

**Our Ref:** 143660/AS/JA/L3  
**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

51a St. Paul's Street  
Leeds LS1 2TE

Michael Burchnell  
Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council  
Braeside  
Low Greenhills  
Crook  
Kendal  
LA8 8LA

TEL: 0113 243 4671 FAX: 0844 381 4412  
Email: leeds@fairhurst.co.uk  
Website: www.fairhurst.co.uk

SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

**143660: Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council (KLTC)**

Dear Mr Burchnell,

Following a recent site visit and slope stability inspection undertaken on the 15th of November 2021, Fairhurst advise KLTC the following information on footpath closure of The Brow.

The inspection has identified that there are still public safety issues due to the ongoing scour and movement of the slope which will inevitably result in further slope degradation. It is not possible to determine accurately when, and to what extent further slope movement will occur and how this will impact to the toe and crest of the slope where public access is currently permitted. Factors such as weather, in particular heavy rainfall (during and after), and river state will exacerbate further movement going into the winter. This does not mean that slope movement will not occur outside of winter and that any potential slope movement will necessarily be weather related.

Therefore, we suggest:

- Consideration should be given to restricting public access to the footpath at the crest.
- Footpath closure is between the top of Radical Steps and the fork in the footpath beyond the 2<sup>nd</sup> viewing platform to the northwest.

If KLTC want to investigate the possibility opening the footpath during summer months Fairhurst can explore the possibility of developing an Early Warning System that would trigger a response for the footpath to be closed off temporally. Implementation of an effective Early Warning System at The Brow would need to be bespoke, site specific and would require significantly more information than is existing to create one. For instance, regular slope inspections in combination with installation of slope monitoring equipment and river level and rain gauges (if not already present or if insufficient). In addition, there would be a responsibility for the risk owner to ensure the footpath is closed when a warning is triggered.

However, aforementioned, in our opinion, due to the complexity of slope stability on this site and the multiple potential failure mechanism which operate geo-spatially at different timeframes and scales at The Brow, determination of slope stability using an Early Warning System is unlikely to be reliable enough to reduce the risk to an acceptable level for public use of the footpath. Therefore creating an Early Warning System is anticipated to be a fruitless exercise.

We appreciate that further advice on public safety requirements may be required and it may be possible to obtain assistance in this regard from your local authorities.

Yours sincerely  
**Joshua Blacker**  
CC' AS

ABERDEEN  
BIRMINGHAM  
BRISTOL  
DUNDEE  
EDINBURGH  
ELGIN  
GLASGOW  
HUDDERSFIELD  
INVERNESS  
LEEDS  
LONDON  
NEWCASTLE  
PLYMOUTH  
SEVENOAKS  
TALUNTON  
THURSO  
WATFORD  
WESTHILL

SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

**FAIRHURST**