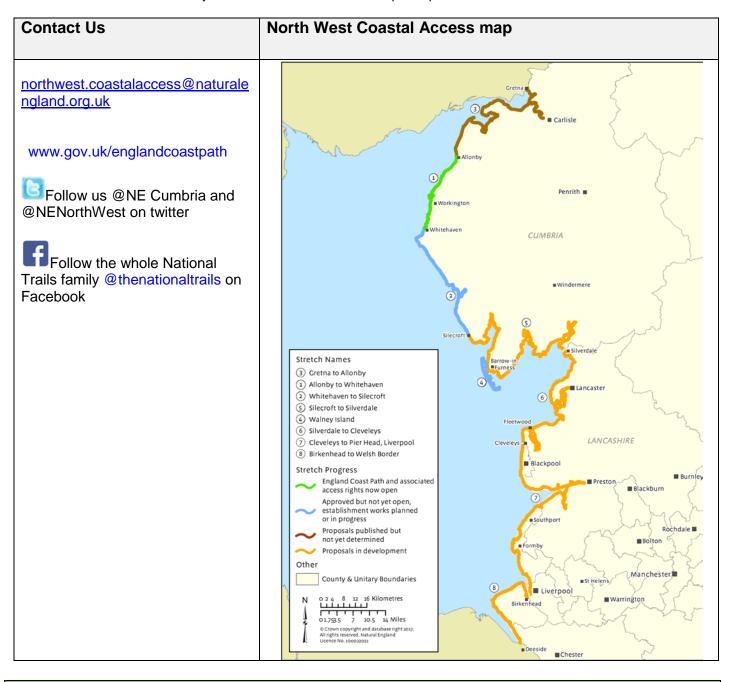
North West Coastal Access Monthly Update: May 2018



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.



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

• See www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path/about for updates

Current Activity	Next Milestone
Establishment works are proving to be considerably more complex than initially thought, not least because of the coastal erosion and other changes that have occurred since the original proposals were drawn up. We will be preparing a variation report to deal with several issues not covered by our original roll back proposals on this stretch. This will have the standard eight week period for objections / representations. 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.	 Likely completion date is earl 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		
 Three days of Public Hearings were held in early December. The hearings considered: 1) Flooding of areas of salt marsh and consequent dangers to walkers 2) Impacts of proposed route on farming practices, including safety issues 3) Disturbance of wintering and/or breeding birds 4) Possible alternative routes 	 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. 		
• The appointed inspector will, in due course, make her recommendations regarding the objections to the Secretary of StateOnly once all the objections have all been determined the Secretary of State consider approving the proposals, with or without modifications.			

Stretch 4: Walney Island (33km) – STAGE 5: 'OPEN'			
Current Activity	Next Milestone		
 Establishment works are now underway for the approved route. 	• 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		
 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. 	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 12 th April 2018 in case C-323/17 <i>People Over Wind v.Teoranta.</i> 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.		

Stretch 6: Silverdale to Cleveleys (approx. 82km) – STAGE2: 'DEVELOP'			
Current Activity	Next Milestone		
 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. 	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 12 th April 2018 in case C-323/17 <i>People Over Wind v. Teoranta.</i> 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.		

	Stretch 7: Cleveleys to Pier head, Liverpool (approx. 124km) – STAGE2: 'DEVELOP'		
	Current Activity		Next Milestone
•	We have moved into stage 2 and will be starting to meet with affected owners and occupiers to help develop the route proposals over the coming months. We are seeking partners regarding options for a crossing point at the river Douglas. We are planning meetings with external partners including nature	•	Spring 2019 Stage 3 – 'propose' – estimated report publication
	conservation organisations, HM Coastguard and RNLI		

Stretch 8: Birkenhead to Welsh border (approx. 41km) -) – STAGE2: 'DEVELOP'		
Current Activity	Next Milestone	
 We have moved into stage 2 and have started to develop the route proposals. We have held meetings with external partners including HM Coastguard, RNLI and historic environment officers and are planning further sessions in the coming weeks with representatives of various nature conservation organisations. We expect that meetings with individual landowners will begin from July onwards, 	 Late 2018 Stage 3 – 'propose' – estimated report publication 	