

**COASTAL ACCESS
WHITEHAVEN TO SILECROFT**

Programme	Coastal Access
Proposal Title	Whitehaven to Silecroft
Aim and location	Access and sensitive features appraisal for Whitehaven to Silecroft including Drigg Dunes SAC and several other designated sites
Report Status	Final
Date	30th September 2014
TRIM Reference	55/NWT/WAL/006/0003-000001
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Site Responsible Officer	Kate Doughty / Nicola Evans

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STAGE 1 – INFORMATION GATHERING ABOUT THE SITES & IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIALLY VULNERABLE HABITATS/SPECIES

Basic Site Information								
Designated site name: DRIGG COAST (<i>Site code: UK0013031</i>)								
Designation type (please tick <i>one</i> only)	SPA		SAC	✓	Ramsar		SSSI	✓
Site Conservation Objectives¹: BIOLOGICAL								
<p>The Drigg Coast comprises almost 11km of coastline and associated estuarine habitat. It is one of the most natural and undeveloped estuary systems in England. An extremely diverse range of vegetation types, including shingle, sand dune, dune-slack, dune grassland, dune heath and salt-marsh communities are represented, and several nationally scarce plant species occur. This SSSI features the most extensive dune system in Cumbria and incorporates the largest area of dune heath on the English and Welsh coasts.</p> <p>The site also supports the rare <i>Salix repens</i> dune-slack community and one of the largest natterjack toad colonies in England, as well as populations of all four common amphibians and the warty or great-crested newt, Adder, common lizard and slow worm. The site is also of considerable entomological interest - it supports an outstanding assemblage of dragonflies and damselflies, and populations of the small pearl-bordered and dark green fritillary butterflies, the latter of which is experiencing regional decline. A good assemblage of birds has been recorded and over 1% of the British wintering population of ringed plover are found here.</p> <p><u>Key features of the site are:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Estuaries ➤ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats ➤ Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand ➤ Atlantic salt meadows ➤ Embryonic shifting dunes ➤ Shifting dunes with marram ➤ Dune grassland ➤ Coastal dune heathland ➤ Dunes with creeping willow ➤ Humid dune slacks 								

¹ The current Conservation Objectives and notified species or habitats for the European Site(s) are available at www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/conservationobjectives.aspx and SSSI information available through intranet at: <http://tenis:8008/special/sssi/SSSIcountyselection.cfm>

Qualifying or notified features⁵:

Amphibian assemblages; Natterjack toad; Dragonfly & Damselfly assemblage; Vascular plants; assemblages of breeding birds; Coastal Saltmarsh (& Swamp); Sand dune with shingle, Slacks & Strandline; Sand dune With heath shingle, Slacks & Strandline; Sand dune with heath; Dune heath

Highlight any site condition issues, relevant to access:

A large area of the Drigg Coast SAC has already been designated as CROW access land. Other parts of the dunes to the north of Shore Road and the foreshore, and the mudflats close to Ravenglass already has de facto access. Several walked routes are found in the dune grassland on the northern part of the site (to the north of the car park at Shore Road) although access to Drigg Dunes and Gullery Local Nature Reserve is less well visited. There are some PROW running through the SAC and the Sustrans Cycleway 72 passes close to the SAC at Ravenglass. The area of the CROW access land has never had any specific exclusions or restrictions for nature conservation purposes.

The Eskmeals Local Wildlife Site is located on the south side of the River Esk and is included within the SAC. The site is owned by MoD but managed by Cumbria Wildlife Trust who operate an all year round 'dogs under close control'. The site is promoted by the CWT although permission is normally required from the nearby Eskmeals Firing Range office. The site is accessed via a PROW that runs along the edge of the southern bank of the River Esk. Access to the site is not permitted when the firing range is in operation.

Please identify any of the qualifying or notified habitats or species that are *likely/potentially vulnerable to access pressure*², and describe their vulnerability, occurrence and location.

Intertidal Mudflats and Sandflats, Coastal Saltmarsh & Swamp: The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that these features can be vulnerable to damage and disturbance as can the associated roosting and wintering birds.

Vegetated Shingle and Strandline: These features can be sensitive to trampling and roosting, breeding and feeding birds on them are also sensitive to disturbance. The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that these features are vulnerable to damage.

Sand Dune: The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act Open indicates that these features and associated species is vulnerable to access pressure. There is potential direct risk to vegetation in areas of establishing and fixed dunes, also risk of indirect effects such as disturbance of grazing animals particularly rabbits or livestock being used as conservation grazers. Nutrifaction from dogs is also an issue as is disturbance to breeding birds and amphibians. The significance of the impacts of access will be related to the sensitivity of the habitats and species, and the level and pattern of visitor use which might develop.

Breeding, wintering and roosting birds: (*The Drigg SAC holds >1% British wintering population of Ringed Plover*): The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that wintering and

² See the list of 'Category A' species in Annex 3.

breeding birds are vulnerable to access pressure. The main concerns focus on the impact of disturbance, caused by walkers, walkers with dogs to vulnerable concentrations of various types of birds on the site.

Amphibian assemblages, Great Crested Newt and Natterjack toad: The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that this feature and associated species are vulnerable to access pressure. Sites with access routes close to key breeding sites, basking areas or foraging areas for natterjack toad may be vulnerable to access. Pools used by breeding natterjacks are typically shallow, often temporary pools in dune systems or heathland. There is evidence that dogs swimming in such sites can have an impact. Dogs accessing water-edge habitats is an issue of concern, causing suffocation of spawn by siltation and a risk of spreading disease from one breeding pool to the next.

Please identify any legally protected species³, where access proposals would pose a significant risk of disturbance or damage, and give details of vulnerability, occurrence and location:

Adder and Common Lizard: These can be found within the sand dunes. Overall, reptile and amphibian populations are likely to be robust to direct impacts arising from access. Trampling, collecting, and disturbance in moderate levels would probably not have a major negative impact on the majority of populations (although it would be illegal intentionally to kill, injure or take any of the Schedule 5 species)

Please identify any un-notified habitats of species that are *potentially vulnerable to access pressure*⁵ and describe their occurrence, vulnerability and location:

None noted

Basic Site Information

Designated site name: ST BEES HEAD

Designation type (please tick <i>one</i> only)	SPA		SAC		Ramsar		SSSI	✓
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Site Conservation Objectives⁴: MIXED BIOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL

St Bees Head comprises an 8km stretch of coastline that encompasses cliff-tops, hard and soft cliff-faces and the shore down to the low-water mark. The site features a range of habitats, including maritime grassland, maritime heath, cliff ledge vegetation, sheer cliff-face, shingle and wave-cut platform.

³ Under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, Protection of Badgers Act 1992)Natural England’s Protected Species [here](#)

⁴ The current Conservation Objectives and notified species or habitats for the European Site(s)are available at www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/conservationobjectives.aspx and SSSI information available through intranet at: <http://tenis:8008/special/sssi/SSSIcountyselection.cfm>

The outstanding interest of the site is as an important breeding site for a variety of sea birds, and many nationally and internationally protected species are found here. Over 2000 pairs of guillemots nest in the cliffs, and St Bees Head provides the only nesting site in England for black guillemots. The SSSI is also of high entomological interest - in addition to 16 nationally scarce species, the dark bush-cricket is found here at its northern limit, and the locally important speckled bush-cricket and dark green fritillary butterfly have also been recorded. Records for marine invertebrates include the regionally important species, *Armadillidium vulgare* and *Sabellaria alveolata*. A diverse flora features two nationally scarce species as well as regionally important species, such as dyer's greenweed, bloody crane's bill, and wood vetch.

Qualifying or notified features⁵:

Isolated Bird Colonies: Black Guillemot, Fulmar, Guillemot, Puffin, Razorbill, Shag, Kittiwake

Hard Maritime Cliff and Slope: Maritime grassland, maritime therophyte vegetation, rock-crevice and cliff-ledge vegetation

Maritime and sub-maritime heath: Lowland dry heathland)

Soft maritime cliff and slope

Coastal Cliffs & foreshore: geological

Highlight any site condition issues, relevant to access: The SSSI is currently in favourable condition

Please identify any of the qualifying or notified habitats or species that are likely / potentially vulnerable to access pressure⁵, and describe their vulnerability, occurrence and location.

Isolated Bird Colonies : All the breeding birds identified for this SSSI are potentially vulnerable to access. The key species found at this site are:

- Black Guillemot – amber listed
- Guillemot – amber listed
- Fulmar – amber listed
- Razorbill – amber listed
- Puffin – amber listed
- Shag - annex 1 to EU Birds Directive, amber listed

The main concerns focus on the impact of disturbance, caused by walkers, walkers with dogs and climbers, to vulnerable concentrations of various types of sea birds on the site. In most cases the birds tend to nest and roost on the cliffs at St. Bees. The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a statutory right of access developed for the CROW Act cites the following.

Soft maritime cliff and slope and Hard maritime cliff and slope: Trampling, stabilisation of the coast, scrambling and rock climbing may cause erosion and vegetation damage.

⁵ See the list of 'Category A' species in Annex 3.

Maritime and sub-maritime heath: There is a small amount of fragmented heath present which may be vulnerable to access pressure from walking, scrambling or climbing.

Coastal Cliffs & foreshore (geological): Such sites are not considered vulnerable to access pressure. The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that in the majority of cases, current access pressures on Earth Heritage sites cause few problems.

Please identify any legally protected species⁶, where access proposals would pose a significant risk of disturbance or damage, and give details of vulnerability, occurrence and location:

None noted - Although Peregrines (Schedule 1 and Amber listed) are sometimes present and can be sensitive to disturbance close to a nest and vulnerable to climbing activities in particular. The current access arrangements and climbing on the cliffs is already well managed by RSPB and BMC and these existing levels & patterns of access are unlikely to change as a result of introduction of coastal access.

Please identify any un-notified habitats of species that are *potentially vulnerable to access pressure*⁵ and describe their occurrence, vulnerability and location:

Sabellaria Reef is present along this stretch of coast and could be vulnerable to trampling. The honeycomb worm *Sabellaria alveolata* forms intertidal reefs in the SACs of Morecambe Bay and the Solway Firth. The worms live in tubes that they build from sand or fine gravel which may stand proud from the sediment surface. When they occur in very large numbers, the tubes clump together and form mounds which become solid structures which arise from the seabed - a reef.

Basic Site Information

Designated site name: **SILVER TARN, HOLLAS AND HARNSEY MOSSES**

Designation type (please tick <i>one</i> only)	SPA		SAC		Ramsar		SSSI	✓
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Site Conservation Objectives⁷: BIOLOGICAL

The site consists of 3 kettlehole tarns showing typical stages in the development of kettlehole vegetation. Harnsey Tarn represent the open water stage with pondweeds, water foot and common water-starwort. Silver Tarn is characterised by acid poor-fen and consists of two hollows on which mire has developed, the eastern moss being "schwinghamoor" whilst the western moss is firmer.

⁶ Under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, Protection of Badgers Act 1992) Natural England's Protected Species [here](#)

⁷ The current Conservation Objectives and notified species or habitats for the European Site(s) are available at www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/conservationobjectives.aspx and SSSI information available through intranet at: <http://tenis:8008/special/sssi/SSSIcountyselection.cfm>

Bog mosses dominate forming mossy lawns in which sedges are prominent. Heather, cranberry and crossed-leaved heath occur in drier and more acidic areas. Flush communities are frequent, particularly along the edges of Silver Tarn. Hollas Moss represents a transitional basin fen stage with both acid poor-fen and raised bog communities. Bog mosses are again dominant though heather, cranberry and cross-leaved heath become locally dominant towards the middles of the moss. Acidic poor-fen occurs at the margin with bottle sedge and common cottongrass prominent. Carr woodland, mainly grey willow with downy birch occurs at the fringe of the open mire communities. Other communities present at the site include tall fen/emergent vegetation, inundation and marshy grassland.

Qualifying or notified features⁵:

Standing Open Water and canals; Fen Marsh & Swamp; Bogs raised mire

Highlight any site condition issues, relevant to access:

None noted

Please identify any of the qualifying or notified habitats or species that are *likely / potentially vulnerable to access pressure*⁸, and describe their vulnerability, occurrence and location.

Standing Open Water and canals, Fen Marsh & Swamp, Bogs raised mire, Kettle hole vegetation: The site comprises tarns each of which has different forms of vegetation. Any increase in use may lead to trampling damage of the water's edge vegetation.

Please identify any legally protected species⁹, where access proposals would pose a significant risk of disturbance or damage, and give details of vulnerability, occurrence and location:

None noted

Please identify any un-notified habitats of species that are *potentially vulnerable to access pressure*⁵ and describe their occurrence, vulnerability and location:

All the habitats related to this SSSI could be vulnerable to access pressure according to the guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a statutory right of access (developed for the CROW Act).

Standing Open Water and canals

- Water's edge vegetation in wet soils is sensitive to trampling damage.
- Drier ground specialist plants are replaced by common pasture species.
- Reed and reed sweet-grass are very susceptible to trampling.
- No relevant research is available on water's edge invertebrates or fish.

⁸ See the list of 'Category A' species in Annex 3.

⁹ Under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, Protection of Badgers Act 1992) Natural England's Protected Species [here](#)

Fen Marsh & Swamp

- Tall grass fen on wet soils are more susceptible to trampling than tough-leaved sedges on drier mineral soils.
- Species-rich fen on wet peat is very sensitive to trampling damage.
- Some trampling can break down dominance and open the sward up to other species.

