

Coastal Access – Whitehaven to Silecroft

Representations on VR7: Nethertown & Sellafield - and Natural England's comments



January 2020

1. Introduction

This document details representations we have received on the stated coastal access report. These fall into a single category:

- Representations received from persons or bodies that must be sent in full to the Secretary of State ('full' representations, reproduced below).

In relation to the stated coastal access report, we did not receive any representations from those persons or bodies whose representations we are not required to send in full to the Secretary of State ('other' representations).

The document also sets out any comments that Natural England chooses to make in response to these representations.

2. Background

Natural England's report setting out its proposals to vary the approved route at two locations between Whitehaven and Silecroft was submitted to the Secretary of State on 26th June 2019. This began an eight-week period during which representations and objections about the report could be made.

In relation to the variation report for Nethertown and Sellafield, Natural England received 4 representations, all of which were made by organisations or individuals whose representations must be sent in full to the Secretary of State, in accordance with paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 1A to the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. These 'full' representations are reproduced in Section 3 of this document together with Natural England's comments where relevant.

Before making a determination in respect of a coastal access report, the Secretary of State must consider all 'full' representations, together with Natural England's comments on each.

3. Record of 'full' representations and Natural England's comments on them

Representation number:	MCA/WHS/VR7/R/1/WHS0080
Organisation/ person making representation:	[redacted] Historic England
Route section(s) specific to this representation:	WHS-VR7-S001 to WHS-VR7-S004 (Nethertown)
Representation in full	
On behalf of Historic England (The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England), I confirm that the proposed variation has no adverse impact on the historic environment, or on specific designated heritage assets.	
Natural England's comments	
We thank Historic England for providing this clarification.	
Relevant appended documents (see section 6): None supplied	

Representation number:	MCA/WHS/VR7/R/2/WHS0080
Organisation/ person making representation:	[redacted] Historic England
Route section(s) specific to this representation:	WHS-VR7-S005 to WHS-VR7-S017 (Sellafield)
Representation in full	
On behalf of Historic England (The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England), I confirm that the proposed variation has no adverse impact on the historic environment, or on specific designated heritage assets.	
Natural England's comments	
We thank Historic England for providing this clarification.	
Relevant appended documents (see section 6): None supplied	

Representation number:	MCA/WHS/VR7/R/3/WHS0013
Organisation/ person making representation:	[redacted] The Ramblers (and the Open Spaces Society)
Route section(s) specific to this representation:	WHS-VR7-S001 to WHS-VR7-S004 (Nethertown)
Representation in full	
We supported Natural England's original proposed route, which was based on undertakings by Network Rail that would have facilitated the installation of the path. We are disappointed that Network Rail has chosen not to support the coast path in the way it had initially indicated and that their decision has added to the cost of installing this section. We are not aware of proposals that would bring this land into operational railway use in the foreseeable future. However, we support Natural England's revised route.	
Natural England's comments	

We acknowledge the disappointment expressed in the need to change the approved route in this area and thank The Ramblers and the Open Spaces Society for their support.

Relevant appended documents (see section 6): None supplied

Representation number:	MCA/WHS/VR7/R/4/WHS0013
Organisation/ person making representation:	[redacted] The Ramblers (and the Open Spaces Society)
Route section(s) specific to this representation:	WHS-VR7-S005 to WHS-VR7-S017 (Sellafield)
Representation in full	
We support Natural England's revised route. At some future date we would like to see the establishment of a truly coastal route along the shore side of the River Ehen, north from Sellafield station. This would require use of the Network Rail level crossing.	
Natural England's comments	
We acknowledge the desire expressed for a more coastal route in this area and thank The Ramblers and the Open Spaces Society for their support.	
Relevant appended documents (see section 6): None supplied	