to record the present situation. Eroding coasts usually feature a seacliff or bank freshly cut by the sea, often with material or vegetation collapsing onto the beach (see Figure 7a). In some places evidence for erosion is more subtle, especially where a barrier beach impounding a lagoon or estuary is being rolled inland by the sea. Although the barrier often retains its form, the signs to look for are a decrease in crest height compared to other stable barriers and driftwood on the landward side, signalling storm over-wash and retreat.

4. Accreting sandy coasts usually feature a freshly vegetated incipient foredune growing along the seaward toe of the frontal dune and a relatively wide backshore area between high tide mark and the toe of the foredune. The incipient dune features sand-binding grasses growing seawards such as marram, spinifex or pingao. In contrast, a new gravel beach ridge is generally free of any vegetation, particularly lichens, and often lower in elevation than the older storm ridge to landward.

5. As far as is possible, check apparent land tenure boundaries and current land-use in the field. In most areas the boundary separating foreshore reserves from private land is fenced. The fence line generally parallels the coastline. In some areas private property owners may have extended their properties seaward of the foreshore reserve boundary and modified the land. Sometimes physical barriers across public accessways such as fences, locked gates, trenches or banks of material have been illegally constructed by adjacent landowners to restrict public access. For the purposes of the coastal atlas, such features should be identified and recorded as accurately as possible so appropriate action can be taken to allow public access to continue where there is a legal right. If there is dispute over access or boundaries, the controlling authority may need to re-survey the area, or take legal steps to restore public access.

Figure 7a (Right) Coastal erosion has removed the fore-shore reserve over the last century. *Reproduced from Site 5 in Gibb et al. 1993)*

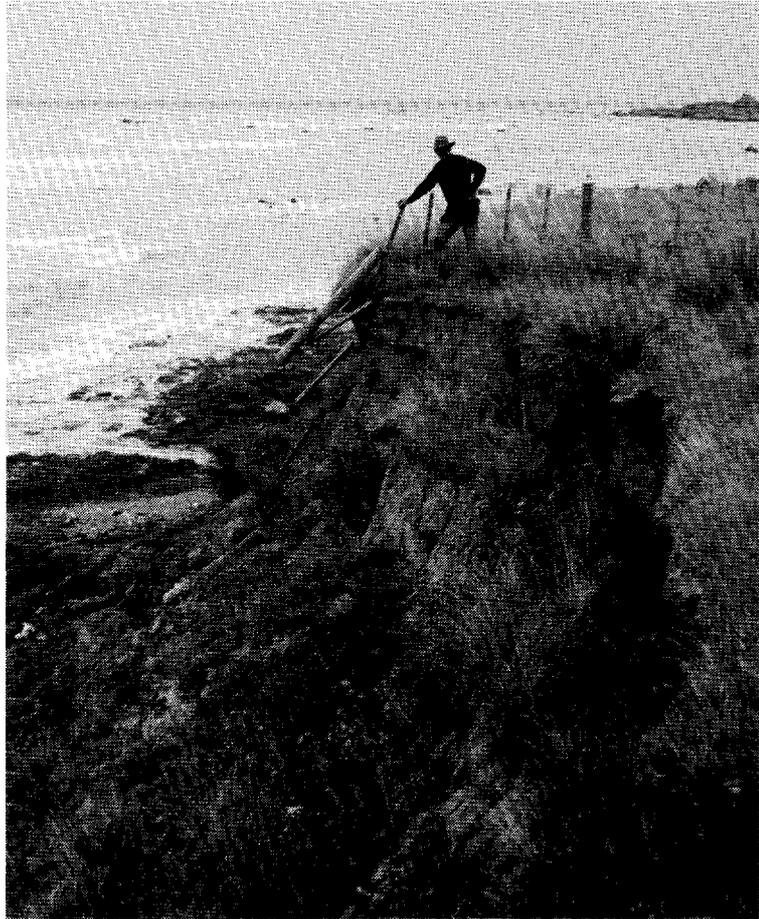


Figure 7b (Below) Steep eroding seacliffs severely restrict public access to the seacoast. The narrow beach at the toe is only accessible at low tide, limiting movement along the seacoast. *Reproduced from Plate 16 in Gibb et al. 1992)*



Figure 7 Photographs of the Wairarapa east coast north and south of Riversdale.

Table 3 Coastal access, classified into the three categories: Legally Restricted public access, Physically Restricted access, and Unrestricted access*.

Code	Type
LEGALLY RESTRICTED PUBLIC ACCESS	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Land – includes SOE owned land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private track
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserves – nature, Maori
<input type="checkbox"/>	Crown Forestry Licence
C	Public access ‘covenants’
S	Specified restriction – Daylight hours, seasonal, permission required, vehicles, horses, pedestrian traffic only, etc.
PHYSICALLY RESTRICTED PUBLIC ACCESS	
P	Physical restrictions – Tide, erosion, cliffs, geology, vegetation, etc.
H	Human restrictions – Gates, fences, signs, trenches, etc.
UNRESTRICTED ACCESS*	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public roads – formed and unformed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reserves – <i>local purpose, local purpose (esplanade), government purpose, recreation, historic, scenic, and scientific</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parks – <i>National and Conservation (Forestry)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marginal strips, Esplanade strips and Access strips – sometimes restricted
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stewardship
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unalienated Crown Land
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public walkways
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rights of way – when negotiated on behalf of the general public for access to a particular area
<input type="checkbox"/>	Covenant – <i>protected private land, management agreement and wildlife refuge</i>

Unrestricted access includes areas of legally unrestricted public access that have no severe physical limitations. For those unrestricted types printed in italics, certain restrictions may apply from time to time as set out in Table 2.

STEP FIVE - Determine current status of public access

1. By combining information on physical limitations in Steps Three and Four with legal limitations in Step Two, the current status of public access to and along the coast can be determined. For example, although a foreshore reserve may be shown in some areas, coastline retreat and physical barriers may mean that either the reserve now no longer exists, or that public access across it to the coast is very limited.

The purpose of this step is to determine the current status of public access to and along the seacoast. Step Five is the culmination of the work done in Steps One to Four above.

2. For base map(s), use 1:50,000 Topographical Maps (NZMS 260 Series) to summarise the location and extent of areas of either legally and physically restricted, or unrestricted access for the public to and along the coast. Enlarge required sections to a scale of 1:25,000. Use the codes in Table 3 to identify the location and extent of areas of actual **restricted** or **unrestricted** access on the topographic maps.

3. Colour each type of access in relation to the categories in the Table 3. Borders or the entire area can be coloured, depending on the size of the area. Use red dots to illustrate where access has been restricted by physical influences. For example, where there is coastline retreat, place a line of dots along the relevant stretch of coast and code it according to Table 3. Where, for example, a gate is hindering access, place a single red dot and code it with H (human restriction) accordingly. Figure 8, depicting part of the Wairarapa east coast, is an example of some of the physical limitations and legal categories of land which may need to be recorded.

4. Using the 1:50,000 scale topographic maps, compile the final map to identify the areas where public access to and along the coast is either **legally restricted, physically restricted**, or **unrestricted**. From the base map(s) drawn up for 2. and 3. above (showing the information listed in Table 3 and Figure 8), resolve the information into the three major categories using the following colour codes:

Red	Areas of legally restricted public access
Blue	Areas of physically restricted public access
Green	Areas of unrestricted public access

Using either a border or full shading, colour the areas on the 1:50,000 scale topographic maps to indicate the different types of access. Figure 9 is an example of the finished access map for the same part of the Wairarapa east coast. All the information is resolved into the three access categories.

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