Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council

KLTC Summary Report No.12 – JAN 2025 12 FEB 25

This is a summary of activities carried out by KLTC Technical Team during JAN 2025 in an effort to re-open The Brow footpath using a cost-effective approach that is low risk and safe for Public access.

This summary is presented to the Chair of Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council for monthly Council meeting on 12 FEB 25.

The Technical Team report that a plan is in place to re-open The Brow footpath by Easter 2025. The plan includes installing a number of boreholes in the footpath and inserting 'inclinometers' and 'piezometers' in the ground to monitor any tiny movement deep in the slope. This 'manage & monitor' scheme will provide almost 'live' data to act as an early warning of ground movement.
Surface monitoring to date shows no significant movement along the footpath.

Incidents / Adverse events to date:

1. No Health, Safety or Environmental incidents were reported during JAN 2025.

2. High river levels followed heavy rainfall during this period. A visual inspection of the complete footpath was carried out but no damage or movement was noted. The monthly monitoring survey also did not note any movement in the footpath.

Stage 1a. – Tree Management and Vegetation Clearance:
No Contractors on site this month.

Charlesworth Tree Care will be on site next month to clear the complete slope of small saplings and bushes (but not mature trees) in preparation for monitoring the slope in detail for any movement.

YDNPA have agreed to the work following a site visit and full application for TPO.

Concern remains in the stability of the motte retaining wall. We suggest removing the tree growth that is nearest to the wall. *ACTION: MP to discuss in detail with St Mary's Church (Merlin Hibbs).*

Zircon conducted an 'Invasive Plant Species' survey and identified Japanese Knotweed at river level in the Ladies Well / Lily Wood area. Recommendations include physical invasive plant remediation, excavation, onsite relocation, and herbicide treatment. This is not planned work at present and will be considered at a future date when Phase 3 works begin to stabilise the eroding edge of riverbank.

Stage 1b – Survey Monitoring of The Brow:
Atlantic Geomatics performed a Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) Survey along the entire footpath. They identified several underground drains and plotted them on a digital AutoCAD drawing for future borehole work reference and evidence held in the Health & Safety File.

Our Geotechnical advisor Simon Ferley (Dentonside Geotechnical Consultants) still perceives risk in two areas where there are visible surface cracks – North by the stone retaining wall and Storm Desmond landslide. He has confidence in the monitoring regime that we have established and the lack of movement recorded.

Stage 2. – Geotechnical Investigation over the natural slope:
Three geotechnical companies visited site this month and assessed the site for boreholes along the footpath and sloped embankment. They determined the slope is too steep for mechanical rigs but can install 8No. 100mm dia casings with suitable monitoring instruments. The boreholes will consist of…

- 3No. Shape Array monitors – to measure movement in the ground;
- 3No. Piezometers – to measure pore water ground pressure;
- 2No. Geotechnical boreholes – to extract soil information and general classification.

We continue to work alongside Dentonside Consultants to fine tune the Specification and Bill of Quantities for best value costs.

A structural survey and possible repairs are needed for the stone retaining wall supporting the northern edge of the footpath, where cracks are visible in the tarmac. *ACTION: NH to contact local Structural engineers for costs*

Stage 3. - Erosion at river level:
Nothing to report this month.

Commercial
A presentation by KLTC Technical Team to all relevant Stakeholders is planned for 12 MAR 2025.
The Team will talk through progress to date and detail a proposed new Monitoring Scheme for installing Shape Array instrumentation deep into the ground to detect any movement of bedrock and overlying soils.
Following the presentation there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

KLTC Technical Team made a formal request to The Friends at the NOV24 council meeting for £90k from their fundraising account (being £60k raised as a Sub-group in KLTC and the £30k pledge from YDMT) to help finance ground investigation, detailed monitoring of the slope, surveying the riverbed for future erosion protection scheme and Consultancy fees.

To date, only £10k has been received. Unless significant funds are received from The Friends in MAR25 it is unlikely The Brow footpath can be re-opened this Easter.

Kind regards
Malcolm
Malcolm Perrin
KLTC Technical Team Lead

Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council

07917 075086