Bogs raised mire

- Sphagna dominated areas are also very susceptible to damage along with the hummock and pool patterning.

Basic Site InformationDesignated site name: **ANNASIDE**Designation type (please tick *one* only)

SPA

SAC

Ramsar

SSSI

Site Conservation Objectives¹⁰: BIOLOGICAL

Annaside is one link in the chain of nationally important natterjack toad colonies on the west coast of Cumbria. The site lies 3km west of Bootle and midway between the larger natterjack toad colonies at Drigg to the north and Harnsey to the south.

The site comprises a narrow strip of land bounded by the sea on its western margin and rising ground to the east. The vegetation shows a transition from coastal shingle and sand dunes through to dune grassland and semi-improved grassland further inland. Within the grasslands are a series of shallow pools used as the breeding ground for upwards of fifty adult toads, whilst the surrounding land provides important terrestrial habitat for foraging and winter hibernation. The river Annas runs through the site.

Qualifying or notified features⁵:

Coastal Grassland & ponds
Natterjack toads

Highlight any site condition issues, relevant to access:**None noted**

¹⁰ The current Conservation Objectives and notified species or habitats for the European Site(s) are available at www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/conservationobjectives.aspx and SSSI information available through intranet at: <http://tenis:8008/special/sssi/SSSIcountyselection.cfm>

Please identify any of the qualifying or notified habitats or species that are *likely / potentially vulnerable to access pressure*¹¹, and describe their vulnerability, occurrence and location.

Natterjack Toads: The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that this feature and associated species are vulnerable to access pressure. Sites with access routes close to key breeding sites, basking areas or foraging areas for natterjack toad may be vulnerable to access. Pools used by breeding natterjacks are typically shallow, often temporary pools in dune systems or heathland. There is evidence that dogs swimming in such sites can have an impact. Dogs accessing water-edge habitats is an issue of concern, causing suffocation of spawn by siltation and a risk of spreading disease from one breeding pool to the next.

Please identify any legally protected species¹², where access proposals would pose a significant risk of disturbance or damage, and give details of vulnerability, occurrence and location:

See above

Please identify any un-notified habitats of species that are *potentially vulnerable to access pressure*⁵ and describe their occurrence, vulnerability and location:

The habitats listed below are also important because they are supporting habitats for natterjack toads

Sand Dune: The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that this feature and associated species is vulnerable to access pressure.

Direct risk to vegetation in areas of establishing and fixed dunes, also risk of indirect effects such as disturbance of grazing animals particularly rabbits or livestock being used as conservation grazers. Nutrifcation from dogs is also an issue as is disturbance to breeding birds and amphibians. Also low level trampling impact on invertebrates can be severe in rank dune grassland.

Vegetated Shingle and Strandline: These features can be sensitive to trampling and roosting, breeding and feeding birds on them are sensitive to disturbance.

Basic Site Information

Designated site name: **ANNASIDE AND GUTTERBY BANKS**

Designation type (please tick <i>one</i> only)	SPA		SAC		Ramsar		SSSI	✓
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¹¹ See the list of 'Category A' species in Annex 3.

¹² Under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, Protection of Badgers Act 1992)Natural England's Protected Species [here](#)

Site Conservation Objectives¹³: GEOLOGICAL (coastal cliffs and foreshore)
Qualifying or notified features⁵: Coastal cliffs and foreshore
Highlight any site condition issues, relevant to access:
None noted (nb Cliff habitats, by their very nature, receive little access pressure compared to the other coastal habitats, and these pressures tend to be either on the cliff-top habitats or at the base of the cliffs).
Please identify any of the qualifying or notified habitats or species that are <i>likely / potentially vulnerable to access pressure</i>¹⁴, and describe their vulnerability, occurrence and location.
None noted
Please identify any legally protected species¹⁵, where access proposals would pose a significant risk of disturbance or damage, and give details of vulnerability, occurrence and location:
Natterjack Toads: Likely to be present and would be vulnerable to access pressure. The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the Nature Conservation implications of a statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that this feature and associated species are vulnerable to access pressure.
Sites with access routes close to key breeding sites, basking areas or foraging areas for natterjack toad may be vulnerable to access. Pools used by breeding natterjacks are typically shallow, often temporary pools in dune systems or heathland. There is evidence that dogs swimming in such sites can have an impact. Dogs accessing water-edge habitats is an issue of concern, causing suffocation of spawn by siltation and a risk of spreading disease from one breeding pool to the next.

¹³ The current Conservation Objectives and notified species or habitats for the European Site(s) are available at www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/conservationobjectives.aspx and SSSI information available through intranet at: <http://tenis:8008/special/ssi/SSSIcountyselection.cfm>

¹⁴ See the list of 'Category A' species in Annex 3.

¹⁵ Under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, Protection of Badgers Act 1992) Natural England's Protected Species [here](#)

Please identify any un-notified habitats of species that are *potentially vulnerable to access pressure*⁵ and describe their occurrence, vulnerability and location:

Breeding, wintering and roosting birds: The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the Nature Conservation implications of a statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that that wintering and breeding *birds* are vulnerable to access pressure.

The main concerns focus on the impact of disturbance, caused by walkers, walkers with dogs to vulnerable concentrations of various types of birds on the site. Responses to disturbance may vary depending on the species, time of year, habitat, previous exposure to disturbance (with some birds becoming habituated.) Disturbance may cause birds to waste too much energy which may have significant effect on their overall fitness. Disturbance, including nest trampling, to breeding birds may lead to a decrease in bird numbers

Basic Site Information

Designated site name: SUMMER HILL LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

Site Conservation Objectives¹⁶: n/a

Qualifying or notified features⁵:

A coastal area of shingle bank, heath, ponds and a stream. Species include biting stonecrop, buckshorn plantain, frosted orache and ragged robin. The ponds include bogbean, marsh cinquefoil, lesser marshwort and marsh St. John's-wort.

Highlight any site condition issues, relevant to access:

None Noted

Please identify any of the qualifying or notified habitats or species that are *likely / potentially vulnerable to access pressure*¹⁷, and describe their vulnerability, occurrence and location.

None noted

¹⁶ The current Conservation Objectives and notified species or habitats for the European Site(s) are available at www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/conservationobjectives.aspx and SSSI information available through intranet at: <http://tenis:8008/special/ssi/SSSIcountyselection.cfm>

¹⁷ See the list of 'Category A' species in Annex 3.

Please identify any legally protected species¹⁸, where access proposals would pose a significant risk of disturbance or damage, and give details of vulnerability, occurrence and location:

None noted

Please identify any un-notified habitats of species that are *potentially vulnerable to access pressure*⁵ and describe their occurrence, vulnerability and location:

Shingle: Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the Nature Conservation implications of a statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that this feature may be vulnerable to damage.

Heath: Guidance indicates that heath habitats may be vulnerable to access pressure from trampling.

Natterjack Toads: Guidance indicates that this feature and associated species are vulnerable to access pressure. Sites with access routes close to key breeding sites, basking areas or foraging areas for natterjack toad may be vulnerable to access. Pools used by breeding natterjacks are typically shallow, often temporary pools in dune systems or heathland. There is evidence that dogs swimming in such sites can have an impact. Dogs accessing water-edge habitats is an issue of concern, causing suffocation of spawn by siltation and a risk of spreading disease from one breeding pool to the next.

Basic Site Information

Designated site name: GUTTERBY TARN LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

Site Conservation Objectives¹⁹: n/a

Qualifying or notified features⁵:

The tarn is now completely in filled with emergent vegetation including yellow flag, reed canary grass and reedmace. The site is also noted for natterjack toads.

Highlight any site condition issues, relevant to access:

None noted

Please identify any of the qualifying or notified habitats or species that are *likely / potentially vulnerable to access pressure*²⁰, and describe their vulnerability, occurrence and location.

¹⁸ Under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, Protection of Badgers Act 1992) Natural England's Protected Species [here](#)

¹⁹ The current Conservation Objectives and notified species or habitats for the European Site(s) are available at www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/conservationobjectives.aspx and SSSI information available through intranet at: <http://tenis:8008/special/sssi/SSSIcountyselection.cfm>

²⁰ See the list of 'Category A' species in Annex 3.

Natterjack Toads: Guidance indicates that this feature and associated species are vulnerable to access pressure. Sites with access routes close to key breeding sites, basking areas or foraging areas for natterjack toad may be vulnerable to access. Pools used by breeding natterjacks are typically shallow, often temporary pools in dune systems or heathland. There is evidence that dogs swimming in such sites can have an impact. Dogs accessing water-edge habitats is an issue of concern, causing suffocation of spawn by siltation and a risk of spreading disease from one breeding pool to the next.

Emergent vegetation: Sensitive to any trampling along with any water's edge vegetation in wet soils. Reed and reed sweet-grass are particularly susceptible to trampling.

Please identify any legally protected species²¹, where access proposals would pose a significant risk of disturbance or damage, and give details of vulnerability, occurrence and location:

See above

Please identify any un-notified habitats of species that are *potentially vulnerable to access pressure*⁵ and describe their occurrence, vulnerability and location:

None noted

Basic Site Information

Designated site name: **LITTLE ANNASIDE POND LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE**

Site Conservation Objectives²²: Breeding site for natterjack toads

Qualifying or notified features⁵: Breeding site for natterjack toads

Highlight any site condition issues, relevant to access:

None noted

²¹ Under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, Protection of Badgers Act 1992) Natural England's Protected Species [here](#)

²² The current Conservation Objectives and notified species or habitats for the European Site(s) are available at www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/conservationobjectives.aspx and SSSI information available through intranet at: <http://tenis:8008/special/sssi/SSSIcountyselection.cfm>

Please identify any of the qualifying or notified habitats or species that are *likely / potentially vulnerable to access pressure*²³, and describe their vulnerability, occurrence and location.

Natterjack Toads: Guidance indicates that this feature and associated species are vulnerable to access pressure. Sites with access routes close to key breeding sites, basking areas or foraging areas for natterjack toad may be vulnerable to access. Pools used by breeding natterjacks are typically shallow, often temporary pools in dune systems or heathland. There is evidence that dogs swimming in such sites can have an impact. Dogs accessing water-edge habitats is an issue of concern, causing suffocation of spawn by siltation and a risk of spreading disease from one breeding pool to the next.

Please identify any legally protected species²⁴, where access proposals would pose a significant risk of disturbance or damage, and give details of vulnerability, occurrence and location:

See above

Please identify any un-notified habitats of species that are *potentially vulnerable to access pressure*⁵ and describe their occurrence, vulnerability and location:

None noted

Basic Site Information

Designated site name: **ESKMEALS LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE**

Site Conservation Objectives²⁵: n/a

Qualifying or notified features⁵:

A large area of coastal habitats adjacent to the Drigg Coast SSSI. The site contains lichen heath, dune slack, shingle, wet heath and open water habitats. The site supports notable species such as northern marsh orchid.

Highlight any site condition issues, relevant to access:

The site is owned by the MoD and is covered by MOD byelaws – this means that coastal access rights would not apply over the site.

²³ See the list of 'Category A' species in Annex 3.

²⁴ Under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, Protection of Badgers Act 1992) Natural England's Protected Species [here](#)

²⁵ The current Conservation Objectives and notified species or habitats for the European Site(s) are available at www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/conservationobjectives.aspx and SSSI information available through intranet at: <http://tenis:8008/special/sssi/SSSIcountyselection.cfm>

Please identify any of the qualifying or notified habitats or species that are *likely / potentially vulnerable to access pressure*²⁶, and describe their vulnerability, occurrence and location.

See below

Please identify any legally protected species²⁷, where access proposals would pose a significant risk of disturbance or damage, and give details of vulnerability, occurrence and location:

Breeding, wintering and roosting birds: The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a Statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that wintering and breeding birds are vulnerable to access pressure.

The main concerns focus on the impact of disturbance, caused by walkers, walkers with dogs to vulnerable concentrations of various types of birds on the site. Responses to disturbance may vary depending on the species, time of year, habitat, previous exposure to disturbance (with some birds becoming habituated.) Disturbance may cause birds to waste too much energy which may have significant effect on their overall fitness. Disturbance, including nest trampling, to breeding birds may lead to a decrease in bird numbers.

Natterjack Toads: Guidance indicates that this feature and associated species are vulnerable to access pressure. Sites with access routes close to key breeding sites, basking areas or foraging areas for natterjack toad may be vulnerable to access. Pools used by breeding natterjacks are typically shallow, often temporary pools in dune systems or heathland. There is evidence that dogs swimming in such sites can have an impact. Dogs accessing water-edge habitats is an issue of concern, causing suffocation of spawn by siltation and a risk of spreading disease from one breeding pool to the next.

Please identify any un-notified habitats of species that are *potentially vulnerable to access pressure*⁵ and describe their occurrence, vulnerability and location:

Shingle: The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that these features are vulnerable to damage.

Sand dune and open water: The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a Statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that these features and associated species is vulnerable to access pressure. Direct risk to vegetation in areas of establishing and fixed dunes, also risk of indirect effects such as disturbance of grazing animals particularly rabbits or livestock being used as conservation grazers. Nutrifcation from dogs is also an issue as is disturbance to breeding birds and amphibians.

