

**This is a summary of activities carried out by KLTC Technical Team during December 2023 in an effort to re-open The Brow footpath using a cost-effective approach that is low risk and safe for Public access.**

*Monthly Report No.2 – 07JAN24 was presented to Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council at the regular monthly Council meeting on 10JAN24.*

The Technical Team made positive progress during December 2023, concentrating on Monitoring Surveys and gathering all Geotechnical Reports instructed by KLTC since Storm Desmond in DEC 2015.

Stage 1a. considers tree management and vegetation clearance on the embankment. We have instructed Arbtech Consultants to conduct an arboriculture THREATS survey to identify tree preservation orders (TPO), the health of trees on the embankment and to assess their risk of falling. This is a requirement of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority before any tree cutting or removal of dead trees can take place. Cost of site survey with written report in the region of £1500 including VAT – to be paid from funds raised by Friends of Save Ruskins View.

Stage 1b – Survey Monitoring on The Brow will provide evidence of movement or no movement to the footpath and surrounding areas. Malcolm Hughes Land Surveyors Ltd (MHL) are appointed to carry out the monthly survey monitoring on The Brow.

A Baseline survey was established on site - 03JAN24 using high-tech digital equipment. A number of steel pins for taking measurements from are anchored in the tarmac footpath and highlighted with red marker paint. Cost of monthly site survey with analysis and written report in the region of £1200/month (incl. VAT) for 6 months (total £7200 incl. VAT) – to be paid from funds raised by Friends of Save Ruskins View.

All survey data will be analysed by MHL and presented on drawings, photographs and spreadsheets. Further surveys will be required at the top of the embankment to check the condition of footpath support (existing gabions and concrete edge beams). It is likely that part of the footpath is 'undercut' because of drainage issues washing away 'fines' in the stone support. To be investigated when good weather allows and vegetation can be cleared.

At some stage a monitoring survey is required at river level to assess the state and extent of water erosion along the riverbank. However, this is not within the scope of Stage 1b. monitoring.

Part of the embankment know as Ruskins View immediately north of the Radical Steps was gifted to Kirkby Lonsdale in 1947 but never legally registered with Land Registry. It is recommended to the Council that the property is registered, thus recording and safeguarding the title to the land for future generations. Nick Hampson, a member of the Technical Team and an experienced Land Surveyor will register the property in his own time and free of charge but will be reimbursed for all registration costs... approx. £100 - to be paid from funds raised by Friends of Save Ruskins View.

An informal and successful meeting with St Marys church gives enthusiasm for cooperation over the next few months. Various documents and survey information have been shared between both groups.

Other stakeholders including Underley Estates and Westmorland & Furness Council will be contacted shortly and asked to connect with KLTC and the Friends of Ruskins View Fundraisers in collaborative effort to re-open The Brow as soon as is practicably possible.

Kind regards  
Malcolm

**Malcolm Perrin**  
**KLTC Technical Team Lead**

 Town Council

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