

NATIONAL TRAILS



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ENGLAND

Welcome to the latest North West Coastal Access Update 19 April 2022



England Coast Path - Stretch Progress
North West Hub Team - 6th April 2022



England Coast Path in the North West

Progress so far:

- We now have 132 km of the England Coast Path **open** in the North West – from Allonby to Green Road, and around Walney Island.
- Of the remaining full stretches, Cleveleys to Pier Head (117km) is now **approved in full** but not yet open, with establishment works planned.
- Gretna to Allonby, Green Road to Cleveleys and Birkenhead to the Welsh Border (total 322km) are **approved in part** but not yet open, with establishment works planned or in progress for the approved lengths within those overall stretches.

See the latest news on the coronavirus at www.gov.uk/coronavirus and Natural England's operational update at www.gov.uk/government/news/operational-update-covid-19

Gretna to Allonby (100 km) – approved in part

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A hearing took place in early December 2017. The determination process for this stretch was, like 14 others around the country, delayed by the implications of the 'People over Wind' case. However, as required, we have now updated the Habitats Regulations Assessment for our original proposals and three parts of the stretch have now been approved. Cumbria County Council are planning establishment works for the approved sections (Gretna to Kirkandrews-upon-Eden; Bowness-on-Solway to Anthorn; Rumbling Bridge to Allonby). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary of State will consider the remaining objections and representations before deciding on whether to approve each of these with or without modifications. Access rights will commence once establishment work is completed.



Allonby to Whitehaven (35 km) – England Coast Path open

See www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path/about for updates. If you notice problems with the open sections of the England Coast Path in the north west, please use the following link to contact the relevant National Trails team: www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-nw/contact-trail

Whitehaven to Silecroft (49km) – England Coast Path open

Due to the COVID restrictions, we held a 'soft' local launch of the new coastal access rights in March – and were finally able to follow this up with a celebratory event in St Bees on 22nd September 2021.

See www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path/about for updates on the full Whitehaven to Silecroft stretch. If you notice problems with open sections in the north west, please contact the relevant National Trails team: www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-nw/contact-trail



Walney Island (26km) – England Coast Path open

See www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path/about for updates. If you notice problems with the open sections of the England Coast Path in the north west, please use the following link to contact the relevant National Trails team: www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-nw/contact-trail

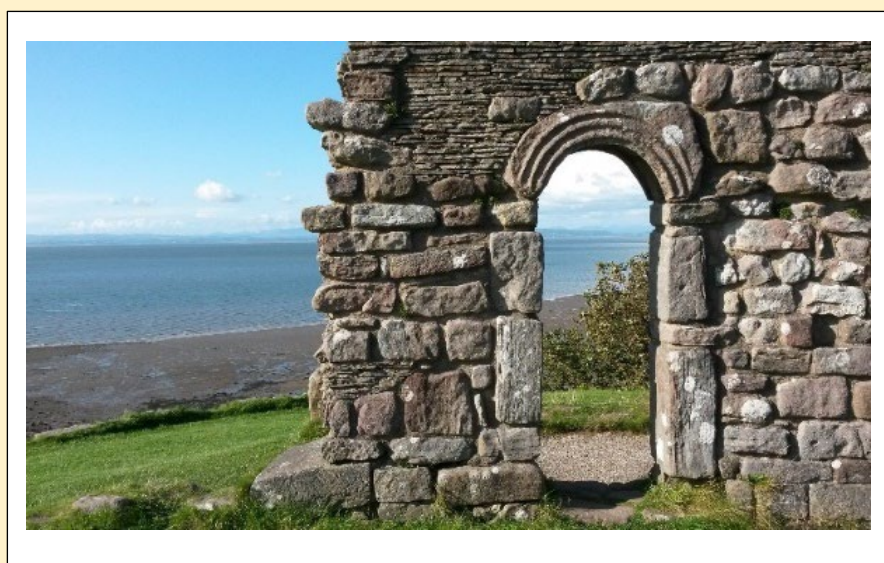


Silecroft to Silverdale (112 km) - approved in part

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report 1 (Silecroft to Green Road station) was approved by the Secretary of state in November 2020, and access rights commenced on Wednesday 9th February 2022, following completion of establishment works by Cumbria County Council. Reports 2-6 (Green Road station to Cove Well, Silverdale) are awaiting decisions from the Secretary of State. The period for making objections and representations for the published proposals for this stretch closed on 4 March 2020. To see the proposals go to: www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-silecroft-to-silverdale-comment-on-proposals <p>If you notice problems with the open sections of the England Coast Path in the north west, please use the following link to contact the relevant National Trails team: www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-nw/contact-trail</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary of State will consider the remaining objections and representations submitted in relation to Reports 2 – 6 before deciding on whether to approve each individual report with or without modifications. Once approved, Cumbria County Council will commence establishment work on the remaining parts of the stretch between the Duddon Estuary and Silverdale. Access rights will commence once establishment work is completed.