Basic Site Information

²⁶ See the list of 'Category A' species in Annex 3.

²⁷ Under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, Protection of Badgers Act 1992)Natural England's Protected Species [here](#)

Designated site name: SEASCALE DUNES AND FORESHORE LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE
Site Conservation Objectives²⁸: n/a
Qualifying or notified features⁵: The foreshore has prickly saltwort, sea rocket, sea sandwort, sea holly and oraches, while the dunes have curled dock, sand sedge, sea mayweed, sea bind weed, sea spurge, bloody cranesbill and tufted vetch. In the wetter areas, sea clubmoss can also be found.
Highlight any site condition issues, relevant to access: None noted
Please identify any of the qualifying or notified habitats or species that are <i>likely / potentially vulnerable to access pressure</i>²⁹, and describe their vulnerability, occurrence and location. Vegetated Shingle and Strandline: The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a Statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that these features are vulnerable to damage, and roosting, breeding and feeding birds in these areas are also sensitive to disturbance. Sand Dune: The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a statutory right of access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that this feature and associated species is vulnerable to access pressure. Direct risk to vegetation in areas of establishing and fixed dunes, also risk of indirect effects such as disturbance of grazing animals particularly rabbits or livestock being used as conservation grazers. Nutrification from dogs is also an issue as is disturbance to breeding birds and amphibians.
Please identify any legally protected species³⁰, where access proposals would pose a significant risk of disturbance or damage, and give details of vulnerability, occurrence and location: None noted

²⁸ The current Conservation Objectives and notified species or habitats for the European Site(s) are available at www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/conservationobjectives.aspx and SSSI information available through intranet at: <http://tenis:8008/special/ssi/SSSIcountyselection.cfm>

²⁹ See the list of 'Category A' species in Annex 3.

³⁰ Under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, Protection of Badgers Act 1992) Natural England's Protected Species [here](#)

Please identify any un-notified habitats of species that are *potentially vulnerable to access pressure*⁵ and describe their occurrence, vulnerability and location:

None noted

Basic Site Information

Designated site name: CUMBRIA COAST MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE (MCZ)

Site Conservation Objectives³¹: n/a

Qualifying or notified features⁵:

The Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone is an inshore site that stretches for approximate 27km along the coast from south of Whitehaven to the mouth of Ravenglass. The designation partially overlaps Drigg Coast SAC SSSI and St Bees Head SSSI. Specific features include Intertidal Biogenic Reefs, Intertidal sand and muddy sand, High energy intertidal rock, Moderate energy infralittoral rock, Honeycomb worm (Sabellaria aveolata reefs), Intertidal underboulder communities, Peat and clay exposures

Highlight any site condition issues, relevant to access:

None noted

Please identify any legally protected species³², where access proposals would pose a significant risk of disturbance or damage, and give details of vulnerability, occurrence and location:

None noted

Please identify any un-notified habitats of species that are *potentially vulnerable to access pressure*⁵ and describe their occurrence, vulnerability and location:

Intertidal Biogenic Reefs, Honeycomb worm (Sabellaria alveolata) reefs, Intertidal underboulder communities: Sensitive species occurring in the intertidal zone may be potentially vulnerable to access pressure from trampling and collecting. On the lower shores at St Bees Head , Barn Scar and Kokoarras Rocks are thriving communities of sponges, sea squirts, barnacles, tube worms, crabs and lobsters develop on and under the boulders. These in turn support other species,

³¹ The current Conservation Objectives and notified species or habitats for the European Site(s) are available at www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/conservationobjectives.aspx and SSSI information available through intranet at: <http://tenis:8008/special/ssi/SSSIcountyselection.cfm>

³² Under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, Protection of Badgers Act 1992) Natural England's Protected Species [here](#)

such as sea slugs that feed on the encrusting sponges.

South of St Bees Headland, the rocky scars are interspersed with extensive areas of sandy beach. The fine sands are dominated by polychaete worms, such as lugworm, identifiable by their distinctive casts on the sediment surface, and small crustaceans. Towards the lower shore, the sandy habitats also support burrowing sea urchins. On the upper shore, the sands give way to coarse sediments and shingle. The peat exposures provide habitat which piddocks, a type of bivalve mollusc, and other species can burrow into.

The intertidal honeycomb worm reefs are formed from the closely packed sand tubes constructed by these colonial worms. Reefs are mainly found on the bottom third of the shore, but may reach mean high water of neap tides and extend into the shallow subtidal in places. The reef structures resemble honeycomb and can extend for tens of metres across and up to a metre deep. The reefs provide habitats for a wide range of other animals including anemones, snails, shore crabs and seaweeds. They can be up to 30 or even 50cm thick and take the form of hummocks, sheets or more massive formations. At St Bees Head honeycomb worm colonies develop on vertical rock faces up to 2m off the ground, an indication of the amount of sand that must be stirred up and transported by wave action.

Basic Site Information

Site name / location:

There are several other locations along the coast where important species and habitats have been identified but do not sit within a designated site.

Waders (winter roosting and breeding): The foreshore at Calder Viaduct; Tarn Point to Selker/ Gutterby/ Annaside

Natterjack Toads:

- Field just north of Silecroft Car Park (Rayrick Hole);
- Field north west of Gutterby Tarn LWS;
- Banks landward of Hyton Marsh;
- Agricultural fields landward of Tarn Point and The Tarn;
- Fields south of Rueberry Drive, Seascale;
- Land located on landward side of railway line (south of Braystones WWWorks)

Please identify any legally protected species³³, where access proposals would pose a significant risk of disturbance or damage, and give details of vulnerability, occurrence and location:

Breeding, wintering and roosting birds: The Guidance for Statutory Authorities involved in assessing the nature conservation implications of a Statutory right of

³³ Under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended, Protection of Badgers Act 1992) Natural England's Protected Species [here](#)

access developed for implementation of the CROW Act indicates that wintering and breeding birds are vulnerable to access pressure.

The main concerns focus on the impact of disturbance, caused by walkers, walkers with dogs to vulnerable concentrations of various types of birds on the site. Responses to disturbance may vary depending on the species, time of year, habitat, previous exposure to disturbance (with some birds becoming habituated.) Disturbance may cause birds to waste too much energy which may have significant effect on their overall fitness. Disturbance, including nest trampling, to breeding birds may lead to a decrease in bird numbers.

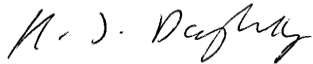
Natterjack Toads: Guidance indicates that this feature and associated species are vulnerable to access pressure. Sites with access routes close to key breeding sites, basking areas or foraging areas for natterjack toad may be vulnerable to access. Pools used by breeding natterjacks are typically shallow, often temporary pools in dune systems or heathland. There is evidence that dogs swimming in such sites can have an impact. Dogs accessing water-edge habitats is an issue of concern, causing suffocation of spawn by siltation and a risk of spreading disease from one breeding pool to the next.

Please identify any un-notified habitats of species that are *potentially vulnerable to access pressure*⁵ and describe their occurrence, vulnerability and location:

None noted

Completion of Stage 1

Responsible Officer signed:



Name: Kate Doughty

Date: 21 July 2014

STAGE 2 – ACCESS ASSESSMENT TO IDENTIFY PREDICTED CHANGES IN ACCESS LEVELS AND PATTERNS, TO UNDERPIN ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON SENSITIVE FEATURES, INCLUDING HABITATS AND SPECIES

For each site/species/habitat along the Cumbria coast between Whitehaven and Silecroft, that might be affected by the introduction of coastal access rights, a 'sensitivity to access' rating has been awarded to each site by the Responsible Officer based on the current WAAG guidance (nb this is a general assessment relating to the specific habitats and features rather than an assessment of each specific site itself).

Red - Access on foot at any level is likely to have a negative effect on the feature.

(i.e. Features particularly susceptible to trampling or disturbance at any level for which there is little that can be offered in the way of mitigation)

Amber - Access on foot at any level may have a negative effect on the feature in part or as a whole.

(i.e. Features which may be susceptible to damage by trampling or disturbance but where sensible mitigation or access management can be employed to ensure the

feature is conserved.

Green - Access on foot at any level is unlikely to have any negative effect on the feature.
i.e. features which are robust and can tolerate a level of trampling or disturbance.

Designation	Site Name
SAC/SSSI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drigg Coast
SSSI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Bees Head • Silver Tarn, Hollas & Harnsey Mosses • Annaside & Gutterby Banks • Annaside
Local Wildlife Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Hill • Gutterby Tarn • Little Annaside Pond • Eskmeals • Seascale Dunes & Forshore
RIGGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrowthwaite Whitehaven • Birkhams Quarry, St Bees Head • Nethertown (The Knoll) • Seascale Beach • Carl Crag, Drigg
Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand Dune • Saline Lagoon • Maritime Cliff and Slope • Honeycomb Worm reef • Vegetated Shingle • Mudflat • Open water • Fen, Reedbed, Mire • Lowland haymeadow • Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh
Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waders - winter roost • Waders - breeding • Terns - breeding

- Small Blue
- Natterjack Toad
- Honeycomb worm reef

For those sites / species where a red / amber rating was awarded, the following access assessment was undertaken:

Site Name: Drigg Coast SAC/SSSI			
Current	Yes	No	Comments
Are the PRow and/or permissive paths and any open access land within and adjacent to the site boundaries well used, currently, prior to the introduction of new access rights?	Y		<p><i>The Drigg Coast SAC/SSSI includes an area of dunes, saltmarsh and mudflats from just north of Carl Cragg to south of the River Esk at Eskmeals.</i></p> <p><i>The northern part of the Drigg Coast SAC (from Carl Cragg to Ravenglass) has several permissive, walked routes through the dunes and there is also de facto access use of the beach. A large area of the dunes is designated as CROW open access land (as Registered Common Land). This northern part of the Drigg Coast SAC is reasonably well used, mainly by local residents walking and exercising their dogs. The Drigg Dunes and Gullery Nature Reserve (not designated as CROW access land) is located on the northern side of the river Irt and is some distance away from the car park on Shore Road. This area is less well used with fewer walked routes although there is one single track along which, we have observed a reasonable amount of useage, often by those walking with their dogs.</i></p> <p><i>The salt marshes and mudflats (on the southern side of the river Irt) near Saltcoats are privately owned and are not used by the public. The area of saltmarsh/mudflat, just to the south of the Saltcoats Caravan Park, is used by some people (probably local residents or those staying at the caravan park). This area can also be accessed from the southern side of the river Esk by the PRow/cycleway which crosses the River Mite via the footbridge adjacent to the railway line.</i></p> <p><i>There is de facto access to the mudflats around Ravenglass but the majority of walkers tend to stick to the roads, paths and tracks through the village. There is an existing public bridleway which crosses over the mudflats to the south of Ravenglass which can be accessed from the southern end of main Street. These mudflats, close to Ravenglass are regularly used by locals and visitors to Ravenglass but further south, closer to the River Esk, the saltmarsh and mudflats are not well used at all.</i></p> <p><i>On the southern side of the River Esk, the Drigg SAC covers the Eskmeals nature reserve and the MOD Firing Range. Access to the foreshore and beach in front of the firing range is only permitted at certain times when the range is not in use. Access to the nature reserve is managed by Cumbria Wildlife Trust (CWT) and although the site is promoted to visitors, levels of access to the site are relatively low.</i></p>

Are the routes / is access to the land actively promoted?		Y	<p><i>The northern part of the Drigg Dunes is promoted as a site to visit and explore. Ravenglass is located close by and is also a particularly popular tourist destination on the west coast of Cumbria. Routes in and around Ravenglass are well promoted by a range of different groups and organisations.</i></p> <p><i>The Eskmeals Nature Reserve (on the southern side of the River Esk) is managed and promoted by CWT.</i></p>
These routes are / the land is used mainly by;	walkers	Y	<i>Large areas of the Drigg dunes (to the north of the river Esk) are already designated as CROW access land</i>
	horseriders	Y	<i>There are a few existing public bridleways through the Drigg Coast SAC. A single east-west PBW crosses the northern part of the dunes (north of Shore Road car park), whilst further south in Ravenglass, an existing PBW heads south from Main Street along the top of the foreshore and extends as far as the railway viaduct over the river Esk.</i>
	cyclists	N	<i>The Hadrian's Wall cycleway (NCN 72) passes close to the SAC on its eastern flank and through the SAC to the south of the river Irt. Cyclings is not permitted and cyclists are seldom seen within the dunes themselves</i>
Are there clear and defined access points to the site? If so give details		Y	<p><i>In the northern part of the Drigg SAC, there are several well-used paths and tracks across the dunes and down onto the foreshore. Most of these routes tend to fan out from the existing public car park on Drigg Dune, at the end of Shore Road. Access to the site from the north is mainly via de facto access along the beach.</i></p> <p><i>Access to the Drigg SAC at Eskmeals is via the main route (PROW) onto the Eskmeals Nature Reserve or along the beach from Marshside, when that is permitted.</i></p>
Are you aware of or has the mapping exercise raised any particular management problems with existing routes?		N	<p><i>The proposed trail would run through the centre of the existing area of designated CROW open access land on the Drigg Dunes. We have been made aware by the occupier of the land that there have been problems with dogs not being kept to the lead which in turn has resulted in various incidents with sheep. As part of the current HLS agreement covering this site cattle have been introduced to manage the vegetation .</i></p> <p><i>Where the proposed route would cross the River Irt and River Esk we do not intend to seek approval for these sections until a suitable crossing is available. Once the crossings will be provided at some point in the future – at the appropriate time a further separate assessment of those proposals would need to be carried out. Some concerns have been raised about access between the river Irt and the railway crossing just south of Saltcoats. The existing caravan park naturally produces larger number of people walking along existing routes in this area including the mudflats at Saltcoats and also across the footbridge and into Ravenglass.</i></p> <p><i>No particular issues have been raised with any of the existing routes that are located in and around Ravenglass village.</i></p>
Does any other organisation promote this site for horse riding or cycling?		N	<i>Sustrans promotes the Hadrian's Wall cycleway (NCN 72) route which runs through part of the SAC – this route uses existing roads and tracks and does not affect the wider SAC.</i>

