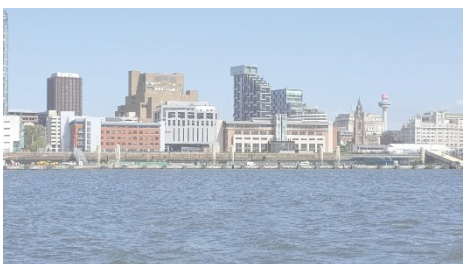


North West Coastal Access Monthly Update: February 2020



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



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

- See 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"> • Variation reports 2 and 7 have been approved by the Secretary of State. We expect Variation report 6 to be approved imminently. • Works will continue on the stretch as a whole, and will now start on the areas specifically affected by the approved Variation reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely completion date for establishment works, by the end of 2020. • 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 around the country, delayed by the implications of the ‘People over Wind case’ (see below for the Silecroft to Silverdale and Silverdale to Cleveleys stretches). • We will be 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.

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

- Essential establishment works are completed.
 - An opening event was held on Wednesday 12th February, attended by representatives of the district and county councils, and other bodies and residents who have worked with us to create the Walney section of the England Coast Path.
 - A revised road scheme must still be implemented along Carr Lane, by Cumbria Highways – but walkers are still able to follow the route along the edge of the road in this area.
- See www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path/about for updates.

Stretch 5: Silecroft to Silverdale (112km) – STAGE 4: ‘DETERMINE’

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have now completed our planning work for the trail and the coastal margin, and our proposals have been published. • 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. • Taking the above into account, we have also published a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Nature Conservation Assessment (NCA) for this stretch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We published our proposals on 8th January 2020 (delayed as a result of the general election) and representations are invited, via www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-silecroft-to-silverdale

Stretch 6: Silverdale to Cleveleys (88km)– STAGE 4: ‘DETERMINE’	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have now completed our planning work for the trail and the coastal margin, and our proposals have been published. 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. Taking the above into account, we have also published a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Nature Conservation Assessment (NCA) for this stretch. We have now received approval from DEFRA (PINS) for 2 of the 3 s38 applications submitted that would allow us to undertake certain establishment works on common land on this stretch of coast. Further discussions relating the remaining s38 application are still being held. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We published our proposals on 8th January 2020 (delayed as a result of the general election) and representations are invited via https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-silverdale-to-cleveleys

Stretch 7: Cleveleys to Pier head, Liverpool (approx. 124km) – STAGE2: ‘DEVELOP’	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have completed our planning work for this stretch and drafted our proposals. They will shortly be published. Access Authorities have provided us with estimates for the establishment of the proposals within their districts. We have commissioned Lancashire County Council to complete a technical survey into a potential crossing point over the river Douglas, to inform our proposals in that area, although the outcome will not be known prior to publication of our proposals, which will include a gap in this location Our sensitive features assessment work (HRA and NCA) for this stretch is ongoing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will shortly complete final drafting of our reports and associated HRA/NCA documentation. We aim to publish our proposals in Spring 2020.

Stretch 8: Birkenhead to Welsh border (approx. 41km) -) – STAGE2: ‘DEVELOP’	
Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have now largely completed our planning work for the trail and the coastal margin and have mostly completed the drafting of our proposals. Our sensitive features assessment work (HRA and NCA) for this stretch is ongoing. The outcome of this work may yet affect our intended proposals, which may consequently need to be revised prior to publication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will shortly complete final drafting of our reports and associated HRA/NCA documentation. We aim to publish our proposals in Spring 2020.

Get involved!

Interest is growing in the England Coast Path within the communities who will benefit most, 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 first news items.....

- Working with @The_MMO and @MacmillanKidsUK a new activity book to accompany Julia Donaldson's 'Snail and the Whale' story has recently been launched! We have a number of free copies to give away when we launch the Walney Island stretch of the England Coast Path, and you can download a free copy from this link; <https://www.panmacmillan.com/snailandthewhalecoastaladventure>.



- We held a successful launch event for the Walney Island stretch, attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Barrow, representatives of many interest groups who have worked with us to plan and create the route, and some happy children from South Walney Infants School. The opening event was hosted by West Point House, sponsors of the Walney Coast path, who offer weekend accommodation to visitors, including walkers exploring the Walney section of the England Coast Path.
- A new 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](#).

Get in touch

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