



Welcome to the North West Coastal Access Update: January 2021



England Coast Path in the North West

Progress so far;
We have 61 km of the England Coast Path **open** in the North West, with another 49 km **approved** and in the process of being upgraded or constructed, and equipped with signage, gates and so on.

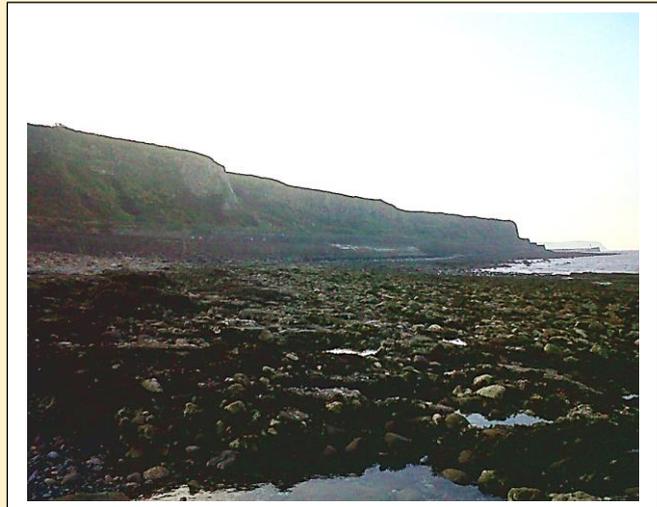
200 km are **approved in part** but not yet open, with establishment works planned or in progress for the approved lengths.

A further 259 km of proposed ECP route have been **published** and are in process of being determined.

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 (101 km) – proposals published

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Hearings took place in early December 2017. This determination is, like 14 others around the country, delayed by the implications of the ‘People over Wind case’ We are now checking all relevant nature conservation data has been assessed and completing the required HRA, prior to receiving a decision from the Secretary of State. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment works will get underway as soon as possible, following SoS approval, but are likely to take a significant time to complete.



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

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

We’ve been out and about (in a socially distanced way) checking signage still allows walkers to easily follow the trail and we have noticed a bit more signage is needed in some locations. 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

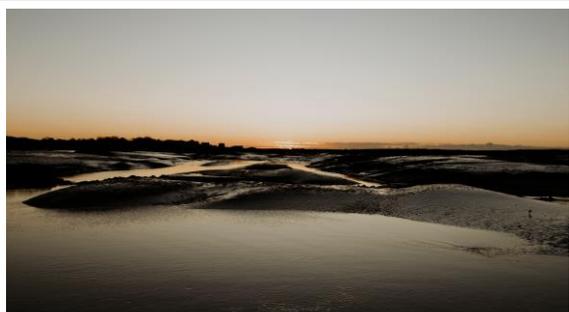
Whitehaven to Silcroft (49km) – proposals approved

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variation reports 2, 6 and 7 have been approved by the Secretary of State. The latest of these, Variation report 6 for Drigg dunes, was approved on 6th March 2020. Work is continuing on the stretch as a whole, including the areas specifically affected by the approved Variation reports, although it is being held up due to Covid-19 restrictions, and the wet autumn weather. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are nearing the finish of establishment work, and are seeking a commencement order. Commencement order will be made and opening date will be announced. See the Get Involved section for more news.



Walney Island (26km) – England Coast Path open

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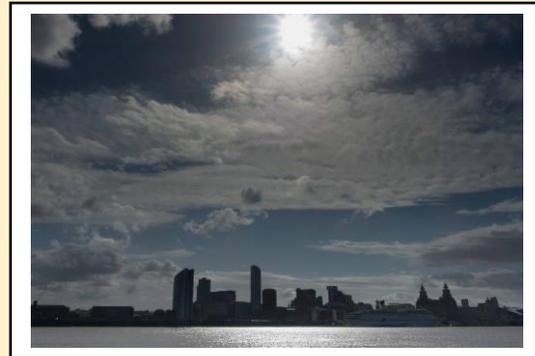


