

Supporting huge development plans for Whitehaven

Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners are behind the first project, a multi-million pound programme to make Whitehaven the tourism capital of the Cumbrian coastline.

The £3.6 million coastal activities centre called The Edge is being funded by Sellafeld Ltd and the Coastal Communities Fund.

Work on the project began earlier this month and is expected to open its doors in early 2022.

It will feature accommodation, storage facilities, and flexible activity spaces and will become a spectacular starting point for the world-famous C2C cycle route.

Celia MacKenzie, chief executive of the Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners, said:

We're incredibly excited about the potential of the harbour regeneration programme.

This is the latest of many investments we've made over the years which are all designed to maximise Whitehaven's potential as a tourism capital.

The idea is to open up the coastline to residents and tourists and provide a new start point for the world famous C2C cycle challenge.

Cumbria currently lacks a dedicated facility to support those undertaking water sports and recreational activities on its coastline, making it one of the country's most under-utilised regions for coastline activities.

The Edge will fill the gap by providing direct access to the sea via a new slipway, and I'd like to thank everyone who uses and values the harbour for their patience and understanding as we begin the necessary construction works.

This will be a fantastic asset for the harbour and the community. Whether you're a cyclist looking for somewhere to start your challenge, an explorer looking to access the England Coast Path, a school group looking for a coastal or overnight adventure, or a community group looking for space to hold activities or workshops,

The Edge will be for you.

Elsewhere in the marina, Sellafield Ltd is investing in a cutting-edge filtration system that will be installed into the harbour, putting the town on a par with Dubai and Sydney.

Developed and delivered by the Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project, our £100,000 investment will fund a filtration system that will feature a network of floating 'seabins' as well as an environmental education programme.

Whitehaven already has one Seabin in operation, sponsored by the Whitehaven Marina.

The youth project will be working with the marina to add 6 more Seabins to filter and remove plastics, microplastics and oil from the water, creating a cleaner and safer environment for water sports and marine wildlife.

By 2023, Whitehaven Marina will be the first in the world to boast 7 Seabins, putting the town ahead of Dubai, which has 6, and Sydney, which has 2. Only 4 other places in the UK have them.

The environmental education programme will involve local schools and other community groups in the area and provide education about plastic pollution and its impact on the local and global environment.

The harbour redevelopment is the second investment to be announced in Sellafield Ltd's newly relaunched social impact programme, SiX (social impact, multiplied.)

The company, along with its owner the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, is providing £1.15 million for the Edge and a further £93,500 for the Seabins.

Gary McKeating, head of community and development at Sellafield Ltd, said:

The harbour regeneration is a great example of the SiX ethos.

We've co-created these plans with Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners and the Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project, leveraged additional funding, and the results will be schemes that will benefit as many people as possible.

That's what we mean by social impact multiplied: working with others to create investments which are more than the sum of their parts.

This will create jobs, significantly develop Whitehaven's tourism offer, and help strengthen and diversify the local economy.

Notes to editors

Coastal Communities Fund

The Great British Coast has enormous economic potential and this government

is determined to see it thrive all year round.

That's why by 2020 the government will have invested over £200 million in our much loved seaside areas through dedicated programmes like Coastal Communities Fund to help in generating jobs and boosting businesses.

So far, analysis has shown that this has been money well spent with every £1 invested having the potential to create an up to £8 boost to our coastal economies.

To find out more visit: [Coastal communities fund](#)

Grant recipients are free to publicise their project award however best suits their needs. But if you would like some further facts about the fund, or the wider regeneration work going on across the country, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is always happy to help.

Some additional key facts:

- more than 11 million people live across the Great British Coast
- the coastal tourism industry contributes £8 billion to the economy each year
- the first 4 rounds of the Coastal Communities Fund invested over £173 million in 295 projects across the UK
- Those projects are predicted to create or safeguard up to 18,000 good jobs UK-wide
- across our Great British Coast we've got heritage hooks to be proud of, but some of these places need some tender, loving, care. That's why MHCLG has also invested £7.8 million through the Coastal Revival Fund to get 189 brilliant British coastal heritage assets back into ship-shape