Are there features on the site that will attract visitors e.g. viewpoint, waterfall, ruins, etc.? If so give details.	Y		<p><i>There are several features within the Drigg SAC that would potentially attract visitors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The beach and dunes at Drigg Dunes(including car park at Shore Road)to the north of the river Irt</i> <i>Occasional high points through the dunes offering good views inland to the lakeland fells</i> <i>Birdwatching and wildlife interest – mainly on the foreshore and the dunes close to the beach at Drigg dunes and also through Ravenglass</i> <i>Ravenglass – popular tourist destination (refreshments, car parks, toilets, roman heritage etc)</i>
Are there features on the site that will deter visitors e.g. rough terrain, bogs etc.? If so give details	Y		<p><i>The Drigg Dunes SAC contains many existing features that would deter visitors from walking in certain areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Difficult terrain away from the main routes (undulating, rough grassland)</i> <i>Lack of surfaced paths and routes through the dunes</i> <i>Proximity of the site to Sellafield and to the nearby Drigg Low Level Radioactive Waste Repository may deter some users from visiting the site (perceived hazard rather than physical barrier)</i> <i>Areas of mudflats and saltmarsh – difficult terrain and public safety concerns</i>
Are there car parks, lay-bys, bus stops, or any other visitor facilities (eg cycle hire centre, horse riding centre) providing or facilitating access to the site?	Y		<p><i>There are several existing car parks that would serve visitors to the Drigg SAC area.</i></p> <p><i>The main car park serving the dunes and CROW land to the north of the river Irt is located at the end of Shore Road. More public car parks are located at Seascale (to the north of the SAC, and in Ravenglass (although these are located approx. 4/5 km to the south and cannot be accessed directly due to the lack of any direct crossing of River Irt. Other visitor facilities such as toilets, shops & rail stations are also available at Seascale, Drigg and Ravenglass.</i></p>
Is there already de facto use of the site? If so give details of location and refer to mapped annotations.	Y	N	<p><i>Much of the northern part of the Drigg SAC has de facto access, including the dunes and the foreshore although there are some specific areas that have no existing public access – these include the intertidal areas, the saltmarsh/mudflats on the southern bank of the River Irt and on both sides of the River Esk.</i></p> <p><i>On the northern part of the Drigg SAC, most visitors stick to existing routes and tracks within close proximity to the car park at Shore Road, or on the foreshore itself and tend to avoid the areas of mudflats and saltmarsh and more remote parts of the dunes and nature reserve.</i></p> <p><i>The mudflats to the south of Ravenglass village are also well used when the tide is out, with many visitors able to walk some distance over these areas.</i></p> <p><i>The Eskmeals Nature Reserve, to the south of the river Esk and the foreshore in front of the MOD firing range is accessible although access to these areas is strictly managed and only permitted when the firing range is not in use.</i></p>
Predicted	Yes	No	Comments

<p>Are new entrance points likely to develop on the site, and if so, where?</p>		<p>N</p>	<p><i>The current location of the main access points in and around the entire SAC are not expected to change as a result of the introduction of coastal access, particularly as in the main, existing routes and tracks will be used for the main trail itself. A single new access point will be created where the proposed route will meet with the UCR that leads down to the River Irt.</i></p> <p><i>There are many other informal, well used tracks and paths that have developed by people wishing to gain access onto the foreshore from the dunes - we do not expect that these will change or any new routes would be created. Large areas of the SAC are likely to fall within default coastal margin, but there are no proposals to improve any existing access provision to these areas.</i></p>
<p>Are any new routes or areas of access (on foot, horse or bike) other than those proposed, likely to develop and, if so, where?</p>		<p>N</p>	<p><i>We will propose a new route across the dunes from the Shore Road car park to the UCR crossing near the River Irt. This route would follow an existing grass track that extends south from Shore Road – a very popular route that is well used by locals often with dogs. However rather than follow the existing track to the mouth of the River Irt, the proposed route would turn sharply inland and head across CROW access land and then one field (not CROW access land) until it meets with the existing UCR. This route closely follows the line of an old CSS permissive linear route.</i></p> <p><i>However we expect that use of all other existing access arrangements in place across the whole SAC are likely to remain the same: de facto access, CROW access land, PROW, cycleway, and several tracks. All of these provide good access provision and we would expect that most people will continue to use them as they do at present.</i></p> <p><i>The decision to ‘delay’ the commencement of the trail on the northern side of the river Irt and Esk (until a suitable crossing is installed) may create some increase in use of existing PROWs that exist further inland, including the northern banks of the River Esk. Some users of the England Coast Path may wish to use these existing PROW to provide a ‘loop’ to get them to the other side of the river from Ravenglass so that they can continue their walk along the coast.</i></p>

Summarise any predicted changes to access levels and patterns and where there is a significant risk that they would adversely affect the *potentially vulnerable habitats and species* highlighted in Stage 1:

The Drigg Coast SAC is covered by a mix of different access provision – both formal and informal (de facto) arrangements. The Cumbria Coastal Way which also runs through the site has provided access for many years. Although we would expect the numbers of people visiting this area to increase as a result of the introduction of coastal access rights we would expect this increase in use to be focussed on the trail rather than through the wider coastal margin.

It is unlikely that access levels will change through the Gullery Local Nature Reserve (to the south of Shore Road) as users would be required to double back on themselves in order to gain access across the river Irt). In this respect, the introduction of coastal access will tend to formalise existing access arrangements, rather than substantially changing existing levels and patterns of use. The proposed trail would be aligned on the most well used and clearly defined ‘walked’ line through the dunes at Drigg and via other tracks and paths through Ravenglass village.

Other than the future crossings of the rivers Irt and Esk we do not therefore envisage that there is a need for any significant infrastructure work within the Drigg SAC – in

both cases once further details are available these will be assessed before any work is undertaken.

Site Name: St Bees Head SSSI				
Current		Yes	No	Comments
Are the PROW and/or permissive paths and any open access land within and adjacent to the site boundaries well used?		Y		<p><i>St Bees SSSI extends over a large (linear) area but is focussed on a strip of land along the edge of the coast that stretches from just south of Whitehaven to the beach at the south of St. Bees.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed line of the trail will follow the existing surfaced route across amenity grassland near Kells and will then follow the existing PROW which continues south around St Bees Head and into St Bees village itself. This route is very well used, with the section from St Bees village to the lighthouse forming part of the popular Wainwright Coast to Coast route.</i></p> <p><i>There is a small area of CROW open access land to the north of the quarry (north west of Sandwith) that would be included in the coastal margin but it is not well used.</i></p>
Are the routes /is access to the land actively promoted?		Y		<p><i>There are several promoted routes that extend from Whitehaven to St Bees via St. Bees Head.</i></p> <p><i>Parts of the cliff(s) at St Bees is a RSPB reserve and there are several good climbing routes on the sea cliffs that are promoted by the British Mountaineering Council (BMC).</i></p> <p><i>The main PROW from St Bees village to the lighthouse is part of the very popular Wainwright Coast to Coast route.</i></p>
These routes are /the land is used mainly by;	walkers	Y		<p><i>In addition to the PROW and other routes that extend over amenity grassland south from Whitehaven, the beach and foreshore at St Bees is also a popular tourist destination.</i></p> <p><i>There may be some limited amount of cycling along the surfaced routes near Whitehaven but routes over St Bees are not used by cyclists.</i></p>
	horseriders		N	
	cyclists		N	
Are there clear and defined access points to the site? If so give details		Y		<p><i>The main path over St Bees Head and the various routes leading down to the foreshore (i.e. Fleswick Bay) are well defined on the ground.</i></p>

Are you aware of or has the mapping exercise raised any particular management problems with existing routes?			N	<p><i>There were some historic legal issues relating to the line of the existing PROW but these have now been resolved with the owner..</i></p> <p><i>Due to the popularity of the route leading through the SSSI from St Bees up to the top of the cliffs there are several places where the path is suffering from erosion - caused by heavy footfall and also the eroding coastline.</i></p> <p><i>We expect to undertake management works in the vicinity of Fleswick Bay to protect the route (this would include benching and drainage works to improve surfacing in specific areas). A further assessment would be carried out at this point prior to works taking place.</i></p>
Does any other organisation promote this site for horse riding or cycling?			N	
Are there features on the site that will attract visitors e.g. viewpoint, waterfall, ruins, etc.? If so give details.			Y	<p><i>There are several features within the SSSI that attract visitors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>RSPB reserve</i> • <i>The foreshore and beach at St Bees</i> • <i>Sea cliffs promoted by BMC for climbing</i> • <i>Industrial heritage (Haigh, Saltom Pit – managed by National Trust)</i> • <i>Lighthouse at the top of St Bees Head</i> • <i>Wainwright Coast to Coast route</i>
Are there features on the site that will deter visitors e.g. rough terrain, bogs etc.? If so give details			Y	<i>Walking on the land to the south of Whitehaven is fairly level and on surfaced tracks but further south, most of the route across St Bees Head is not surfaced and is quite undulating. The rocky foreshore at the base of the cliffs is also unsuitable for many users and cannot be used when the tide is in.</i>
Are there car parks, lay-bys, bus stops, or any other visitor facilities (eg cycle hire centre, horse riding centre) providing or facilitating access to the site?			Y	<i>There is a large car park and good range of other facilities at St Bees. Car Parks and good surfaced paths are also provided at Whitehaven.</i>
Is there already de facto use of the site? If so give details of location and refer to mapped annotations.			Y	<i>There is already de facto access of the beach and foreshore at St Bees. Access to other parts of the SSSI is largely restricted to the existing PROW and other surfaced routes due to the nature of the terrain. However, some parts of the sea cliffs and the foreshore at the bottom of St Bees are used by climbers.</i>
Predicted		Yes	No	Comments
Are new entrance points likely to develop on the site, and if so, where?			N	

Are any new routes or areas of access (on foot, horse or bike) other than those proposed, likely to develop and, if so, where?			N	
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Summarise any predicted changes to access levels and patterns and where there is a significant risk that they would adversely affect the *potentially vulnerable habitats and species* highlighted in Stage 1:

We do not believe that there will be any significant change to the current access levels and patterns of use along this section of coast. This is probably one of the most popular sections of the entire Cumbria coastline, with many existing facilities and access routes available at Whitehaven and St Bees village. The proposed trail would be aligned on existing paths and the main PROW across St Bees Head. Whilst we may expect the numbers of visitors to increase slightly, due to the introduction of new coastal access rights, we would expect this to be centred on the trail itself, rather than the coastal margin, due to the nature of the terrain.

Site Name: Silver Tarn, Hollas and Harnsey Mosses SSSI				
Current	Yes	No	Comments	
Are the PROW and/or permissive paths and any open access land within and adjacent to the site boundaries well used?		N	<i>The site is divided between 4 separate areas (each with a tarn or moss). Harnsey Moss, which is comprised of 2 sites, is located in the field through which the proposed trail will be aligned. There is currently no existing access in this field. There is perhaps some evidence of use of a path/track through the site using a 'route' from the railway underpass to the adjacent road but this is very limited. The other sites (Silver Tarn and Hollas) are located on the landward side of the road, which is positioned away from the proposed trail and will therefore not be affected.</i>	
Are the routes / is access to the land actively promoted?		N		
These routes are / the land is used mainly by;	walkers		N	
	horseriders		N	
	cyclists		N	
Are there clear and defined access points to the site? If so give details		N	<i>There is currently no public access to (or adjacent to) the 2 feature sites at Hamsey Moss. However, the railway underpass on the seaward side of the tarns is an obvious point at which people may access/exit the site.. This is some way away from both tarns.</i>	
Are you aware of or has the mapping exercise raised any particular management problems with existing routes?		N		
Does any other organisation promote this site for horse riding or cycling?		N		

Are there features on the site that will attract visitors e.g. viewpoint, waterfall, ruins, etc.? If so give details.		N	<i>Open water may attract interest – walkers might be inclined to stray inland from trail to visit the tarn.</i>
Are there features on the site that will deter visitors e.g. rough terrain, bogs etc.? If so give details	Y		<i>The areas around the Harnsey Moss sites can be wet underfoot and are likely to deter people from straying away from the trail itself.</i>
Are there car parks, lay-bys, bus stops, or any other visitor facilities (eg cycle hire centre, horse riding centre) providing or facilitating access to the site?		N	
Is there already de facto use of the site? If so give details of location and refer to mapped annotations.		N	<i>There may be some access across the site via the existing railway underpass but if so, this is very limited and used infrequently.</i>
Predicted	Yes	No	Comments
Are new entrance points likely to develop on the site, and if so, where?	Y		<i>New access points will develop to the seaward side of Harnsey Moss as people gain access along the trail. Access along the trail would be marked by appropriate signage and as no discretionary landward margin is proposed the Harnsey Moss sites would not actually be covered by coastal access rights.</i>
Are any new routes or areas of access (on foot, horse or bike) other than those proposed, likely to develop and, if so, where?		N	

Summarise any predicted changes to access levels and patterns and where there is a significant risk that they would adversely affect the *potentially vulnerable habitats and species* highlighted in Stage 1:

There will be no change to access levels and patterns on the SSSI site itself but access levels may well change close to this site. There is currently no public access in this location so the introduction of a new route will see an increase in those accessing this area. However, the trail is located to the seaward side of the Harnsey Moss features (part of the wider SSSI).

