

North West Coastal Access Monthly Update: July 2018



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 me know.

Contact Us	North West Coastal Access map
<p>northwest.coastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk</p> <p>www.gov.uk/englandcoastpath</p> <p> Follow us @NE Cumbria and @NENorthWest on twitter</p> <p> Follow the whole National Trails family @thenationaltrails on Facebook</p>	<p>Stretch Names</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">③ Gretna to Allonby① Allonby to Whitehaven② Whitehaven to Silcroft⑤ Silcroft to Silverdale④ Walney Island⑥ Silverdale to Cleveleys⑦ Cleveleys to Pier Head, Liverpool⑧ Birkenhead to Welsh Border <p>Stretch Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> England Coast Path and associated access rights now open Approved but not yet open, establishment works planned or in progress Proposals published but not yet determined Proposals in development <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County & Unitary Boundaries <p>Scale: 0 2 4 8 12 16 Kilometres 0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10.5 14 Miles</p> <p><small>© Crown copyright and database right 2017. All rights reserved. Natural England Licence No. 100022021</small></p>

Stretch 1: Allonby to Whitehaven (35 km) - OPEN

- 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"> A variation report is being published on 1 August 2018 to deal with proposed changes at Couderton and Nethertown not covered by our original roll back proposals on this stretch. This will have the standard eight week period for objections / representations, closing on 26 September 2018. To read the report and access forms for the consultation please go to www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-whitehaven-to-silecroft. We hope to see all of these issues resolved and the works concluded by early 2019, at which point we will open the stretch without any further delay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely completion date is early 2019. 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"> Three days of Public Hearings were held in early December. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hearings considered: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding of areas of salt marsh and consequent dangers to walkers Impacts of proposed route on farming practices, including safety issues Disturbance of wintering and/or breeding birds Possible alternative routes The appointed inspector will, in due course, make her recommendations regarding the objections to the Secretary of State. Only once all the objections have all been determined the Secretary of State consider approving the proposals, with or without modifications. This determination is likely to be delayed by the implications of the ‘People over Wind case’ (see below for the Silecroft to Silverdale and the Silverdale to Cleveleys stretches). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretary of State’s decision is expected in 2018. Establishment work will get underway as soon as possible, but may run into at least 2019 / 20, before access rights can be commenced.

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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of these works and commencement of new rights is likely to be late 2018 or early 2019.

Stretch 5: Silecroft to Silverdale (approx. 101km) – STAGE 2: ‘DEVELOP’	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have finalised our route options and are making good progress on the remaining elements of the ASFA process. We are now quality assuring the draft publication and checking the report maps. 	<p>Natural England is now considering, on a case by case basis, the implications for its coastal access reports of the recent judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union of the 12th April 2018 in case C-323/17 <i>People Over Wind</i>.</p> <p>As a result, we will not expect to immediately publish our reports for either the Silecroft to Silverdale or the Silverdale to Cleveleys stretch. At present, it isn’t possible to say when we will be in a position to publish these two reports, but we will provide an update as soon as possible, together with an estimated publication date.</p>

Stretch 6: Silverdale to Cleveleys (approx. 82km) – STAGE2: ‘DEVELOP’	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have finalised our route options and are making good progress on the remaining elements of the ASFA process. We are now proofing the designed copy of the report prior to sending it to print. 	<p>Natural England is now considering, on a case by case basis, the implications for its coastal access reports of the recent judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union of the 12th April 2018 in case C-323/17 <i>People Over Wind</i>.</p> <p>As a result, we will not expect to immediately publish our reports for either the Silverdale to Cleveleys or the Silecroft to Silverdale stretch. At present, it isn't possible to say when we will be in a position to publish these two reports, but we will provide an update as soon as possible, together with an estimated publication date.</p>

Stretch 7: Cleveleys to Pier head, Liverpool (approx. 124km) – STAGE2: ‘DEVELOP’	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have moved into stage 2 and have started to develop the route proposals. We are seeking partners regarding options for a crossing point at the river Douglas. We have held meetings with nature conservation organisations, HM Coastguard and RNLi and have started meetings with other partners and individual landowners including Port of Liverpool and Peel Ports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring 2019 Stage 3 – ‘propose’ – estimated report publication

Stretch 8: Birkenhead to Welsh border (approx. 41km) -) – STAGE2: ‘DEVELOP’	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have moved into stage 2 and have started to develop the route proposals. Recent meetings have been held with Environment Agency, RSPB, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Dee Wildfowlers and Ministry of Defence. Further sessions are planned in the coming weeks with representatives of various nature conservation organisations. We continue to meet with individual landowners and expect to start sending initial proposals letters out in late summer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late 2018 Stage 3 – ‘propose’ – estimated report publication