



This is a summary of activities carried out by KLTC Technical Team during MAY/JUN 2024 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.6 – 11JUN24 was presented to Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council at the monthly Council meeting on 12JUN24.

The Technical Team continue to make positive progress through MAY/JUN 2024, concentrating on discussions with Westmorland & Furness Council (W&FC) Highways Engineering and Countryside Access Teams to determine what criteria must be met in order to re-open The Brow.

Incidents / Adverse events to date:

Despite locked gates preventing Public access along The Brow, many visitors and families continue to climb over handrails at the top of Radical Steps and walk along a well-worn path next to the footpath railings.

Many continue to rest at the first viewing platform to enjoy Ruskins View in fine weather.

- *KLTC have placed signs at each gate showing the footpath is 'CLOSED' and not taking any responsibility for harm or injury to anyone choosing to use the path.*
- *KLTC have agreed not to install any further fencing for fear of vandalism and causing injury by further climbing over spiked iron railings.*

Stage 1a. – Tree Management and Vegetation Clearance:

We finally have written consent from Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) to carry out minor tree cropping along the footpath and embankment. Ivy that is choking mature trees will be cut at 1.0m above ground level and damaged / loose tree branches will be removed. Two or three trees showing no sign of life (ash die back) can now be cut down and removed from the embankment. Local tree surgeons are being asked to quote for the work. Work will progress in JUN 2024.

Stage 1b – Survey Monitoring of The Brow:

The final monthly survey of 6No. site surveys is now complete for JUN24.

All survey data will be analysed by MHL and presented on drawings, photographs and spreadsheets for inclusion in a Geotechnical Assessment Report for submission to W&FC for approval.

There is no significant movement of The Brow footpath.

The footpath has deteriorated over the past two and half years closure and remedial construction work is required to eliminate all hazards before re-opening, ie... slips, trips and falls on uneven surface, poor surface for mobility, tarmac edge breaking up... etc. Design work is ongoing.

Drainage over the natural slope:

High pressure jetting - clearing 3No. drains at the top of the embankment and connecting new pvc pipelines to carry surface water directly to the river Lune below. All pipes will be covered with a woven geotextile blanket (or approved hessian) and laid with suitable grass seed to hide the pipelines. Local drainage Contractors are being asked to quote for the work. Work to progress JUL 2024.

Westmorland & Furness Council (WFC):

A successful and positive meeting between KLTC and W&FC was held on site on 22MAY24.

Full disclosure of the meeting is detailed in document 'Note for the Record' – NFR-01-MP RevB attached to Technical Team Monthly Report No.6 – 11JUN24, available on the Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council website.

It was agreed by all parties that a Technical Assurance Report must be commissioned by KLTC and submitted to W&FC before The Brow can be safely re-opened or partially re-opened to the public. Such a report will be written by an independent and accredited Geotechnical Engineer approved by KLTC and W&FC. It will include but not limited to:-

- a. A study of the site and review of historical reports and the more recent Fairhurst Options Appraisal;
- b. All current monitoring data will be analysed and a continuing monitoring regime will be established, ie... from monthly to perhaps quarterly or 6 monthly.
- c. Current vegetation and tree management to be reviewed and a future programme implemented;
- d. To recommend, design and detail any remedial construction required to strengthen and correct failing surfaces along the edge of footpath;
- e. Establish a Risk Management Register and implement a strategy to reduce and manage risk to the Public using the footpath, ie... continual monitoring and perhaps a biennial Geotechnical assessment of the slope stability;
- f. Ascertain costs for remedial repair works and future management of The Brow.

KLTC Technical Team appointed Simon Ferley, Dentonside Geotechnical Consultants on 06JUN24 to carry out the following scope of work, to advise on and write the Technical Assurance Report.

A staged approach to the investigation, as proposed below:

1. Desk based review of existing data and survey reports
2. Site visit to assess the scale problem and any constraints
3. Brief report including potential for re-opening part of the footpath, and outlining proposals for next stages of investigation, monitoring and remediation.

Simon will visit The Brow site on 20JUN24.

Commercial:

Expenditure paid by KLTC for The Brow during 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 as per the invoices:-

- £108,489 Total payments as per invoices supplied;
- £50,000 Grants paid by KLTC to The Friends of Ruskins View;

TOTAL = £158,489 Total payments made by KLTC, as per information supplied.

Kind regards
Malcolm

Malcolm Perrin
KLTC Technical Team Lead

 Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council

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