We are not proposing any landward coastal margin at this point, nor do we believe that the land would qualify as default landward margin so there would be no right of access to and across the SSSI features. However, as there is no fence between the proposed trail and the tarn, there is potential for walkers to stray inland from the trail to the areas of open water. However we do not believe that this would pose a significant risk to the habitats and species on this SSSI.

Site Name: Annaside SSSI

Current	Yes	No	Comments
Are the PROW and/or permissive paths and any open access land within and adjacent to the site boundaries well used?		N	<i>There is an existing PROW that runs through part of the SSSI but due to the location of the site and the lack of nearby settlements, then we believe that the use of this PROW is relatively low.</i>

Are the routes / is access to the land actively promoted?		N	<i>Access to the site is not promoted.</i>
These routes are / the land is used mainly by;	walkers	Y	
	horseriders		N
	cyclists		N
Are there clear and defined access points to the site? If so give details	Y		<i>There is a gate and stile at the northern end of the site at the point at which the PROW enters the site</i>
Are you aware of or has the mapping exercise raised any particular management problems with existing routes?	Y		<i>Parts of the site is often flooded to significant depths making access impossible. There is no alternative river crossing if walkers cannot reach the footbridge although walkers may be able to use the foreshore to continue their journey north/south.</i>
Does any other organisation promote this site for horse riding or cycling?		N	
Are there features on the site that will attract visitors e.g. viewpoint, waterfall, ruins, etc.? If so give details.	Y		<i>The river Annas runs through the site and a large, linear shingle bank runs down a substantial part of its western flank. The PROW crosses the river Annas via a wide span wooden footbridge which affords better raised views of the wider site.</i>
Are there features on the site that will detract visitors e.g. rough terrain, bogs etc.? If so give details		N	<i>The PROW through the site is across flat grazed ground which largely makes for good walking.</i>
Are there car parks, lay-bys, bus stops, or any other visitor facilities (eg cycle hire centre, horse riding centre) providing or facilitating access to the site?		N	
Is there already de facto use of the site? If so give details of location and refer to mapped annotations.		N	
Predicted	Yes	No	Comments
Are new entrance points likely to develop on the site, and if so, where?		N	<i>The existing entry points to the site (i.e. via the PROW) are not likely to change. The location of the river and the shingle bank would prevent other access points from developing as access from the foreshore is not possible.</i>
Are any new routes or areas of access (on foot, horse or bike) other than those proposed, likely to develop and, if so, where?		N	

Summarise any predicted changes to access levels and patterns and where there is a significant risk that they would adversely affect the *potentially vulnerable habitats and species* highlighted in Stage 1:

We do not believe that the level and patterns of access through the site would significantly change. Although we would expect more people to visit this area as a result

of coastal access rights being introduced, because the trail is to be aligned on the existing PROW, then due to the location of the river and shingle bank we would expect users to remain on the path not spread out over a wider area.

The site is part owned by the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC) and is important for natterjack toads with several scrapes and ponds identified on the landward side of the proposed trail(i.e. the existing PROW). There do not appear to be any management measures in place at the present time to protect these areas from users of the PROW so it may be appropriate to consider using informal management techniques to warn people of the importance of the site and to ensure that dogs, in particular, are kept away from the pools at certain times of the year. We do not believe there would be any significant risk to the habitats and species on this site.

Site Name: Summer Hill LWS			
Current	Yes	No	Comments
Are the PROW and/or permissive paths and any open access land within and adjacent to the site boundaries well used?		N	<i>There is currently no access provision through the Summer Hill LWS. However access to and along the beach from Silecroft is popular. Most people using the beach do so by parking at the nearby public car park, which we understand is about to be redesigned and redeveloped.</i>
Are the routes / is access to the land actively promoted?		N	
These routes are / the land is used mainly by;	walkers	N	
	horseriders	N	
	cyclists	N	
Are there clear and defined access points to the site? If so give details		N	<i>There is one field gate which allows private access into the field (to the north of the property at Summer Hill)</i>
Are you aware of or has the mapping exercise raised any particular management problems with existing routes?		N	<i>No routes through the site currently exist</i>
Does any other organisation promote this site for horse riding or cycling?		N	
Are there features on the site that will attract visitors e.g. viewpoint, waterfall, ruins, etc.? If so give details.		N	
Are there features on the site that will detract visitors e.g. rough terrain, bogs etc.? If so give details		N	<i>There is a wet, boggy area that is located just off the top of the foreshore and adjacent to the property at Summer Hill</i>
Are there car parks, lay-bys, bus stops, or any other visitor facilities (eg cycle hire centre, horse riding centre) providing or facilitating access to the site?	Y		<i>There is a car park located at Silecroft (approx. 1km south of the Summer Hill site). This car park is regularly used by those walking along the beach or access to the sea for recreational activities. There are plans by Copeland BC to upgrade the car park and its facilities.</i>

Is there already de facto use of the site? If so give details of location and refer to mapped annotations.		N	
Predicted	Yes	No	Comments
Are new entrance points likely to develop on the site, and if so, where?		N	<i>Other than the proposed route of the ECP through the site, we do not expect that any other new access points would develop – due in the main to the topography of the site steep coastal slope.</i>
Are any new routes or areas of access (on foot, horse or bike) other than those proposed, likely to develop and, if so, where?		N	

Summarise any predicted changes to access levels and patterns and where there is a significant risk that they would adversely affect the *potentially vulnerable habitats and species* highlighted in Stage 1:

Level and patterns of access through the site would change as a result of coastal access given that there is no existing access through this site, however we would expect that this would only apply to the line of the ECP itself. No discretionary coastal margin is proposed to the landward side of the trail, and the topography of the default coastal margin is such that few if any would wander off the trail itself.

The trail is to be aligned along the seaward edge of the Summer Hill LWS – on the southern part of the site, the route will be located on the coastal slope (on landward side of the field boundary). The trail would then descend down the slope itself, along the top of the foreshore, before heading back inland and up the slope through an existing field gate. It is expected that most people who currently walk in this area will not change their current patterns of access as they will continue to use the beach and foreshore. Some may use the new route as part of a circular route that will allow them to return to the car park at Silecroft.

Parts of the Summer Hill site are important for natterjack toads with a few scrapes located just to the landward side of the trail. It would be appropriate to consider using informal management techniques to warn people of the importance of the site and to ensure that dogs, in particular, are kept away from the pools at certain times of the year. We do not believe there would be any significant risk to the habitats and species on this LWS.

Site Name: Gutterby Tarn LWS

Current	Yes	No	Comments
Are the PROW and/or permissive paths and any open access land within and adjacent to the site boundaries well used?		N	<i>There is a PROW that follows the track which is located to the landward side of the field.</i>
Are the routes / is access to the land actively promoted?		N	
These routes are / the land is used mainly by;	walkers	Y	<i>The PROW is not located within the site.</i>
	horseriders		N
	cyclists		N
Are there clear and defined access points to the site? If so give details		N	

Are you aware of or has the mapping exercise raised any particular management problems with existing routes?		N	
Does any other organisation promote this site for horse riding or cycling?		N	
Are there features on the site that will attract visitors e.g. viewpoint, waterfall, ruins, etc.? If so give details.		N	
Are there features on the site that will detract visitors e.g. rough terrain, bogs etc.? If so give details		N	
Are there car parks, lay-bys, bus stops, or any other visitor facilities (eg cycle hire centre, horse riding centre) providing or facilitating access to the site?		N	<i>The nearest car parks are at Stubbs Place (to the north) or Silecroft (to the south) but both are quite some distance away from this site.</i>
Is there already de facto use of the site? If so give details of location and refer to mapped annotations.		N	
Predicted	Yes	No	Comments
Are new entrance points likely to develop on the site, and if so, where?	Y		<i>New entrances to the field, in which the tarn is located, will be created to allow the trail to pass through</i>
Are any new routes or areas of access (on foot, horse or bike) other than those proposed, likely to develop and, if so, where?		N	<i>The trail will be located along the seaward edge of the field with default margin extending over the slopes and onto the foreshore.</i>

Summarise any predicted changes to access levels and patterns and where there is a significant risk that they would adversely affect the *potentially vulnerable habitats and species* highlighted in Stage 1:

There will be no change to access levels and patterns on the LWS however access levels may well change close to the seaward side of this site.

There is currently no public access in this location so the introduction of a new route will see an increase in those using the edge of the field within which the tarn is located in. The proposed alignment of the trail is on the seaward side of the tarn and no discretionary coastal margin (landward spreading room) is proposed here so there would be no new access rights to or within the LWS itself. We do not believe there would be any risk to the habitats and species on this LWS.

Site Name: Little Annaside Pond LWS

Current	Yes	No	Comments
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Are the PRow and/or permissive paths and any open access land within and adjacent to the site boundaries well used?	Y		<i>This site is bounded on two sides by existing PROWS that extend toard the coast from Little Annaside. These two PROW then met with another PROW which runs in a north-south direction onto the foreshore. The proposed trail sits some distance to the seaward side of this site.</i>
Are the routes / is access to the land actively promoted?		N	
These routes are / the land is used mainly by;	walkers	Y	
	horseriders		N
	cyclists		N
Are there clear and defined access points to the site? If so give details		N	<i>No – there is no existing access to this LWS</i>
Are you aware of or has the mapping exercise raised any particular management problems with existing routes?		N	
Does any other organisation promote this site for horse riding or cycling?		N	
Are there features on the site that will attract visitors e.g. viewpoint, waterfall, ruins, etc.? If so give details.		N	
Are there features on the site that will detract visitors e.g. rough terrain, bogs etc.? If so give details		N	
Are there car parks, lay-bys, bus stops, or any other visitor facilities (e.g. cycle hire centre, horse riding centre) providing or facilitating access to the site?		N	<i>The nearest car parks are to be found at Stubbs Place (to the north) and Silecroft (to the south)</i>
Is there already de facto use of the site? If so give details of location and refer to mapped annotations.		N	
Predicted	Yes	No	Comments
Are new entrance points likely to develop on the site, and if so, where?		N	
Are any new routes or areas of access (on foot, horse or bike) other than those proposed, likely to develop and, if so, where?		N	

Summarise any predicted changes to access levels and patterns and where there is a significant risk that they would adversely affect the *potentially*

vulnerable habitats and species highlighted in Stage 1:

There will be no change to access levels and patterns on the LWS but access levels in the vicinity of this site may well change by virtue of the trail passing to the seaward side of this site. There is currently no public access to the LWS but the location of the proposed trail may see an increase in those using the PROW (adjacent to the LWS) to gain access to the new trail. The proposed trail is to be located to the seaward side of the tarn and as we are not proposing any landward coastal margin at this point there would be no right of access to and across the LWS itself. Therefore, we do not believe there would be any risk to the habitats and species on this LWS.

Site Name: Eskmeals LWS			
Current	Yes	No	Comments
Are the PROW and/or permissive paths and any open access land within and adjacent to the site boundaries well used?		N	<i>Access to the LWS is either from the foreshore or from the Eskmeals Nature Reserve (part of the Drigg Coast SAC/SSSI). The Eskmeals LWS is contained wholly within the MoD firing range and access is not permitted to the reserve when firing is taking place.</i>
Are the routes / is access to the land actively promoted?		N	
These routes are / the land is used mainly by;	walkers	N	.
	horseriders	N	
	cyclists	N	
Are there clear and defined access points to the site? If so give details		N	<i>Access is permitted along the foreshore when the firing range is not being used</i>
Are you aware of or has the mapping exercise raised any particular management problems with existing routes?		N	
Does any other organisation promote this site for horse riding or cycling?		N	
Are there features on the site that will attract visitors e.g. viewpoint, waterfall, ruins, etc.? If so give details.	Y		<i>There are several features that might attract people to the site. These include coastal dunes, birds, wildflowers, extensive views out to sea, the beach and for some even the proximity to the MOD Firing Range may attract people to the site.</i>
Are there features on the site that will detract visitors e.g. rough terrain, bogs etc.? If so give details	Y		<i>The proximity of the MOD firing range and the strict rules governing when access is permitted</i>
Are there car parks, lay-bys, bus stops, or any other visitor facilities (eg cycle hire centre, horse riding centre) providing or facilitating access to the site?	Y		<i>There is a small informal 'lay by' for parking near the reserve entrance at the southern end of the railway viaduct across the river Esk, and further south at Stubbs Place.</i>
Is there already de facto use of the site? If so give details of location and refer to mapped annotations.	Y		<i>Access along the foreshore is sometimes permitted when the MOD firing range is not being used.</i>
Predicted	Yes	No	Comments

Are new entrance points likely to develop on the site, and if so, where?		N	
Are any new routes or areas of access (on foot, horse or bike) other than those proposed, likely to develop and, if so, where?		N	

Summarise any predicted changes to access levels and patterns and where there is a significant risk that they would adversely affect the *potentially vulnerable habitats and species* highlighted in Stage 1:

We do not believe that there will be any significant change to the current access levels and patterns of use along this section of coast. Whilst we may expect the numbers of people using the new coastal access rights will increase, we would expect this would primarily result in a slight increase of users of the trail itself which would not affect the Eskmeals LWS – as the trail is to be aligned down the adjacent public highway. This site would remain subject to existing MoD byelaws and would therefore be excepted from coastal access rights, so we would not expect the current levels and patterns of use on this site to change.

