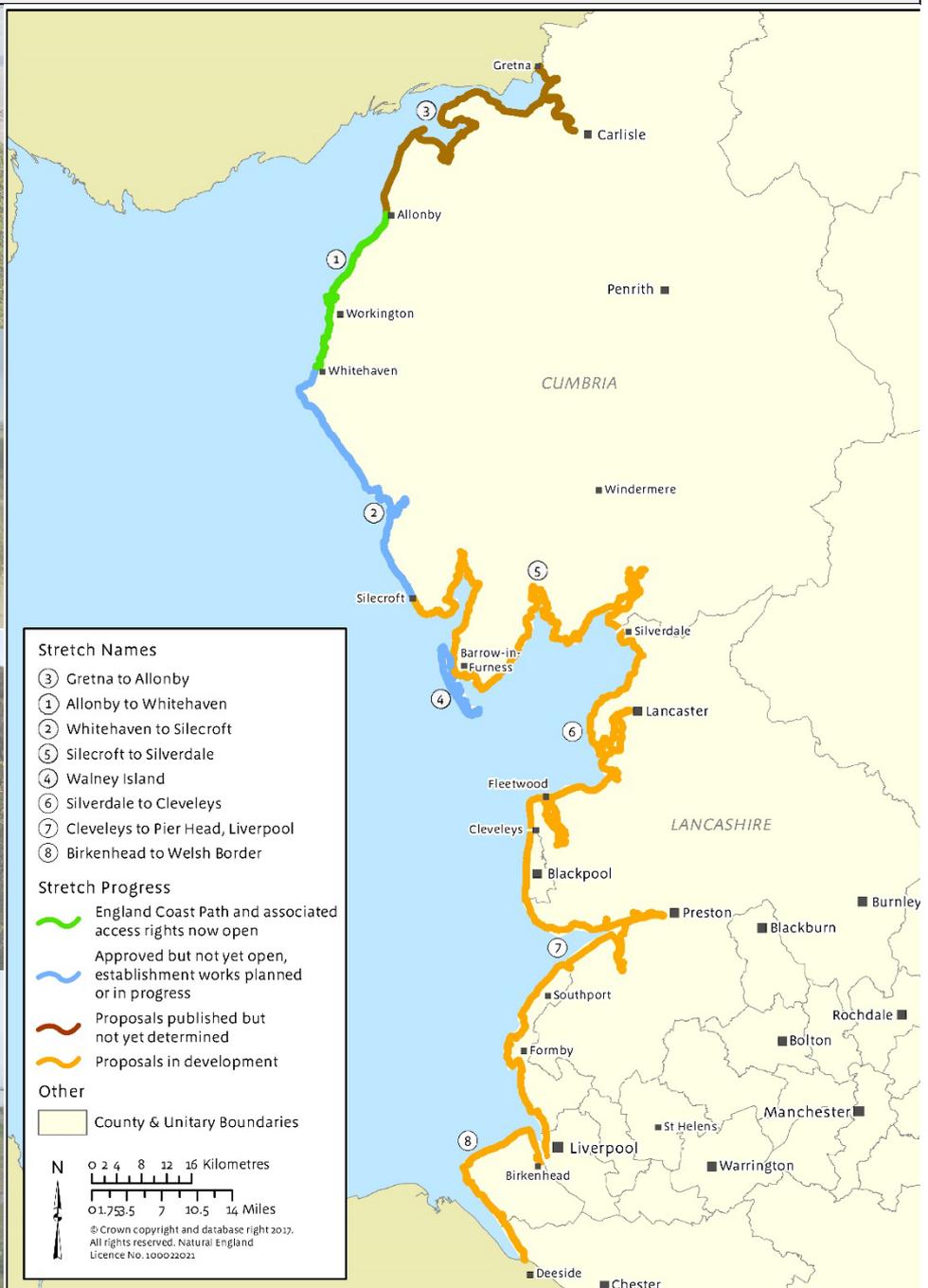


## North West Coastal Access Monthly Update: March 2019



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 us know.

### North West Coastal Access progress map



07/07/2016

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

- See [www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path/about](http://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"> <li>• We received no objections to the variation reports for Couderton and Nethertown or Drigg and the representations we received have been submitted to the Secretary of State.</li> <li>• We are awaiting approval to complete the work from these variations.</li> <li>• Discussions taking place with relevant organisations regarding route alignment work near Sellafield.</li> <li>• We hope to see all works concluded by late 2019, at which point we will open the stretch without any further delay.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likely completion date is late 2019 or early 2020.</li> <li>• Commencement order will be made and opening date will be announced.</li> </ul>

**Stretch 3: Gretna to Allonby (98 km) – STAGE 4: ‘DETERMINE’**

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment work will get underway as soon as possible, but are unlikely to be completed before late 2020.</li> </ul>

**Stretch 4: Walney Island (33km) – STAGE 5: ‘OPEN’**

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment works are now underway for the approved route.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of these works and commencement of new rights is likely to be late 2019.</li> </ul>

**Stretch 5: Silecroft to Silverdale (approx. 101km) – STAGE 2: ‘DEVELOP’**

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have amended our intended route alignment for the England Coast Path near Duddon Mosses NNR to bring the route closer to the coast and strike a fairer balance and make the route more sustainable. This is out for further consultation with the landowners.</li> <li>• We have modified our approach to our reports in order to comply with 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 are now preparing an updated coastal access report, accompanying Habitats Regulations Assessment and Nature Conservation Assessment for this stretch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will hopefully publish by mid-2019.</li> </ul>

**Stretch 6: Silverdale to Cleveleys (approx. 82km) – STAGE2: ‘DEVELOP’**

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have finalised our route options.</li> <li>• We have modified our approach to our reports in order to comply with 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 are now preparing an updated coastal access report, accompanying Habitats Regulations Assessment and Nature Conservation Assessment for this stretch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will hopefully publish by mid-2019.</li> </ul>

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**Stretch 7: Cleveleys to Pier head, Liverpool (approx. 124km) – STAGE2: ‘DEVELOP’**

<b>Current Activity</b>	<b>Next Milestone</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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 or margin along the stretch.</li><li>We will be commissioning a technical survey into a potential crossing point over the river Douglas, which will help to determine if a new bridge is feasible and within the remit of the England Coast Path programme.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Early 2019 – expect to finalise discussions on landward margin along the Sefton Coast.</li></ul>

**Stretch 8: Birkenhead to Welsh border (approx. 41km) - ) – STAGE2: ‘DEVELOP’**

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

**Further information / Contact us:**

**Coastal access website:**

[www.gov.uk/englandcoastpath](http://www.gov.uk/englandcoastpath)

**Follow us on Twitter:**

@NE Cumbria and @NENorthWest

**E-mail us at:**

[northwest.coastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:northwest.coastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk)

**Contact the team via:**

0300 060 3900

**National Trails website:**

[www.nationaltrail.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk)

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