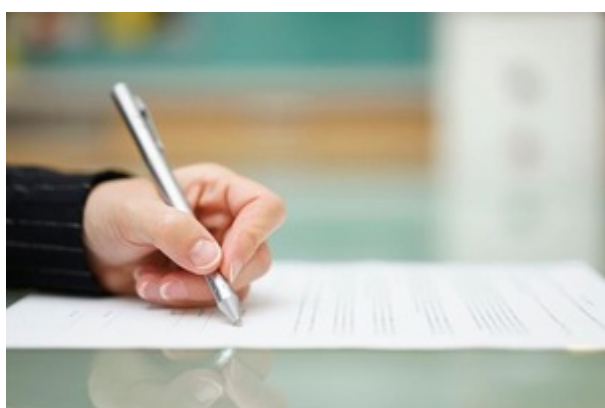
End of an Era Statue relocation

- the proposal is to move the statue to an alternative site approximately 200/300 metres further towards The Beacon (adjacent to West Strand).
 - arguably this ultimately places the statue in a more prominent position and closer to the footfall of The Beacon and the town centre, and it will still be in the harbour setting
 - the move was agreed by the Miners Welfare Social Committee who installed it in 2005
 - Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners met with the committee in March, responded to their concerns about the plinth and then received their approval that planning permission should be sought in May
 - specialist contractors will be used to assess and carry out the work with appropriate insurance in place
 - the statue may need to be stored temporarily while a new, identical plinth is constructed
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ESFA procurement opportunity launching soon for providers to access additional funding to deliver 19 to 24 AEB funded traineeships

News story

We are planning a procurement opportunity so providers can access funding to deliver 19 to 24 adult education budget (AEB) funded traineeships.



Following the publication of the government's [Plan for Jobs](#) which included a £111 million investment to triple the number of traineeships available, we are planning a procurement opportunity so providers can access funding to deliver 19 to 24 adult education budget (AEB) funded traineeships.

We will be looking for providers with the capacity to start providing high-quality traineeships quickly through a ring-fenced contract for service. Details about how we will manage new traineeship opportunities for 16 to 18-year-olds will be published shortly.

Opportunities to bid for additional 19 to 24 AEB traineeship funding will be handled through the Department for Education's e-sourcing portal. Organisations who do not already have an existing account must register one as this is the only method to access tendering documentation. You can [register online](#).

The Plan for Jobs included a commitment to provide thousands of new traineeships to get young people aged 16 to 24 (up to 25 for those with an Education, Health and Care Plan) in England into work.

As well as an investment of £111m for 2020 to 2021, there are new flexibilities and opportunities which will strengthen traineeships and widen access to them for young people:

- young people qualified up to Level 3 (rather than Level 2 previously)

are now eligible for a traineeship

- there is a more flexible work experience offer of minimum 70 hours, with multiple employers if needed
- we want to see flexible content and qualifications that prepares trainees for progression to apprenticeships and jobs through a direct line of sight to the occupational standards
- an increased AEB traineeship learning aim cost of £1500.
- employers who offer new traineeship work placements will receive £1,000 per learner (up to ten learners) to support engagement and assist with costs such as the purchase of additional PPE for trainees
- traineeships can now last up to 12 months, allowing twice as much time on a programme for those young people with particular needs who need it. We still expect traineeships to support young people into work as quickly as possible.
- we want traineeships to move young people towards work or an apprenticeship more than ever before.

We will publish an updated traineeships framework for delivery and funding rules over the next month.

Further information will be added to this page with updates communicated through our weekly newsletter, [ESFA Update](#).

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[Negotiations on the UK's future trading relationship with New Zealand: Update](#)

News story

Trade negotiators from the UK and New Zealand held the first round of negotiations for a UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between 13th and 24th July 2020.



We are now one step closer to an ambitious, wide-ranging free trade agreement with one of our oldest friends. An FTA with New Zealand can bring investment, better jobs, higher wages and more affordable prices just when we need them the most. Both teams of negotiators recognised the unprecedented circumstances we find ourselves in and reiterated that more global trade is essential to support post-Covid economic recovery. Negotiations were conducted virtually and covered a comprehensive set of discussions across areas of a trade agreement.

The discussions covered:

- Anti-Corruption
- Clean Growth
- Competition
- Cross-cutting general provisions
- Customs
- Digital trade
- Domestic Regional Economic Development
- Environment
- Financial Services
- Trade in Goods and Trade Remedies
- Good Regulatory Practice
- Indigenous Trade
- Intellectual Property
- Investment
- Labour
- Procurement
- Rules of Origin
- Services, including Mobility
- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
- State Owned Enterprises
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
- State to State Dispute Settlement
- Technical Barriers to Trade
- Telecommunications
- Trade and Development
- Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment
- Transparency

Discussions between negotiators were productive and reflected our shared ambition to secure a comprehensive deal to boost trade and investment between

our like-minded economies. Teams discussed their respective objectives and agreed a forward plan for future talks. Our positive discussions in round one have laid the groundwork for the UK and New Zealand to achieve high-quality outcomes across the agreement.

