

CALLAF meeting at Scales, Aldingham 25 January 2018 – Informal Report

Members met at one of the many informal car parks off the Coast Road south from Ulverston to Barrow, to assess the potential for seeking higher rights for part of Stretch 5 (Silecroft to Silverdale) of the England Coast Path (ECP). Kerry Rennie, Natural England's Lead Officer, explained that the shoreline route is used currently by horse riders. A walk south along the high tide line gave views of the low cliffs of limestone pavement of Sea Wood, and some of the covering glacial deposits. The ECP is planned to go up the steep Swinthwaite Lane, where horse riders could continue into Baycliff village. Returning by the shore the ECP is planned to go up into the Woodland Trust's Sea Wood. The slightly elevated path through the wood gives extensive views across the Leven estuary. The ECP will only require steps up into the wood and a small bridge at the northern end.



The formal afternoon meeting in Aldingham parish hall, (run entirely by volunteers) began with two representations from the public requesting support from the CALLAF. The first referred to a parish council's wish to create an off-road path between two villages. This issue is quite complex: the CALLAF agreed to draft response letters. The second asked the CALLAF to request Natural England to make Stretch 5 of ECP continuous up to the current road bridges at the Duddon and Kent estuaries, instead of the current proposals for the walkers on the ECP to use the train. Members agreed to walk these sections before making a response. Kerry Rennie gave an update of progress on Stretches 1-5 of the ECP, and Sarah Wiseman, also of Natural England, outlined some of the nature conservation issues involved. A number of temporary footpath closure applications had been received, many still involving repairs following Storm Desmond floods of 2015. Members reported problems with PROW, including a dead-end bridleway at Rampside, Barrow. Many other issues and consultation responses were discussed.

