

England Coast Path



CLAF members take a walk along the England Coast Path at Maryport

New coastal access rights enabling people to enjoy 36km of coastline between Allonby and Whitehaven have come into force.

This is the first stretch of the new national trail the **England Coast Path** in Cumbria. The new trail, funded by Natural England will eventually take in the whole coast of England creating a route around the country.

It was officially opened at a ceremony in Maryport on 11 April attended by Cumbria County Council's Chairman, Councillor Alan Barry, with representatives and

dignitaries from Natural England, Cumbria Local Access Forum, Allerdale and Copeland Councils.

Cumbria Local Access Forum (CLAF) played their part in the consultation process for this first stretch, and will continue to be involved in future consultations. The CLAF visited the new route as a training session prior to their meeting on 17th April.

The county council's Countryside Access team have implemented the new access working with local contractors, installing new signage, bridges and gates to open up this section of the route to the public.

The Allonby to Whitehaven stretch now joins Weymouth Bay in Dorset as one of the first stretches of the England Coast Path to open. Work on additional sections in Cumbria are already underway, this includes a 55km stretch from Whitehaven to Silecroft and a 100km section from Gretna to Allonby.



Photograph: The Chairman (Charles Ecroyd) and Vice Chairman (Jim McQueen) of the Cumbria Local Access Forum with the Natural England staff at the opening of the path.