Site Name: Seascale Dunes and Foreshore LWS

Current		Yes	No	Comments
Are the PRow and/or permissive paths and any open access land within and adjacent to the site boundaries well used?		Y		<i>There is an existing cyclepath that runs through the centre of this 9ha site and several walked routes that lead down to the foreshore across the dunes.</i> <i>The site is reasonably well used although the majority of people travel through the site on the existing hard surfaced path to gain access to the Sellafield Nuclear Power Plant.</i>
Are the routes / is access to the land actively promoted?		Y		<i>The main route through the site is promoted as a cycleway and is part of the Hadrian's Wall Cycleway (NCN 72) route.</i>
These routes are / the land is used mainly by;	walkers	Y		
	horseriders		N	
	cyclists	Y		<i>Promoted as a cycleway – part of the Hadrian's Wall Cycleway (NCN72) route.</i>
Are there clear and defined access points to the site? If so give details		Y		<i>Access to this linear site from the north and south are well defined by the line of the existing hard surfaced cycleway. Access across the dunes and onto the foreshore is more informal with several walked routes having developed allowing people to walk down to the foreshore.</i>
Are you aware of or has the mapping exercise raised any particular management problems with existing routes?			N	
Does any other organisation promote this site for horse riding or cycling?		Y		<i>Sustrans – part of the Hadrians Wall Cycleway (NCN 72) route.</i>

Are there features on the site that will attract visitors e.g. viewpoint, waterfall, ruins, etc.? If so give details.		N	
Are there features on the site that will detract visitors e.g. rough terrain, bogs etc.? If so give details		N	
Are there car parks, lay-bys, bus stops, or any other visitor facilities (eg cycle hire centre, horse riding centre) providing or facilitating access to the site?	Y		<i>There are car parks to the north (at Sellafield Station) and south of this site at Seascale village).</i>
Is there already de facto use of the site? If so give details of location and refer to mapped annotations.	Y		<i>There is already de facto access on this site. The majority of access on this site is restricted to the main surfaced cycleway but other routes through the dunes and onto the foreshore have developed.</i>
Predicted	Yes	No	Comments
Are new entrance points likely to develop on the site, and if so, where?		N	
Are any new routes or areas of access (on foot, horse or bike) other than those proposed, likely to develop and, if so, where?		N	<i>Unlikely as the provision of the existing path/cycleway will meet the majority of peoples current demands for access through this site.</i>

Summarise any predicted changes to access levels and patterns and where there is a significant risk that they would adversely affect the *potentially vulnerable habitats and species* highlighted in Stage 1:

We do not believe that there will be any significant change to the current access levels and patterns of use along this section of coast. Whilst we may expect the numbers of people using the new coastal access rights will increase, we would expect this would primarily result in a slight increase of users of the trail itself which would, in this instance, follow the line of the existing cycleway. The current levels and patterns of use of those accessing the foreshore is unlikely to change.

Site Name: Calder Viaduct Wader and Gull Roost Site

Current	Yes	No	Comments
Are the PRow and/or permissive paths and any open access land within and adjacent to the site boundaries well used?		N	<i>The wader and gull roost site does not have any known distinct boundaries but it is located at the southern end of the spit of land between the River Ehan/Calder and the Irish Sea. The general area where most roosts occur is located at the top of the foreshore where there are no clearly defined paths or tracks. De facto access to the foreshore is tolerated but access levels in this area are low.</i>
Are the routes / is access to the land actively promoted?		N	
These routes are / the	walkers	Y	

land is used mainly by;	horseriders		N	
	cyclists		N	
Are there clear and defined access points to the site? If so give details	Y			<i>There are no obvious clear and defined access points to the 'site' partly because the site boundary is not defined. De facto access is tolerated on the foreshore here. Access to this area is possible from the north but requires a relatively long walk along the 'headland'. Access to the 'site' from the south is difficult due to the channels of the River Ehan/Calder. At low tide, these channels could be crossed at various shallow points.</i>
Are you aware of or has the mapping exercise raised any particular management problems with existing routes?			N	
Does any other organisation promote this site for horse riding or cycling?			N	
Are there features on the site that will attract visitors e.g. viewpoint, waterfall, ruins, etc.? If so give details.			N	
Are there features on the site that will detract visitors e.g. rough terrain, bogs etc.? If so give details	Y			<i>The foreshore around the roost area is mainly comprised from shingle and rocks. There is no immediate or direct access from the south and access from the north is along the headland that is separated from the mainland by the River Ehan/Calder.</i> <i>The Sellafield Nuclear Power Plant is located immediately on the landward side of the foreshore.</i>
Are there car parks, lay-bys, bus stops, or any other visitor facilities (eg cycle hire centre, horse riding centre) providing or facilitating access to the site?	Y			<i>There is a car park close by at Sellafield Station but this is rarely used and there is no direct access to the roost 'site' from the station. Another car park and visitor facilities are located further south at Seascale village.</i>
Is there already de facto use of the site? If so give details of location and refer to mapped annotations.	Y			<i>There is already de facto access to the foreshore where the roost 'site' is located. Use of this part of the foreshore is extremely limited as a result of the poor access to this part of the foreshore. The majority of those accessing the site seem to be local residents who visit the area to collect bait for fishing.</i>
Predicted	Yes	No	Comments	
Are new entrance points likely to develop on the site, and if so, where?			N	<i>The trail will be aligned on the landward side of the railway line so this roost area will only be affected by being part of the coastal margin. There are no proposals to improve access to the beach and foreshore at this point.</i>
Are any new routes or areas of access (on foot, horse or bike) other than those proposed, likely to develop and, if so, where?			N	<i>There are no proposals to improve access from the trail to the foreshore.</i>

Summarise any predicted changes to access levels and patterns and where there is a significant risk that they would adversely affect the *potentially vulnerable habitats and species* highlighted in Stage 1:

We do not believe that there will be any significant change to the current access levels and patterns of use along this section of coast. Whilst we may expect the numbers of people using the new coastal access rights will increase, we would expect this would primarily result in a slight increase of users of the trail itself which would be located on the landward side from this roost 'site' and along an existing footpath/cycleway on the far side of the railway line. The current levels and patterns of use of those accessing the foreshore is unlikely to change.

Site Name: Wader and Gull Roost Sites – Tarn Point to Gutterby (covers sites at Tarn Point to Selker; land seaward of Hyton Marsh SSSI; and Annaside Banks).

Current	Yes	No	Comments
Are the PRow and/or permissive paths and any open access land within and adjacent to the site boundaries well used?		N	<i>The wader and gull roost sites do not have any known distinct boundaries but are spread out at the top of the foreshore between Tarn Point and Gutterby. This section of the coast does have some existing PRow although none are particularly well used. There is existing defacto access to the foreshore along this section of the coast although most people arriving at the car parks at Silecroft and Stubbs Place do not tend to walk too far from those locations.</i>
Are the routes / is access to the land actively promoted?		N	
These routes are / the land is used mainly by;	walkers	Y	
	horseriders		N
	cyclists		N
Are there clear and defined access points to the site? If so give details	Y		<i>There are no obvious clear and defined access points to these 'sites' partly because the sites are not well defined and they exist along the top of the foreshore.</i> <i>The roost sites located between Tarn Point and Selker are along a section of coast that has no existing formal right of access although there is de facto access to the beach and foreshore. A limited number of people do visit and walk through these areas, and are likely to use the car parks at Stubbs Place or further south at Silecroft, to access these areas.</i>
Are you aware of or has the mapping exercise raised any particular management problems with existing routes?		N	
Does any other organisation promote this site for horse riding or cycling?		N	
Are there features on the site that will attract visitors e.g. viewpoint, waterfall, ruins, etc.? If so give details.	Y		<i>Along this section of the coast the following features which may attract visitors have been identified:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hyton Marsh and the River Annas.</i> • <i>The beach, foreshore and maritime cliffs and banks at Annaside and Gutterby - geological interest and may attract some additional users however access to these sites already has de facto access along the foreshore..</i>

Are there features on the site that will detract visitors e.g. rough terrain, bogs etc.? If so give details		N	<i>The foreshore consists mainly of rock, shingle and some sand. Walking along the upper foreshore for long distances is not easy and one would expect that in most cases people would stick to the proposed trail located at the top of the banks and away from the foreshore.</i>
Are there car parks, lay-bys, bus stops, or any other visitor facilities (eg cycle hire centre, horse riding centre) providing or facilitating access to the site?	Y		<i>There is a car park at Stubbs Place (south of the Eskmeals MOD Firing Range) and a car park/toilets at Silecroft.</i>
Is there already de facto use of the site? If so give details of location and refer to mapped annotations.	Y		<i>De facto access to the beach and foreshore along this entire section of the coast covered by these wader and gull roost sites is tolerated stretch of coast is not restricted. Although no formal monitoring has ever taken place, we do not believe that this section of the coast attracts many people.</i> <i>The existing PROW and area of CROW open access land at Hyton Marsh also provides access close to several of the roost sites but they do not attract many users.</i>
Predicted	Yes	No	
Are new entrance points likely to develop on the site, and if so, where?		N	<i>The sites do not have any defined boundaries as such so it is not possible to give a clear indication as to whether new entrance points will develop. However looking at this section of coast as a whole, we would expect users of coastal access rights to use the existing PROW or continue to walk along the foreshore as currently happens.</i>
Are any new routes or areas of access (on foot, horse or bike) other than those proposed, likely to develop and, if so, where?		N	<i>The proposed trail of the England Coast Path will follow the existing PROW and will remain above the foreshore at the top of the Annaside and Gutterby banks. The proposals will not improve or change the defacto access provision tolerated along the foreshore or to provide any new routes linking the trail to the foreshore.</i>

Summarise any predicted changes to access levels and patterns and where there is a significant risk that they would adversely affect the *potentially vulnerable habitats and species* highlighted in Stage 1:

We do not believe that there will be any significant change to the current access levels and patterns of use along this section of coast. Whilst we may expect the numbers of people using the new coastal access rights will increase, we would expect this would primarily result in a slight increase of users of the trail itself which would be located on the edge of the farmland/cliffs and away from the wader and gull roost sites.

The current levels and patterns of use of those accessing the foreshore is unlikely to change – de facto access is already tolerated along the foreshore and given that the only access points to these areas are along the beach from the north and south (limited routes to allow access direct from coastal land), few people venture this far as the closest facilities (car parks, toilets etc) are located some distance away.

Site Name: Natterjack Toads – identified as being present at several non - designated sites (see list below)

Sites originally identified at step 1 but no longer to be affected by coastal access rights as they are not located within coastal margin:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fields south of Rueberry Drive, Seascale ➤ Land on landward side of railway line to the south of Braystones Sewage Works ➤ Agricultural fields on landward side of Tarn Point and The Tarn 			
Sites potentially affected by coastal access rights:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Land to north west of Gutterby LWS ➤ Banks on landward side of Hyton Marsh SSSI ➤ Townend Banks ➤ Summer Hill ➤ Fields north of Silecroft Car Park (known as Rayrick Hole) 			
Current	Yes	No	Comments
Are the PRoW and/or permissive paths and any open access land within and adjacent to the site boundaries well used?		N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land to north west of Gutterby LWS: The scrape(s) are located within a field located on the top of Gutterby Banks. There is currently no public access to this field although a PROW does run along a track at the northern edge of the field • Banks on landward side of Hyton Marsh SSSI: There is a PROW that runs through the centre of the Hyton Marsh SSSI, but use of this route is not high • Townend Banks: No existing access other than de facto access along the beach • Summer Hill: No existing access other de facto access along the beach • Fields north of Silecroft Car Park (Rayrick Hole): No existing access other than de facto access along the beach and the car park which sits immediately south of this site. We understand that this car park is to be redesigned and redeveloped.
Are the routes / is access to the land actively promoted?		N	
These routes are / the land is used mainly by;	walkers	Y	Neither the PROW that is located nr the Gutterby Tarn LWS and the PROW that runs through Hyton Marsh SSSI are well used. There is de facto access use of the beach although most visitors tend to focus on an area of foreshore close to the Silecroft car park (1-2km).
	horseriders		N
	cyclists		N