The UK and New Zealand are aligned in many areas which will enable us to make quick progress across many chapters. In discussions, both countries emphasised a desire to be particularly ambitious in areas including enhancing digital trade, boosting cross-border trade in services and investment, reducing uncertainty and burdens on exporters from customs procedures, and promoting good regulatory practices. Discussions also provided an opportunity for both teams to consider how we can work together across the agreement to support important agendas such as women's economic empowerment, trade and development, indigenous trade, clean growth and climate action, and ensuring Small and Medium sized Enterprises can benefit from the FTA.

The Government is committed to negotiating a comprehensive agreement with New Zealand and we look forward to making further progress. The Government will make its next statement on progress following the second round of talks, which is currently planned to take place in October. We will explore the option of face-to-face negotiations when it is safe to do so.

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New synthetic datasets to assist COVID-19 and cardiovascular research

The Medicines and Healthcare products Agency (MHRA) has announced the creation of [two innovative synthetic datasets](#) which will support the development of cutting-edge medical technologies to fight COVID-19 and cardiovascular disease.

These datasets have been generated to accurately mirror symptoms, diagnoses and treatments in genuine patients. They are based on anonymised primary care data using innovative methods to produce entirely artificial data that doesn't contain any original data from 'real' patients, further reducing risks to patient privacy.

Synthetic datasets like these are valuable in the development and testing of machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms in medical devices used for diagnosing diseases and monitoring and improving health conditions.

CPRD Director Janet Valentine comments:

These datasets are designed to help researchers and companies validate their innovative new AI and medical devices. This development will support bringing safe products to market sooner, enabling patients to benefit from the latest technical advances.

The datasets were produced by a collaboration between the Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD), MHRA Medical Devices Division and researchers at Brunel University.

The synthetic data generation methodology and the cardiovascular dataset were funded by a grant from the [Regulators' Pioneer Fund](#) launched by The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and managed by Innovate UK. Creation of the COVID-19 synthetic dataset was funded by NHSX.

Indra Joshi, Director of AI at NHSX, said:

At NHSX we are committed to protecting patient privacy whilst supporting the development of cutting-edge technologies that could potentially help the NHS and our patients. "Creating synthetic datasets is a novel way to help train machine learning algorithms on a rich and diverse set of data whilst maintaining safety and protecting privacy.

The data generation and evaluation framework, as well as the datasets, are owned by the MHRA. A detailed technical description of the methodology used to generate the synthetic datasets is available [here](#).

For access to these datasets, please submit [an application form](#) to enquiries@cprd.com including 'Synthetic data access request' in the email subject header. Applicants from organisations that are not existing CPRD clients will also need to submit [a new client request form](#).

[Government further boosts chances of UK receiving COVID-19 vaccine](#)

- An additional 60 million doses of a potentially lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine have been secured by the government
- the agreement with GSK and Sanofi Pasteur increases the UK's chances of getting access to a safe and effective vaccine by adding a new type of vaccine candidate to the UK's growing portfolio
- almost 72,000 people have volunteered in the past week to receive information about joining vital clinical studies to speed up vaccine research – but many more still needed

A deal to secure early access to a promising new coronavirus vaccine has been announced by the government today (29 July), enhancing the UK's growing portfolio of vaccine candidates to protect the public and to save lives.

The agreement with GSK and Sanofi Pasteur, which combined have the largest vaccine manufacturing capability in the world, will supply the UK with 60 million doses of their COVID-19 vaccine, which is based on existing DNA-based technology used to produce Sanofi's flu vaccine.

If the GSK and Sanofi vaccine candidate is proven effective in human studies, the UK could be able to vaccinate priority groups, such as frontline health and social care workers and those at increased health risk, as soon as summer 2021. Human clinical studies of the vaccine will begin in September followed by a Phase 3 study in December 2020.

With today's announcement, the government has now secured early access to 4 different types of immunisation and a total of 250 million doses, giving the UK the most likely chance of finding a safe and effective vaccine at the quickest speed.

Business Secretary Alok Sharma said:

Our scientists and researchers are racing to find a safe and effective vaccine at a speed and scale never seen before. While this progress is truly remarkable, the fact remains that there are no guarantees.

In the meantime, it is important that we secure early access to a diverse range of promising vaccine candidates, like GSK and Sanofi, to increase our chances of finding one that works so we can protect the public and save lives.

This latest agreement comes as the government confirmed that almost 72,000 people have volunteered to receive information about participating in future vaccine studies following the launch of the NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry last week.

