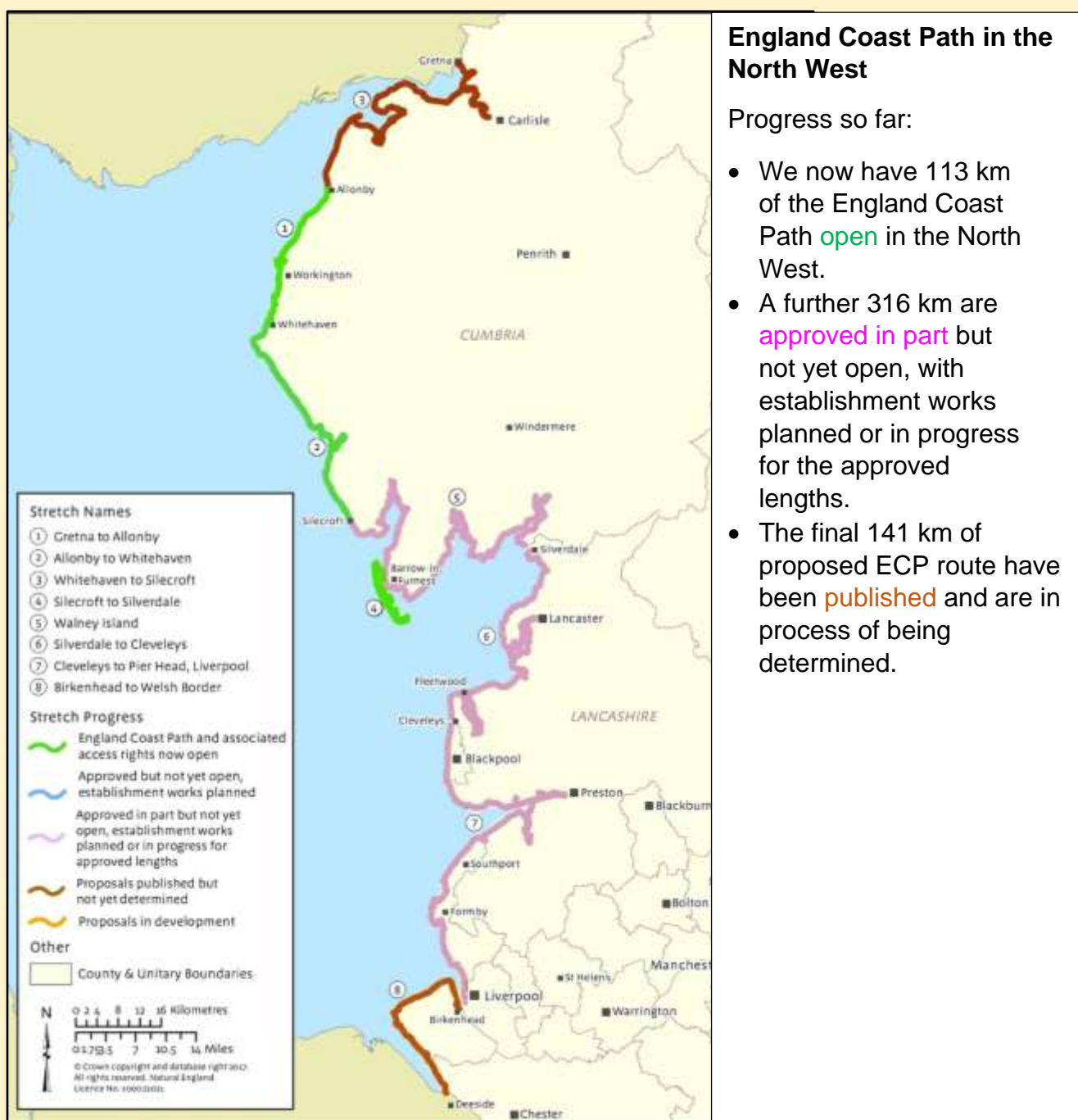




## Welcome to the latest North West Coastal Access Update 27 April 2021



### England Coast Path in the North West

Progress so far:

- We now have 113 km of the England Coast Path **open** in the North West.
- A further 316 km are **approved in part** but not yet open, with establishment works planned or in progress for the approved lengths.
- The final 141 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](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) and Natural England's operational update at [www.gov.uk/government/news/operational-update-covid-19](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/operational-update-covid-19)

## Gretna to Allonby (100 km) – proposals published

### Current Activity

- A hearing took place in early December 2017. The determination process for this stretch was, like 14 others around the country, delayed by the implications of the 'People over Wind' case. However, as required, we have now updated the Habitats Regulations Assessment for our original proposals, which will be published shortly. We might then expect a decision on each report in the Gretna to Allonby stretch from the Secretary of State.