Are there clear and defined access points to the site? If so give details		N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land to north west of Gutterby LWS: <i>There is no existing access to or through the field. The line of the ECP would create clear and defined access points into and out of the field</i> • Banks on landward side of Hyton Marsh SSSI: <i>The existing PROW enters and exits the site at clear and defined locations. The route also crosses over the river Annas via a 30-40ft footbridge which has the effect on keeping most people heading in a linear direction through the site</i> • Townend Banks: <i>No existing access. The line of the ECP would create clear and defined access points into and out of the field</i> • Summer Hill: <i>No existing access other de facto access along the beach. The line of the ECP and any associated infrastructure works would however create clear and defined access points into and out of the field</i> • Fields north of Silecroft Car Park (Rayrick Hole): <i>No existing access through the site. A new access point would need to be created that leads into/out of the car park at Silecroft</i>
Are you aware of or has the mapping exercise raised any particular management problems with existing routes?		N	<p><i>Discussions with some landowners in this area have indicated that there have been several instances where lamping has been taking place.</i></p> <p><i>No other existing specific management problems identified other than the potential increase of walkers and dogs in areas close to where natterjack toad scrapes are located/are being created.</i></p>
Does any other organisation promote this site for horse riding or cycling?		N	
Are there features on the site that will attract visitors e.g. viewpoint, waterfall, ruins, etc.? If so give details.		N	<p><i>All: views out to sea</i></p> <p><i>Hyton Marsh SSSI: The river Annas runs through the site and a large, linear shingle bank runs down a substantial part of its western flank</i></p>
Are there features on the site that will detract visitors e.g. rough terrain, bogs etc.? If so give details		N	<p><i>In several areas along this section of coast, the proposed trail is aligned on the top of the coastal slope/bank. The land between the trail and the top of the foreshore is, in many places quite steep and there is evidence of some coastal slippage taking place. The coastal slope and grassland is not particularly accessible due to the topography and vegetation growth.</i></p>
Are there car parks, lay-bys, bus stops, or any other visitor facilities (eg cycle hire centre, horse riding centre) providing or facilitating access to the site?		N	<p><i>The most obvious car parks closest to these various sites are at Stubbs Place and Silecroft.</i></p>
Is there already de facto use of the site? If so give details of location and refer to mapped annotations.		N	<p><i>There is de facto access to the beach and foreshore but access levels along this stretch of coast are low.</i></p>
Predicted	Yes	No	Comments

Are new entrance points likely to develop on the site, and if so, where?		N	<i>Apart from the new entrance points that will be created in order to construct the trail, it is not expected that any other new entrance points would develop at any of these sites due in part to the topography of the land and in particular the coastal slope which runs along much of this length of coast.</i>
Are any new routes or areas of access (on foot, horse or bike) other than those proposed, likely to develop and, if so, where?		N	<i>As above, it is not envisaged not expected that any other entrance points would develop at any of these sites due in part to the topography of the land and in particular the coastal slope which runs along much of this length of coast.</i>

Summarise any predicted changes to access levels and patterns and where there is a significant risk that they would adversely affect the *potentially vulnerable habitats and species* highlighted in Stage 1:

This stretch of coast is relatively remote with no large settlements or populations located nearby. Existing access along the coast is mainly on the beach / foreshore. The two car parks located at Stubbs Place, Eskmeals and Silecroft are the obvious points where people start or end their walk along this stretch of coast. There are several other PROW that provide east – west links to the trail.

- **Land to north west of Gutterby LWS:** There will be increased access in this area as no existing access is provided. However we do not feel that there will be a significant increase in people using this area. Those that do are likely to remain on the trail itself due to the topography of the area and there being no proposal to recommend discretionary margin on the landward side of the trail.
- **Banks on landward side of Hyton Marsh SSSI:** The proposed line of the trail will follow the existing PROW that runs through the centre of this site. We would expect there to be an increase in use of this route but we would not expect this to be a significant increase nor do we expect there to be a change in the patterns of access through the site. The river Annas and topography of the site suggests that most people would walk through the site along the line of the trail as there is little opportunity for roaming or wandering away from the route.
- **Townend Banks:** There will be increased access in this area as no existing access is provided. However we do not feel that there will be a significant increase in people using this area. Those that do are likely to remain on the trail itself due to the topography of the area and there being no proposal to recommend discretionary margin on the landward side of the trail.
- **Summer Hill:** There will be increased access in this area as no existing access is provided. However we do not feel that there will be a significant increase in people using this area. Those that do are likely to remain on the trail itself due to the topography of the area and there being no proposal to recommend discretionary margin on the landward side of the trail.
- **Fields north of Silecroft Car Park (Rayrick Hole):** There will be increased access in this area as no existing access is provided. The proposed new car park and associated facilities at Silecroft could potentially lead to a significant increase in people accessing the beach and proposed trail from that location. We would expect that in the main most people would continue to access and use the beach rather than the trail itself although one cannot discount that the first few km of trail heading north from the car park may experience higher than average use due to its proximity to the car park.

At all these locations, the recorded natterjack scrapes are located close to the line of the proposed trail (usually to the landward side of the trail where no new coastal access rights are proposed). We do not predict a particularly significant increase in people using the route in this location but nonetheless the close proximity of the trail to these areas does have the potential to increase the risk of disturbance, particularly from dogs during the breeding season.

Site Name: Honeycomb Worm Reef (Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone)

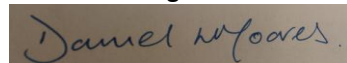
The Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone is an inshore site that stretches for approximate 27km along the coast from south of Whitehaven to the mouth of Ravenglass. The designation partially overlaps Drigg Coast SAC SSSI and St Bees Head SSSI. The MCZ covers a significant section of the coast where coastal access rights will be introduced. All of the foreshore within the MCZ will be covered by default coastal margin and be subject to coastal access rights.

Summarise any predicted changes to access levels and patterns and where there is a significant risk that they would adversely affect the *potentially vulnerable habitats and species* highlighted in Stage 1:

The Honeycomb Reef and other features are located in areas that will be covered by default margin – however the majority of the foreshore along this stretch of coast has de facto access and is used by many who visit the coast. There are particularly high levels of existing use of these areas at St Bees and other areas are regularly visited by local people and visitors at Nethertown and Braystones, Seascale, Drigg coast and Silecroft. Coastal access rights will only allow those people visiting these areas to do so on foot and although we expect there will be an increase in those people using the ECP itself, we do not believe there will be any significant change in the levels or patterns of use to areas of coastal margin (particularly the lower parts of the shore) following the introduction of coastal access rights to these areas.

Completion of Stage 4

Case Officer Signed:



Case Officer name: Daniel Moores

Date: 21st July 2014

STAGE 3 – IDENTIFY MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO COUNTER PREDICTED IMPACTS

The tables below identify where specific management measures are necessary to avoid significant negative effects on the habitats and species identified in Stage 1.

Site Name:	Drigg Coast SAC/SSSI	
Species or habitat	Risk of predicted change significantly affecting conservation interests (H, M, L)	Required access management measures (least restrictive option)
Sand dune including dune slack; Grassland and heath; Strandline; Shingle and saltmarsh.	<p>High (Limited)</p> <p>Limited: Northern part (Carl Cragg to Ravenglass has existing access including CROW).</p> <p>Medium: Saltmarshes and mudflats near Saltcoats and Ravenglass are not well used. The north and south of the river Esk (North of Eskmeals</p>	<p>Management Measures:</p> <p>An exclusion or restriction of coastal access rights is not considered necessary</p> <p>Information boards should be placed at key entry points advising people to keep to main routes to avoid trampling over sensitive dune and saltmarsh habitats and disturbing breeding and wintering birds at high tide roosts. Messages should also focus on avoiding letting dogs run through pools where natterjack toads are breeding. Where livestock are grazing then messages that remind people to keep dogs from disturbing them and to pick up dog mess in all areas will be required. Mention of intertidal communities and potential impact of trampling may also be required.</p> <p>The proposed route of the trail will also be signposted and way-marked to channel both existing and new visitors to the site along the route. Way-marking will need to be sympathetic to the landscape and done in a way to minimise the visual</p>

	<p>Cumbria Wildlife site) iare also not well used.</p> <p>Medium: The Drigg Dunes and Gullery Local Nature Reserve is less well visited and has a fence to deter people accessing sensitive areas.</p>	<p>intrusion, and optimise their longevity.</p> <p>New accessible gates, a short section of boardwalk and a new sleeper bridge will also be installed to help guide people along the trail and over some of the wetter parts of the site thus reducing the possible damage to the site and to keep people channelled along the route. A short section of the route on an existing path, to the north of Shore Road, will also be mown to help define the route more clearly on the ground.</p> <p>All the infrastructure works required within the site will, once further details are available be assessed and be subject to detailed consent before being undertaken.</p> <p>The impact of the access management measures r at the site will be kept under review and if necessary the management requirements can be revised if future evidence shows this is required. As part of this, a regular review meeting will be held that will involve several interested parties (i.e. the Responsible Officer for the site, relevant staff from the area team with specialist support as necessary relevant HLS advisor, the access authority, district council, and any other relevant persons) is held to review the management measures, and ensure that they are effective.</p>
Natterjack toads		<p>Management measures: An exclusion or restriction of coastal access rights is not considered necessary Any infrastructure (including pathworks) will need further assessment.</p> <p>Information boards at key entry points should include messages to encourage people to the main route to avoid trampling over sensitive dune habitats and avoiding letting dogs run through pools where natterjack toads are breeding.</p>
Amphibian & reptile interest		<p>Management measures: See above</p>
Breeding waders. Wintering waders and high tide roosts		<p>Management measures: See above</p>
Drigg Coast SAC/SSSI: Proposed crossing of the River Esk		
Main habitats saltmarsh and mudflat.	<p>As stage 1 describes, saltmarsh has a low resistance to trampling any infrastructure would need to reduce the damage to the saltmarsh through structure and design. The assumption is that the new crossing will consist of a structure fixed (and solely supported by) to the seaward side of the existing railway. There would be no new piers between the banks or within the saltmarsh. To the north the trail and approach to the crossing would sit on Network Rail land and/or adjacent farm land at a similar level to the adjacent railway track. Any additional supports or structures required to create the trail would only affect existing Network Rail infrastructure. To the south the trail approach would be on a similar level to the adjacent railway track. It is considered that based on these assumptions any infrastructure would have a limited effect on the conservation interests of the site. A separate Habitat Regulation Assessment of Likely Significant effect will need to be completed prior to construction.</p>	
Drigg Coast SAC/SSSI: Proposed crossing of the river River Irt		
Main habitats saltmarsh and mudflat.	<p>As stage 1 describes, saltmarsh has a low resistance to trampling any infrastructure would need to reduce the damage to the Saltmarsh through structure and design. The assessment is based on the assumption that the bridge will be single span with no piers constructed within the banks and that it will be of sufficient height not to inhibit the flow of flood water. Any elevated walkway or ramp leading to the bridge would also be designed not to impede flood waters. It is considered that based on these assumptions any infrastructure would have a limited effect on the conservation interests of the site. A separate Habitat Regulation Assessment of Likely Significant effect will need to be completed prior to construction.</p>	

Site Name: Gutterby Tarn LWS		
Species or habitat	Risk of predicted change significantly affecting conservation interests	Required access management measures (least restrictive option)
Emergent vegetation	Limited: There is no current access within the field containing the tarn. The coastal access route would be to the seaward of the site	
Natterjack Toads (Schedule 5)	Medium: There is no current access within the field containing the tarn. Although the route will be seaward of the tarn there is a risk of uncontrolled dogs splashing through natterjack toad breeding pools	Management Measures: Information boards at key access points along this section of coast (i.e. the car parks at Silecroft and Stubbs Place) should include information on natterjack toads and how to avoid disturbing them.

Site Name: St Bees Head SSSI		
Species or habitat	Risk of predicted change significantly affecting conservation interests	Required access management measures (least restrictive option)
Isolated bird colonies (species include: Black Guillemot, Guillemot, Razorbill, Puffin, Kittiwake, Fulmar, Shag, Cormorant)	Limited: The area has well walked rights of way. Part of these routes being promoted through C2C and Wainright. Cliffs are difficult to access other than through rock climbing.	Management Measures: In most cases the birds tend to nest and roost on the cliffs at St. Bees. The voluntary code of practice for rock climbing already set up by BMC should be retained and if possible, further work with BMC/RSPB should be considered to provide additional signage at bottom of cliff. Once coastal access rights are in place then the effectiveness of these measures will be checked through ongoing site monitoring.
Geological Conservation	Limited	Any access infrastructure should not obscure geological interest.
Maritime cliff and cliff top vegetation	Limited: Limited access, good existing paths	Management Measures: The existing routes over St Bees Head are very well used and given that the proposed line of the ECP will adopt the same line then it is likely that people will be encouraged through improved signage to stay on these existing access routes. Once coastal access rights are in place then use of the site should be monitored and reviewed to ensure these informal management measures are effective.

