

Coast to Coast Proposal– Update

April 2022

Using powers under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act Natural England has been asked to submit a proposal to the Secretary of State for a new northern National Trail along the route of the existing Coast to Coast walked route. From Settle in Cumbria to Robin Hoods Bay in North Yorkshire the trail would showcase the best of Cumbria and North Yorkshire including The Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks.

Work on the proposal was announced as part of the National Disability Strategy on 28th July 2021. If approved, it would deliver a government manifesto pledge and commitments made in the context of the 25 Year Environment Plan and Glover Review recommendations.



Task /Progress	Next steps
<p>Governance – to focus on proposal stage and ensure appropriate consultation/engagement Our Project Board meets monthly and is made up of Lake District, Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks, North Yorkshire and Cumbria County Councils, Defra and Natural England.</p>	<p>The Board will continue to meet and steer decisions on matters such as route surveying, alignment, and communication to the point at which the proposal is submitted (summer 2022). We have sent a letter to landowners giving them initial information about the project.</p>
<p>Survey – to assess current route and identify underlying rights and condition The full route (the green line on the map above) has now been surveyed with the assistance of County Council and National Park staff. Using GPS devices, the survey records the line of the route and pictures of stiles, gates bridges and waymarking and surface condition.</p>	<p>Post processing work where we match the survey data to underlying mapping is complete. We have held one to one meetings with the National Parks and County Councils to discuss the alignment and areas where the walked line may deviate from Public Rights of Way or be on permissive sections and Open Access land.</p>
<p>Mapping – to provide an accurate and agreed map as part of proposal The route and information about infrastructure and surface condition have been uploaded and processed so we have an accurate record of the walked line. We have created a database that records the status of the route and any points where improvements or realignments are needed.</p>	<p>Throughout March we held further one to one meetings with the National Parks and County Councils to discuss proposed infrastructure improvements. Any improvements will be discussed and agreed with landowners and tenants at establishment phase.</p>
<p>Habitat Regulations Assessment – to ensure our proposals will not have an adverse effect on European designated sites. The report to the Secretary of State is classed as a Project or Plan and a Habitat Regulations Assessment is required. Based on the existing route we have looked at where the route crosses designated sites, listed the features of those sites and are beginning to pinpoint those parts of the proposal where, without further investigation, we cannot say that there will not be an adverse effect on a habitat or species.</p>	<p>The HRA has been drafted and shared with the NE area teams who are happy with the approach. If the National Trail proposal is approved there will need to be further assessments that look at specific establishment work to see if further HRAs are required.</p>
<p>Realising the Benefits of National Trails – to set out how ambitions for greater accessibility and local benefit might be achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal will contain a short section outlining our aspirations for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making the trail and linked routes as accessible as possible (in consultation with relevant groups, landowners, and highway authorities), • attracting a diverse audience, • engaging business and • creating circular routes linking communities 	<p>Yorkshire Dales NP led on this work, liaising with other partners they have gathered information on existing projects, work already planned and aspirational work. A report has been produced.</p>