

North West Coastal Access Monthly Update: September 2019



This update provides local and regional representatives and other interested stakeholders with a brief summary on progress for each of the coastal stretches we are working on in the North West. If you have colleagues who should be included on the distribution list or you do not wish to receive this update please let us know.

North West Coastal Access progress map



Stretch 1: Allonby to Whitehaven (35 km) - OPEN	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path/about for updates 	

Stretch 2: Whitehaven to Silecroft (51 km) – STAGE 5: ‘OPEN’	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objections and representations period for the variation report relating to Sellafeld and Nethertown station closed on 21st August. We received no objections to this latest variation report, or the previous reports for Coulderton and Nethertown or Drigg and the representations we received for all three have been submitted to the Secretary of State. We are awaiting approval for those reports before undertaking the establishment works in these areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely completion date for establishment works is 2020. Commencement order will be made and opening date will be announced.

Stretch 3: Gretna to Allonby (98 km) – STAGE 4: ‘DETERMINE’	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are still waiting to hear back from the Secretary of State after the Public Hearings in early December 2017. This determination is, like 14 others, delayed by the implications of the ‘People over Wind case’ (see below for the Silecroft to Silverdale and Silverdale to Cleveleys stretches). We will be checking all relevant nature conservation data has been assessed prior to receiving a decision from the Secretary of State. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment work will get underway as soon as possible, but are unlikely to be completed before late 2020.

Stretch 4: Walney Island (33km) – STAGE 5: ‘OPEN’	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment works are now underway for the approved route. We are working closely with officers from Cumbria County Council, including Highways, to put in place further road safety measures after the recent decision to remove some of the ECP related road markings. We expect the route to be largely unaffected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of these works and commencement of new rights is likely to be early 2020.

Stretch 5: Silecroft to Silverdale (approx. 101km) – STAGE 2: ‘DEVELOP’	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have now completed our planning work for the trail and the coastal margin. We have modified our approach to our reports in order to comply with the judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union of the 12th April 2018 in case C-323/17 People Over Wind. We are now preparing an updated coastal access report, accompanying Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Nature Conservation Assessment (NCA) for this stretch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We aim to publish our proposals in Autumn 2019.

Stretch 6: Silverdale to Cleveleys (approx. 82km) – STAGE2: ‘DEVELOP’	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have now completed our planning work for the trail and the coastal margin. We have modified our approach to our reports in order to comply with the judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union of the 12th April 2018 in case C-323/17 People Over Wind. We are now preparing an updated coastal access report, accompanying Habitats Regulations Assessment and Nature Conservation Assessment for this stretch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We aim to publish our proposals in Autumn 2019.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate s38 applications have been submitted to DEFRA (Pins) to undertake certain establishment works on Registered Common Land on this stretch. 	
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Stretch 7: Cleveleys to Pier head, Liverpool (approx. 124km) – STAGE2: ‘DEVELOP’

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have confirmed our proposals for the majority of the route and margin and we are working to address the small outstanding issues along the stretch as we write up our proposals. Access Authorities are working with us to provide estimates for the establishment of the proposals within their districts. We have commissioned Lancashire County Council to complete a technical survey into a potential crossing point over the river Douglas, and a highways report for the area to inform our proposals in that area. Our sensitive features assessment work (HRA and NCA for this stretch is ongoing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autumn 2019 – expect to draft our Coastal Access report. We aim to publish our proposals in early 2020.

Stretch 8: Birkenhead to Welsh border (approx. 41km) -) – STAGE2: ‘DEVELOP’

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have now completed our planning work for the trail and the coastal margin. We are now preparing an updated coastal access report, accompanying Habitats Regulations Assessment and Nature Conservation Assessment for this stretch. We are working closely with our access authority partners to prepare a cost estimate for the work proposed. Final details on specific elements of infrastructure near Little Neston still being discussed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We aim to publish our proposals in Autumn 2019.

Get involved!

Interest is growing in the England Coast Path within the communities who will benefit most, we will start to build other information into this newsletter for those who are interested in opportunities to get involved! So watch this space!!

Here are our first news items.....

- Working with @The_MMO and @MacmillanKidsUK a new activity book to accompany Julia Donaldson’s ‘Snail and the Whale’ story has recently been launched! We have a number of free copies to give away when we launch the Walney Island stretch of the England Coast Path



- We are starting to make plans for a launch event for the Walney Island stretch and will be inviting interested parties including people who expressed an interest through the Living Coast Pilot project.

Get in touch

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www.gov.uk/englandcoastpath

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