Site Name: Silver Tarn, Hollas and Harnsey Mosses SSSI		
Species or habitat	Risk of predicted change significantly affecting conservation interests	Required access management measures (least restrictive option)
Open water, fen &	Limited	Management Measures:

swamp communities		There is currently no existing public access through the site. As the proposed line of the ECP is to the seaward side of the designated sites we do not consider it likely that anyone would wander landward of the trail. No measures required other than monitor and review to check that no excessive trampling is occurring.
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Site Name:	Seascale Dunes and Foreshore LWS	
Species or habitat	Risk of predicted change significantly affecting conservation interests	Required access management measures (least restrictive option)
Natterjack toads	Limited: Existing access is already high. The surfaced cyclepath is part of Sustrans and Hadrians Wall routes and is well used. The dunes and foreshore adjacent to the path are well used. Access to the beach can be gained via several informal routes There are car parks to the north and south of the site	Management Measures: None necessary other than that included in any planned information boards (at Seascale) as majority of people are expected to keep to the surfaced path on which the proposed ECP is aligned.
Shingle & dunes vegetation	Limited	Management Measures: See above

Site Name:	Various locations along the coast – Natterjack toads	
Species or habitat	Risk of predicted change significantly affecting conservation interests	Required access management measures (least restrictive option)
Natterjack toads	High - Limited	Management Measures: None necessary other than inclusion of key messages in any planned information boards along the route.
Breeding, wintering and roosting birds	High - Limited	Management Measures: See above

Site Name:	Little Annaside Pond LWS	
Species or habitat	Risk of predicted change significantly affecting conservation interests	Required access management measures (least restrictive option)


Natterjack Toads	<p>Limited : Access levels and patterns may change by virtue of the trail passing on the seaward side of this site. There is currently no public access to this site so the introduction of the proposed trail may see an increase in those using the PROW (adjacent to the site) to gain access to the new trail.</p> <p>The trail is proposed on the seaward side of the tarn and there are no proposals for any landward coastal margin at this point, nor is it likely that the land would qualify as default landward margin so there would be no right of access to and across the LWS itself.</p>	<p>Management Measures: None necessary other than inclusion of key messages in any planned information boards along the route (i.e. Stubbs Place and Silecroft Car Park).</p>
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Site Name:	Cumbria Coast Marine Coastal Zone	
Species or habitat	Risk of predicted change significantly affecting conservation interests	Required access management measures (least restrictive option)
Honeycomb worm reefs	Limited: Access limited by tide and terrain	Management Measures: Non required other than include information on any planned interpretation boards
<i>Intertidal Biogenic Reefs</i>	Limited: Access limited by tide and terrain	Management Measures: see above
<i>Intertidal underboulder communities</i>	Limited: Access limited by tide and terrain	Management Measures: see above

Site Name:	Summer Hill LWS	
Species or habitat	Risk of predicted change significantly affecting conservation interests	Required access management measures (least restrictive option)
Natterjack Toads	Medium: There is no existing access through the site so access patterns are likely to change. Most people will walk along the line of the coastal path or keep to their usual walking route. The natterjack scrapes will be landward of the route.	Management Measures: Signage to make people aware of the breeding pools and to avoid disturbing them by keep dogs away from pools at breeding times.

Site Name:	Fields north of Silecroft Car Park and Shaw Meadow and Sea Pasture SSSI (Rayrick Hole)	
Species or habitat	Risk of predicted change significantly affecting conservation interests	Required access management measures (least restrictive option)
Natterjack toads	High: Although there is an existing car park at Silecroft beach (just to the south of this site), proposals to redevelop this area will undoubtedly attract many more visitors to this location. It is expected that they are likely to use the coastal path here in higher numbers and potentially wander across the fields at Rayrick Hole possibly aiming for an existing farm track inland of the coastal trail.	Management Measures: It is recommended that where the ECP is landward of the field fence at Rayrick Hole, a guide fence (chest height strand of wire) and information signs are required to encourage people (and their dogs) to keep to the seaward boundary. Such a guide fence would allow grazing to still take place as natterjack toads require a short vegetation to move about and feed.

Site Name:	Annaside SSSI	
Species or habitat	Risk of predicted change significantly affecting conservation interests	Required access management measures (least restrictive option)
Natterjack Toads	Medium: Limited access at present due to isolation from nearby settlements and car parking. There is an existing Public Right of way but this is not thought to be well used	Management Measures: Signage to make people aware of the breeding pools and to avoid disturbing them by keeping dogs away from pools at breeding times. The current enclosure at Pond 3 – Hyton Marsh, contains several successful natterjack scrapes which are crucial breeding sites linking colonies to the north and south. To protect this from further disturbance it is recommended that the enclosure fencing is upgraded. Note: Scrub management - should it be necessary to undertake the expected infrastructure works at the Hyton Marsh site (i.e. the proposed flight of steps), there may be an opportunity to help support the work of ARC with some limited scrub management at the site.

Completion of Stage 3
Responsible Officer Signed: 

Name: Kate Doughty

Date: 21 July 2014

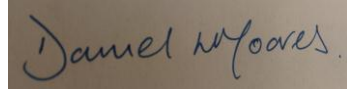
STAGE 4: IDENTIFICATION OF FINAL ACCESS PROPOSAL

Summarise the final access proposal:

The route maps can be found on Natural England's website: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/coastalaccess>. All management measures relating to the route, infrastructure and signage requirements and restrictions applying to the coastal margin are as described in detail in the Step 3 above.

Completion of Stage 4

Case Officer Signed:



Case Officer Name: Daniel Moores

Date: 21st July 2014

STAGE 5: ASSESSMENT OF ACCESS PROPOSAL ON SSSI & NON-NOTIFIED HABITATS AND SPECIES

The access proposal **will not** be damaging to the interest features for which *the following* SSSI's are notified:

- St Bees Head
- Silver Tarn, Hollas and Harnsey Mosses
- Annaside
- Annaside and Gutterby Banks
- Shaw Meadow and Sea Pasture

The access proposal **will be compatible** with furthering the conservation or enhancement of the features for which *the following* SSSI's are notified:

- St Bees Head
- Silver Tarn, Hollas and Harnsey Mosses
- Annaside
- Annaside and Gutterby Banks

The access proposal **will not** have any adverse impacts on the following Protected Species and un-notified species or habitats:

- Sand Dune

- Saline Lagoon
- Maritime Cliff and Slope
- Honeycomb Worm reef
- Vegetated Shingle
- Mudflat
- Fen, Reedbed, Mire
- Coastal & Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Waders - winter roost
- Waders - breeding
- Natterjack Toad
- Honeycomb worm reef

Completion of Stage 5

Responsible Officer signed:



Name: Kate Doughty

Date: 21 July 2014

STAGE 6: ASSESSMENT OF ACCESS PROPOSAL ON EUROPEAN SITES (HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENT, USING PART C OF THE REGULATION 61 FORM)

Screening of the project: *There are two screening stage tests required under Regulation 61 (transposing Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive):*

C1. Test: Necessary for (conservation) management (of the European site's features)

The England Coast Path proposal is not for these purposes connected to the management of the Drigg Coast SAC.

Test conclusion: Natural England has considered the whole project under Regulation 61 (1)(b) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and has decided that it **is not** directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Drigg Coast SAC, for the reasons outlined above.

C2. Test: Likelihood of significant effects (LSE)

C2.1 Alone:

Summary of full Habitat Regulation Assessment: Potential effect on SAC features

Potential effect: Direct habitat loss through erosion, mowing, compaction, trampling and illegal vehicle use; fire damage; nutrient increase from dogs; change in grazing patterns.

Mitigation measures: Improvements to signage will encourage people to stick to the main trail through the site and reduce the possibility of new informal routes being created. New accessible gates and a new short section of boardwalk and footbridge will also encourage people to remain on the trail.

The alignment of the trail through the Drigg Coast SAC will largely follow, existing, well used paths and therefore it is unlikely that this part of the route will see a significant increase in levels of use. The alignment of a new section of trail across part of the saltmarsh (to the north of the river lrt to the south of Shore Road as far as the existing UCR,) will also have the advantage of helping to divert walkers from the more sensitive areas of the dunes further to the south. Other signage and relevant information will be installed at appropriate locations to remind people of their rights and responsibilities and discourage damaging behaviour (i.e. signs warning of livestock grazing and the need for people to keep dogs on leads). Waste bins that can be used for dog waste are already provided at main access points – Drigg Shore Road, Seascale and Ravenglass.

The proposed exclusion of saltmarsh and mudflats between Hall Carleton and Saltcoats will also help to avoid any impact on this currently undisturbed area.

Some limited mowing of the route through the dunes to the north of Shore Road will help create the route. This and the subsequent use of the route itself may help to produce bare sand and short grassland that will help diversify the habitat. The presence of the public in these areas may also help to 'police' the area against unauthorised behaviour and unauthorised access (i.e. vehicles), which should help provide further support to the grazier and local police who patrol the dunes. The tenant already has "no vehicle" signs that will be installed on the proposed new gates.

Most locals already walk their dogs in the area but the dunes would be sensitive to extra nutrients, however they are less popular for dog walkers due to the all year presence of livestock. Increased shepherding by the grazier will be required if stock relocate due to disturbance. Potential disturbance to grazing livestock, particularly from dogs off the lead will be monitored and reviewed and if considered necessary, changes to access management on the site can be made.

The trail avoids the main area of heathland which is more vulnerable to fire damage. If fires (accidental/arson) do occur they are likely to be quick burning so recovery is likely to be within a year or two. Quick fires over small areas can help remove dead thatch in dune grassland helping to open up sward. Popularity and accessibility of the beach means that driftwood is usually collected quickly so reducing the likelihood of people building fires.

The proposals for coastal access rights within the Drigg Coast SAC include reference to future river crossings of the rivers Irt and Esk. Based on current information and assumptions about the location and design of the proposed bridges and associated sections of trail, there is little evidence to suggest that they would cause any significant effects on the Drigg Coast SAC in either of the locations proposed.

The crossing of the river Irt would most likely be located on or close to an existing ford which is accessed via an Unclassified County Road UCR), and would be likely incorporate a single-span structure, avoiding any disturbance to the river bed. The crossing of the river Esk would most likely involve utilising the existing railway viaduct and embankment above the level of the adjoining saltmarsh. A provisional line for the England Coast Path, connecting to the northern end of the railway viaduct on or very close to the seaward edge of the existing railway embankment, would place it outside the boundary of the SAC (from Walls bridge to the saltmarsh/mudflats) and then either outside of or just on the very edge of the SAC as it approaches the railway viaduct.

A separate appraisal will need to be carried out once detailed designs for these structures have been developed - most likely as part of the planning application process. (*nb* It is noted that if such crossings are constructed in the future, but on a significantly different line to that shown as the proposed route in either location, then further approval from the Secretary of State to amend the route will need to be sought).

Access arrangements for the site will be kept under review and may be adjusted if necessary to ensure protection of sensitive features. Regular reviews should be held involving several interested parties (i.e. the Responsible Officer for the site, other area team members and specialists as necessary, the access authority, district council) to check that the management measures described are effective.

Conclusion: No Likely significant effect

C2.2 In-combination with other plans and projects (*only where applicable*):

Drigg Low Level Waste Repository – Planning application (Cumbria County Council) and environmental permit application (Environment Agency)

This is a very large project that is expected to last for a considerable amount of time it is currently in the planning system. The Environment Agency Appropriate Assessment has concluded no adverse effect. Cumbria CC have yet to assess their aspects of the project (notably construction impacts). There is little scope for any interaction between the LLWR development and Coastal Access provision. The potential effects of the project which raise various concerns are very different (e.g. hydrological changes, radiation impacts, water quality, protected species, air quality). We therefore conclude that there is very little scope that this project and the coastal access proposals will have any 'in-combination impacts' on Drigg Coast SAC.

Access track repairs – Drigg Dunes

Small scale repairs to the vehicle track that passes south from Shore Road through Drigg Dunes are to be undertaken in 2014. Much of this track is due

to become part of the Coastal Access route. Small sections of track are due to have inert stone added and culvert pipes installed where required to enable access for stock management during wet conditions. The track is already well used by pedestrians with light vehicle access. The track does not support typical dune habitats so the loss of small areas of track grassland will not significantly affect the notified features of the SAC alone or in combination with the coastal access proposal.

The results of this assessment are as follows:

Test conclusion: Natural England has considered the project under Regulation 61(1)(a) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and has decided that it **is not** likely to have a significant effect, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, for the following reasons:

- The predicted increase of use along an already well used coastal path is not considered likely to have a significant impact on the SAC habitats.
- The predicted increase in use along the new section of path, and the use of other unrestricted land within the coastal margin is not considered to have a significant impact on the SAC features.
- The location of the establishment works associated with the path through the SAC (which will include installation of new simple ditch bridges and new signage/ waymark posts) are not considered likely to have a significant impact on the SAC features, subject to necessary consents being obtained.
- For the proposed crossings of the Rivers Irt and Esk, a separate appraisal of detailed designs will need to be carried out before construction.

The project is unlikely to have a significant effect on the following features for which the SAC has been designated or classified:

1130 Estuaries

2150 Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) * Priority feature

2170 Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae)

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site

1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand

1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)

2110 Embryonic shifting dunes

2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes")

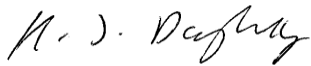
2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") * Priority feature

2190 Humid dune slacks

C3. Screening Decision: On the basis of the project details submitted (see Stage 4), Natural England has concluded that as the project is unlikely to have significant effects (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on any of the Qualifying Features, **no further assessment is required** and permission/authorisation/assent may be given subject to the following condition:

When detailed proposals for infrastructure and management including the proposed crossings of the river Irt and Esk are developed, these 'projects' would need to complete a further assessment process satisfactorily before proceeding.

Responsible Officer signed:



Name: Kate Doughty

Date: 19th September 2014

