



This is a summary of activities carried out by KLTC Technical Team during JUN/JUL 2024 in an effort to re-open The Brow footpath using a cost-effective approach that is low risk and safe for Public access.

In my absence... this summary is presented to the Chair of Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council in advance of monthly Council meeting on 17JUL24.

The Technical Team continue to make positive progress through JUN/JUL 2024, concentrating on work with Simon Ferley at Dentonside Geotechnical Consultants for an independent Geotechnical Assessment to submit to Westmorland & Furness Council. It is hoped to open the footpath to the first viewing point within the next few weeks.

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.

The locked gates were opened to the public two weeks ago by someone who obviously has access to the combination lock code. The gates were closed immediately to prevent harm or injury to the public and the code changed.

Damage is noted to steel railings halfway along the Brow footpath. One steel panel has been forced away from its post support and steel bracing left hanging loose. This allows pedestrians to climb through the railings and on to the steep embankment. The railings will be made safe again as soon as practicably possible. The footpath remains CLOSED to unauthorised persons.

Stage 1a. – Tree Management and Vegetation Clearance:

Two local tree surgeon Contractors have visited the site and been shown the scope of work by John Peel. Fred Gibson has submitted his quotation and we await the other from Charlesworth.

Work will commence ASAP.

Stage 1b – Survey Monitoring of The Brow:

Six months of survey monitoring is now complete with all results recorded. Our data shows no movement on the footpath or stone boundary wall near the Norman Motte. Cracks in the footpath show nominal movement of up to 1mm which is acceptable within survey tolerances and in particular flexible tarmac paving.

It is agreed with Dentonside Consultants that monthly survey monitoring will continue for a further six months, up to and including DEC 2024. Costs will remain at the same rate as before.

We are advised by Dentonside Geotechnical Consultants to begin survey monitoring erosion at the toe of the slope, along the River Lune bank. Although the base conglomerate is solid and preventing low level erosion, the banking a few meters higher is of stone and sandy gravel being vulnerable to high water erosion, particularly after torrential rainfall and a high, fast flowing river. The Technical Team will discuss a methodology and scope with Malcolm Hughes Survey Ltd.

Drainage over the natural slope:

Martyn Fawcett (Percolation Services Ltd) visited site this week to advise on future plans to drain surface rainwater flowing over and under the footpath.

Martyn surveyed St Marys Glebe area last year and notes that 3No. pipes at the top of the slope are blocked with clean boulders and stone. This may be acting as a filter from the gabion baskets. However, all pipes are running 'dry'.

An exposed stone culvert in the ground on the Glebe next to the boundary wall is also running 'dry'. This is possibly an old Victorian culvert used to drain surface water from the Glebe and surrounding area down to the river. We will investigate further and plot the full extent of the culvert to determine its outlet on the slope. This culvert is well constructed from slate and stone and may be very useful in the future.

Geotechnical Engineering:

As mentioned already, an independent Geotechnical assessment of The Brow is being written by Simon Ferley. First draft has been distributed amongst Technical Team members. We await the FINAL Report for APPROVAL by KLTC before submitting to W&FC for their consideration and approval.

Kind regards
Malcolm

Malcolm Perrin
KLTC Technical Team Lead

 Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council

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