Only large-scale clinical studies can give scientists and regulators the assurances they need that vaccines secured are safe and effective for use. That is why the government is urging the British public to back the national effort to speed up vaccine research by signing up to www.nhs.uk/coronavirus to receive information about becoming a volunteer for clinical studies. The aim is to get 500,000 people signed up by October.

Kate Bingham, Chair of the government's Vaccines Taskforce, said:

Through this agreement with GSK and Sanofi, the Vaccine Taskforce can add another type of vaccine to the 3 different types of vaccine we have already secured.

This diversity of vaccine types is important because we do not yet know which, if any, of the different types of vaccine will prove to generate a safe and protective response to COVID-19. Whilst this agreement is very good news, we mustn't be complacent or over optimistic.

The fact remains we may never get a vaccine and if we do get one, we have to be prepared that it may not be a vaccine which prevents getting the virus, but rather one that reduces symptoms.

Thomas Triomphe, Executive Vice President and Global Head of Sanofi Pasteur commented:

With our partner GSK, we are pleased to cooperate with the UK government as well as several other countries and global organisations as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure a safe and effective vaccine is available to everyone as quickly as possible. We greatly appreciate the UK government's support of this shared vision.

Roger Connor, President of GSK Vaccines added:

We believe that this adjuvanted vaccine candidate has the potential to play a significant role in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic, both in the UK and around the world. We thank the UK government for confirmation of purchasing intent, which supports the significant investment we are already making as a company to scale up development and production of this vaccine.

Earlier this month, the government announced it had secured 90 million COVID-19 vaccine doses thanks to partnerships with the BioNTech / Pfizer alliance and Valneva. A deal has also been agreed to secure access to treatments containing COVID-19 neutralising antibodies from AstraZeneca, to protect those who cannot receive vaccines such as cancer and immunocompromised patients.

This is in addition to an existing global licensing agreement signed with AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford to research, develop and manufacture a COVID-19 vaccine for the UK public. AstraZeneca will work to produce 100 million doses for the UK in total.

Notes to editors

When coronavirus invades the body, the immune system fights back in multiple ways including by producing antibodies to neutralize the virus. These antibodies bind to the spike protein on the surface of the coronavirus and prevent them from entering the cells.

GSK and Sanofi's vaccine includes the coronavirus spike protein and the immune boosting adjuvant to trigger a strong and long-lasting immune response (including the production of neutralizing antibodies) against COVID-19 especially in the elderly who are likely to be a priority population for early COVID-19 vaccination.

The 4 different vaccine classes that the government has secured to date for the UK are:

- adenoviral vaccines (Oxford/AZ)
- mRNA vaccines (BioNTech/Pfizer & Imperial)
- inactivated whole virus vaccines (Valneva)
- protein adjuvant vaccines (Agamemnon)

In addition the UK has secured rights to AstraZeneca's antibody treatment to neutralize the virus which can be used both as a short term prophylactic for those people who cannot receive vaccines (for example cancer and immunosuppressed patients) and front line workers exposed to the virus, as well as a treatment for infected patients.

Volunteering for COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials

A new NHS service has been launched to enable people across the UK to sign up for information on COVID-19 vaccine trials.

The NHS Covid-19 vaccine research registry, developed in partnership with NHS Digital, will help large numbers of people to be recruited into trials over the coming months – potentially meaning an effective vaccine for coronavirus can be found as soon as possible.

The service was commissioned as part of the UK government's Vaccine Taskforce in conjunction with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Northern Ireland, Scottish and Welsh governments.

Anyone living in the UK can sign up online to take part in the trials through the NHS, giving permission for researchers to contact you if they think you're a good fit.

Once you sign up, you can withdraw at any time and request that your details be removed from the COVID-19 vaccine research registry. The process takes about 5 minutes to complete.

Find out more: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Vaccine priority groups: interim advice

Interim advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on the groups that should be prioritised for vaccination, if and when a vaccine is available.

The committee advises priority vaccination of the following groups:

1. frontline health and social care workers
2. those at increased risk of serious disease and death from COVID-19 infection stratified according to age and risk factors

There is ongoing work within the UK to refine the identification of persons at risk of serious disease and mortality from COVID-19 infection. As well as age and underlying co-morbid conditions, the committee notes that early signals have been identified of other potential risk factors, including deprivation and ethnicity. As more evidence on at-risk groups emerges, this work will inform the review of the composition, and order of priority, of groups for vaccination.

More information is available at [Priority groups for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination advice](#).