Silverdale to Cleveleys (87.6 km) - approved in part

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have collated the responses to our reports and forwarded them to PINS and the Secretary of State for consideration. The Secretary of State has approved three of the six reports so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report 2 (Wild Duck Hall, Bolton-le-Sands to Ocean Edge Caravan Park, Heysham), Report 4 (Carlisle Bridge, Lancaster to Glasson Dock Swing Bridge) and Report 6 (Fluke Hall Lane car park, Pilling to South Promenade, Cleveleys). Lancashire County Council may now commence establishment work on these parts of the stretch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary of State will consider the remaining objections and representations submitted in relation to Reports 1, 3 and 5 before deciding on whether to approve each individual report with or without modifications. Access rights will commence once establishment work is completed.



Cleveleys to Pier Head, Liverpool (116.5 km) – approved in full	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretary of State approved all remaining subsidiary lengths within this stretch on 6th April 2022. • Lancashire County Council, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council and other relevant bodies may now commence establishment work on this stretch. • To see the approved proposals, go to: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-cleveleys-to-pier-head-liverpool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access rights will commence once establishment work is completed.
Birkenhead to Welsh border (41 km) – approved in part	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The period for making objections and representations for the published proposals for this stretch closed on 10th February 2021. To see the proposals go to: www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-birkenhead-to-the-welsh-border-comment-on-proposals • We have collated these responses and forwarded them to PINS and the Secretary of State for consideration. • The Secretary of State has approved two of the three reports so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report 1 (Seacombe Ferry Terminal, Birkenhead to Red Rocks Slipway, Hoylake) ○ Report 3 (The Boat House public house, Parkgate to the Welsh border) • Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council may now commence establishment work on these parts of the stretch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary of State will consider the objections and representations submitted in relation to the remaining Report 2 before deciding on whether to approve it with or without modifications. • Access rights will commence once establishment work is completed.

Get involved!

Interest is growing in the England Coast Path within the communities who will benefit most, and 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 is our latest news...

- **Cleveleys to Pier Head approved in full**

Following approval of the three uncontested subsidiary lengths of our Cleveleys to Pier Head proposals, the Secretary of State has now approved the remaining three lengths. This follows recommendations from the Planning Inspectorate that, where objections were lodged, Natural England had not failed to achieve a fair balance in its decision making. See above for link to proposals and relevant objection and approval documentation.

Previous news items...

- **Silecroft to Green Road joins the open stretches**

Another 11 miles of England Coast Path in Cumbria were opened to the public on 9th February 2022, bringing the county's total to 81 miles. For more details, visit https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/england-coast-path-north-west/.

A video celebrating the new stretch and everything we've opened so far in the north west will be premiered on Wednesday 2nd March at 7.30pm, alongside a live chat with team members on social media. To attend, please email northwest.coastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk and we'll send you the link ahead of the event.

And don't forget you can add your business details to our interactive map on the National Trails website – see below for details!

- **Countryside Code Partner Toolkit**

The Countryside Code was relaunched in April, and will be an important message to share over the summer holidays. **Please see the refreshed Code here, and share widely:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>.

As we've seen over the last year, countryside access is more popular – and important – than ever. However, it is vital that responsible access is encouraged so that visitors can explore the Cumbrian coast confident in the knowledge they are looking after the natural environment and respecting the local communities and farmers who host these new trails.

We strongly encourage you to make use of Natural England and Defra's [Countryside Code Refresh Partner Toolkit](#), available via [Dropbox](#). This includes copies of the Code and signage which you can download, print and use in your local area, in communications and in print and digital/social media. You can adapt these to suit your own audience needs, using the Code as the starting point for conversations and engagement.

Please save this link as new content will be added in the upcoming weeks. For anyone unable to access the toolkit, please refer to the following WeTransfer [downloadable link](#). The toolkit is for you to use in your communications, digitally and to print, and to share on your social media channels.

Please do contact countryside.code@naturalengland.org.uk with any issues.

- **National Trails website**

Don't forget the National Trails website (www.nationaltrail.co.uk) is a one-stop shop for walkers looking to explore the trails, and local businesses and organisations can add their information for free!

The website includes a 'Plan your adventure' function where visitors can construct a customised itinerary using information on the interactive map, so the more information you can add – especially with a whopping 70 miles of England Coast Path now open in Cumbria – the better! Accommodation, food & drink, drinking water points, facilities & services, related linear & circular day walks, tourist attractions, luggage transfer services and photos can all be added. Events in the area, and suggested itineraries can also be promoted on the website.

Walkers and visitors can also download GPX files of the route for use with smartphones and GPS devices, and find answers to the most common questions about the trail and how to access it responsibly.

To add your details to the map, head over to
www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/england-coast-path-north-west/add-your-information.

Getting in touch

This update provides local and regional representatives and other interested stakeholders with a brief summary of 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.

E-mail us at:

northwest.coastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk

Contact the team via:

0300 060 3900

Coastal access website:

www.gov.uk/englandcoastpath

National Trails website:

www.nationaltrail.co.uk

Social media:

Follow us on Twitter @NECumbria and @NENorthWest

For more information on National Trails search for @thenationaltrails on Facebook

Hashtag the ECP using #EnglandCoastPath (NB. not 'English' or 'Coastal'!)

And why not give NE's new Connecting People with Nature team a follow on Twitter too?
@together_nature