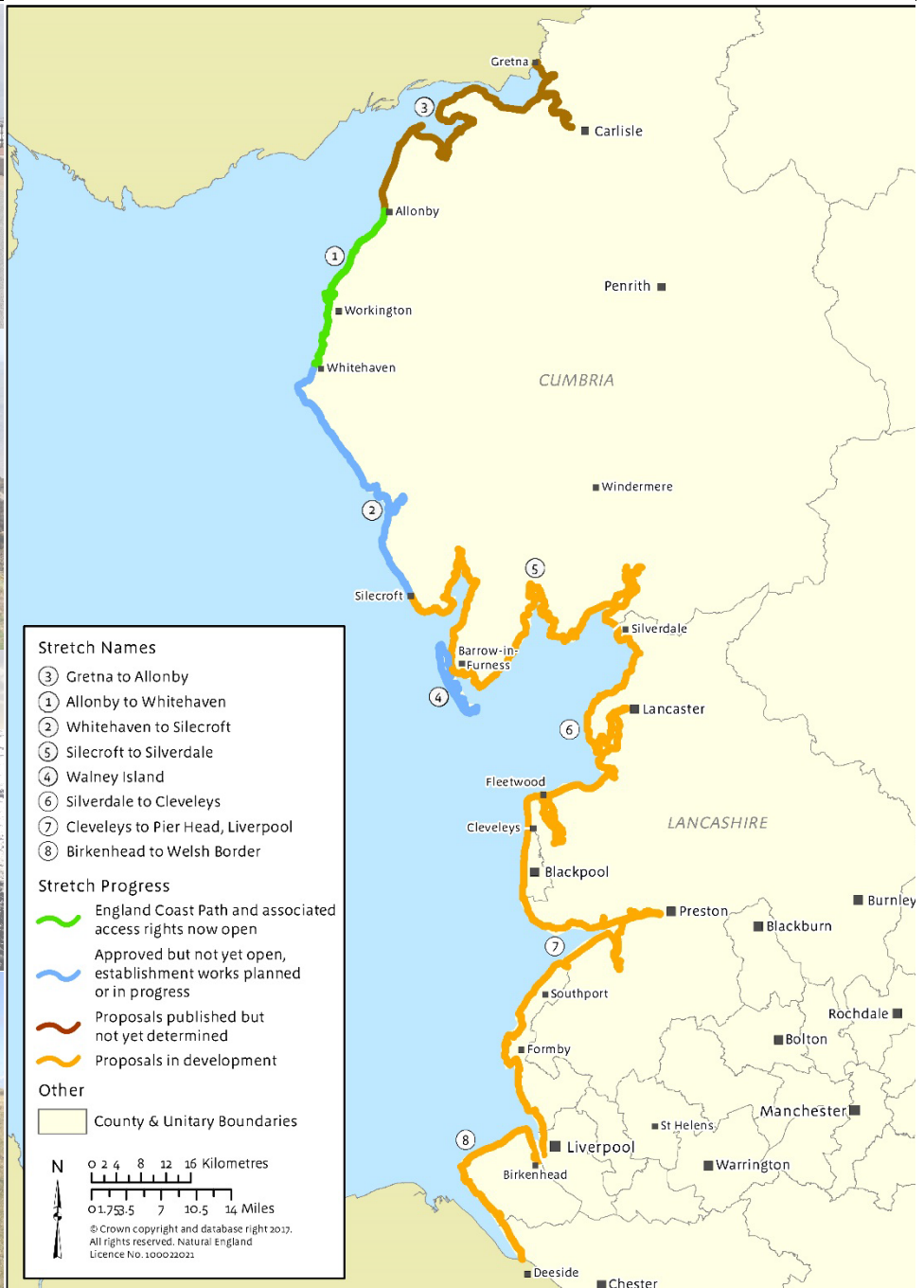


## North West Coastal Access Monthly Update: April 2019



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



**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 for those reports before undertaking the establishment works in these areas.</li> <li>• We have finalised the revised route alignment near Sellafield and at Nethertown station with stakeholders. This will be published as a variation report after the latest period of purdah.</li> <li>• We hope to see all works concluded by late 2019 or early 2020, at which point we will open the stretch without any further delay.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish Sellafield and Nethertown station variation report June.</li> <li>• Likely completion date for establishment works 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).</li> <li>• We will be checking all relevant nature conservation data has been assessed prior to receiving a decision from the Secretary of State.</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.</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.</li> <li>• We are now preparing an updated coastal access report, accompanying Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Nature Conservation Assessment (NCA) for this stretch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will publish our proposals by mid to late 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 proposals for the trail and the coastal margin etc.</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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will publish by mid to late 2019.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are now preparing an updated coastal access report, accompanying Habitats Regulations Assessment and Nature Conservation Assessment for this stretch.</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>Access Authorities are working with us to provide estimates for the establishment of the proposals within their districts.</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> <li>Our sensitive features assessment work (HRA and NCA for this stretch is ongoing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spring 2019 – expect to finalise discussions on landward margin along the Sefton Coast.</li> <li>Late 2019 - Stage 3 – ‘Propose’ – estimated report publication.</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/planning 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 work (HRA and NCA) 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:**

<p><b>Coastal access website:</b> <a href="http://www.gov.uk/englandcoastpath">www.gov.uk/englandcoastpath</a></p> <p><b>Follow us on Twitter:</b> @NE Cumbria and @NENorthWest</p> <p><b>E-mail us at:</b> <a href="mailto:northwest.coastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk">northwest.coastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>Contact the team via:</b> 0300 060 3900</p>	<p><b>National Trails website:</b> <a href="http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk">www.nationaltrail.co.uk</a></p> <p><b>For more information on National Trails:</b> search for @thenationaltrails on Facebook</p>
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