

North West Coastal Access Monthly Update: January 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 me know.

North West Coastal Access progress map



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"> • We received no objections to the variation reports for Coulderton and Nethertown or Drigg and the representations we received have been submitted to the Secretary of State. • We are awaiting approval to complete the work from these variations. • Discussions taking place with relevant organisations regarding route alignment work near Sellafield. • We hope to see all works concluded by late 2019, at which point we will open the stretch without any further delay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely completion date is late 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"> • 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 are prioritising this work nationally and talking with DEFRA and Planning Inspectorate to try to improve the process. 	<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 mid 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. • Natural England has now considered the implications of 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 have modified our approach to comply with the judgement and now expect to begin preparation of the coastal access report and accompanying sensitive features assessment for this stretch over the next few weeks. <p><i>Other news: Morecambe Bay Partnership has received funding to complete a feasibility study for a new foot / cycle bridge across Arnside Viaduct. For more information see www.morecambebay.org.uk/news/%C2%A350000-award-test-cycle-and-walkway-along-arnside-viaduct</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will hopefully publish by mid-2019. <p>We will provide an update as soon as possible.</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.• Natural England has now considered the implications of 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 have modified our approach to comply with the judgement and now expect to begin preparation of the coastal access report and accompanying sensitive features assessment for this stretch over the next few weeks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will hopefully publish by mid-2019. <p>We will provide an update as soon as possible.</p>

Stretch 7: Cleveleys to Pier head, Liverpool (approx. 124km) – STAGE2: ‘DEVELOP’	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over the next months we will be sending out initial proposal letters and maps for affected landowners. There are a couple of locations where we are still working to agree proposals for route alignment along the stretch.• We are continuing to consider options for a potential new crossing point over the river Douglas.• We have had positive meetings with both Sefton MBC and the National Trust about the large area of default dune coastal land type around the Sefton Coast.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early 2019 – expect to send out initial proposal letters to owners / occupiers of affected land.

Stretch 8: Birkenhead to Welsh border (approx. 41km) -) – STAGE2: ‘DEVELOP’	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Route alignment work has now been completed for this stretch• Meeting has been held with representatives from Cestrian and Wirral Ramblers to update them on our work.• Work to finalise our proposals for areas of the margin which are considered unsuitable for access is also taking place.• Our Sensitive Features Assessment for this stretch will be concluded in the next few months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early 2019 Stage 3 – ‘propose’ – estimated report publication

Further information / Contact us:
<p>Coastal access website:</p> <p>www.gov.uk/englandcoastpath</p> <p>Follow us on Twitter:</p> <p>@NE Cumbria and @NENorthWest on twitter</p> <p>E-mail us at:</p> <p>northwest.coastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk</p> <p>For more information on National Trails:</p> <p>@thenationaltrails on Facebook</p>