### Next Milestone

- 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](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path/about) for updates. 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](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-nw/contact-trail)

## Whitehaven to Silecroft (49km) – England Coast Path open

Due to the COVID restrictions, we had a 'soft' launch of the new coastal access rights today (31<sup>st</sup> March), with the intention of holding a more celebratory event & press launch when those restrictions have been lifted.

Variation report VR9 (relating to the coast immediately south of the Calder viaduct) is now awaiting approval from the Secretary of State. If approved, this would allow the route to roll back in response to coastal erosion that is becoming increasingly severe in the area.

See [www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path/about](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path/about) for updates.



## Walney Island (26km) – England Coast Path open

See [www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path/about](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path/about) for updates. 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](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path-nw/contact-trail)



## Silecroft to Silverdale (112 km) - approved in part

<b>Current Activity</b>	<b>Next Milestone</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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: <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-silecroft-to-silverdale-comment-on-proposals">www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-silecroft-to-silverdale-comment-on-proposals</a></li> <li>• We have collated these responses and forwarded them to PINS and the Secretary of State for consideration.</li> <li>• The Secretary of State has approved one of the six reports so far:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Report 1 (Silecroft to Green Road Station)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cumbria County Council will shortly commence establishment work on this part of the stretch. Access rights will commence once all establishment work is completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary of State will consider the remaining objections and representations submitted in relation to Reports 2 – 6 before deciding on whether to approve each individual report with or without modifications.</li> <li>• Access rights will commence once all establishment work is completed.</li> </ul>

## Silverdale to Cleveleys (87.6 km) - approved in part

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have collated the responses to our reports and forwarded them to PINS and the Secretary of State for consideration.</li> <li>• The Secretary of State has approved three of the six reports so far:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Report 2 (Wild Duck Hall, Bolton-le-Sands to Ocean Edge Caravan Park, Heysham),</li> <li>○ Report 4 (Carlisle Bridge, Lancaster to Glasson Dock Swing Bridge) and</li> <li>○ Report 6 (Fluke Hall Lane car park, Pilling to South Promenade, Cleveleys).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lancashire County Council will shortly commence establishment work on these parts of the stretch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary of State will consider the remaining objections and representations submitted in relation to Reports 1, 3 and 5 before deciding on whether to approve each individual report with or without modifications.</li> <li>• Access rights will commence once all establishment work is completed.</li> </ul>



## Cleveleys to Pier Head, Liverpool (116.5 km) – proposals published

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The period for making objections and representations for the published proposals for this stretch closed on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020. To see the proposals go to: <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-cleveleys-to-pier-head-liverpool-comment-on-proposals">www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-cleveleys-to-pier-head-liverpool-comment-on-proposals</a></li> <li>• We have collated these responses and forwarded them to PINS and the Secretary of State for consideration.</li> <li>• The Secretary of State has approved one of the six reports so far:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Report 5 (Southport beach car park to Cabin Hill NNR)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council will shortly commence establishment work on these parts of the stretch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary of State will consider the objections and representations submitted in relations to Reports 1 – 4 and 6 before deciding on whether to approve each individual report with or without modifications.</li> <li>• Access rights will commence once all establishment work is completed.</li> </ul>

## Birkenhead to Welsh border (41 km) – proposals published

Current Activity	Next Milestone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The period for making objections and representations for the published proposals for this stretch closed on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021. To see the proposals go to: <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-birkenhead-to-the-welsh-border-comment-on-proposals">www.gov.uk/government/publications/england-coast-path-from-birkenhead-to-the-welsh-border-comment-on-proposals</a></li><li>• We have collated these responses and forwarded them to PINS and the Secretary of State for consideration.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secretary of State will consider the objections and representations submitted in relation to each stretch before deciding on whether to approve each individual report with or without modifications.</li><li>• Once any report has been approved, Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council &amp; Cheshire West and Chester Council will begin work to establish the path.</li></ul>



### ***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.....**

- The Countryside Code was updated in time for Easter, you can see the new information at [www.gov.uk/countryside-code](http://www.gov.uk/countryside-code). We are also pleased to be able to share Natural England and Defra's [Countryside Code Refresh Partner Toolkit](#) in Dropbox. Please save this link as new content will be added in the upcoming weeks. For anyone unable to access the toolkit, please refer to the following WeTransfer [downloadable link](#). The toolkit is for you to use in your communications, digitally and to print, and to share on your social media channels. We encourage you to adapt this to suit your own audience needs, using the Code as the starting point for conversations and engagement.

Please do contact us at [countryside.code@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:countryside.code@naturalengland.org.uk) with any issues.

- 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-](http://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](#).

- 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](#).
- 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](http://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](http://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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**National Trails website:**

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

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