Silecroft to Silverdale (112km) - approved in part

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 4 March 2020. To see the proposals go to: www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-silecroft-to-silverdale-comment-on-proposals• We have collated these responses and forwarded them to PINS and the Secretary of State for consideration. There were no representations or objections to Report 1, Silecroft to Green Road Station and approval has been given for Cumbria County Council to commence establishment work on this section. Access rights will commence once all establishment work is completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secretary of State will consider the objections and representations submitted before making a decision on whether to approve each individual report with or without modifications.• Once any report has been approved, Cumbria County Council will begin work to establish the path.

Silverdale to Cleveleys (88km) - 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. There were no objections to Reports 2 (Wild Duck Hall, Bolton-le-Sands to Ocean Edge Caravan Park, Heysham), 4 (Carlisle Bridge, Lancaster to Glasson Dock Swing Bridge) or 6 (Fluke Hall Lane car park, Pilling to South Promenade, Cleveleys) and the Secretary of State has now approved these three. Lancashire County Council will shortly 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 reports 1,3 and 5 before making a decision on whether to approve each individual report with or without modifications. Access rights will commence once all establishment work is completed for the entire stretch.



Cleveleys to Pier Head, Liverpool (117km) – proposals published

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 2nd December 2020. To see the proposals go to: www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-cleveleys-to-pier-head-liverpool-comment-on-proposals We are now collating these responses to send to PINS and the Secretary of State for consideration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary of State will consider the objections and representations submitted before making a decision on whether to approve each individual report with or without modifications Once any report has been approved, Lancashire County Council, Sefton MBC and Liverpool CC will begin work to establish the path.

Birkenhead to Welsh border (approx. 41km) – proposals published

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have completed our planning work for this stretch and our proposals were published on 16th December, starting an eight week period for objections and representations to be submitted.• Our sensitive features assessment work (HRA and NCA) for this stretch is completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Objections and representations are invited via www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-birkenhead-to-the-welsh-border-comment-on-proposals and need to be received by Wednesday 10th February.



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 are our current news items..... amend 1st item depending on publication date

- We are seeking businesses and walking groups to get involved with the launch of the Whitehaven to Silecroft stretch. If you are a walking or running group who would like to take part, or a business who would like to be involved, please get in touch via our mailbox, northwest.coastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk
- There is a new Countryside Code poster, you can download it [here](#).
- A report has been published looking at the economic and health impacts of walking on English coastal paths, and providing a baseline to compare with future findings. You can read it [here](#).
- The National Trails website has been updated and brought back in-house. There is section called Add Your Information, www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/england-coast-path-north-west/add-your-information From here you can get background information about the England Coast Path in the North West, find answers to the most common questions about the Trail, and download a GPX file of the open stretches of the Trail. In addition businesses are able to list accommodation, luggage transfer services, visitor attractions, cafes and chip shops and so on which may be of interest to walkers on the coast path. Any events being planned along the open stretches can also be advertised here in the Promoting an Event area. You can download and share your favourite photos of the trail, and help inspire other people to share our coast. To get you started, here is a short film of the England Coast Path around [Walney](#).
- Ange Harker in the North West Coastal Access Delivery team has collaborated with Sue Shipston in the National team to produce a library of film clips showing stretches of the England Coast Path near and far. www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KkOcWkljC4&list=PLMjpbfdBx8OWypClw8EyHzYF0f9SSppqB
- Natural England worked with @The_MMO and @MacmillanKidsUK to produce a fun activity book to accompany Julia Donaldson's 'Snail and the Whale' story. You can download a free copy from this link; www.panmacmillan.com/snailandthewhalecoastaladventure.

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.

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Contact the team via:

0300 060 3900

Coastal access website:

www.gov.uk/englandcoastpath

National Trails website:

www.nationaltrail.co.uk

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