



**This is a summary of activities carried out by KLTC Technical Team during SEPT 2024 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 09 OCT 24.*

Part of The Brow footpath was successfully opened to the Public on 23 AUG 2024. Known as Ruskins View, the footpath from the top of Radical Steps along to the first seated viewing area is now open for all to enjoy the fine view.

New steel fence posts have been installed just past the viewpoint and the existing steel gates relocated to the new posts. All temporary Heras fencing is now removed from site. Both sets of gates remain locked because the footpath is closed to unauthorised persons until further notice.

**Incidents / Adverse events to date:**

1. Last month we reported that a serious injury occurred in JUL 24 when a man attempted to bypass the locked gates and climbed / jumped over the spiked iron railings impaling both legs on the spikes. It is believed the man was visiting Kirkby Lonsdale and camping at the Rugby Club when the injury occurred. KLTC are not in contact with the man, nor is he in contact with the Town Council. We wish the visitor a speedy recovery. However, The Brow footpath is CLOSED to unauthorised persons and KLTC take no responsibility for any accident or injury to anyone attempting to bypass the locked gates.
2. Before the main gates were relocated at Ruskins View, two temporary Heras fence panels were in place to prevent unauthorised access along the closed footpath. The fencing was vandalised, lifted and damaged beyond repair and cannot be returned to the hire company.
3. Also, signage and a lock and chain have been broken and removed from the new gates. Estimated costs to replace / renew all damaged items is in the region of £500 – to be taken from funds raised to save Ruskins View.

**Stage 1a. – Tree Management and Vegetation Clearance:**

Local tree surgeon Fred Gibson has successfully completed work on cutting back dead ash trees and vigorous ivy growth strangling trees.

**Stage 1b – Survey Monitoring of The Brow:**

Nine 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.

**Stage 2. – Geotechnical Investigation over the natural slope:**

Ground Investigation along the footpath is planned over the next few months. Dentonside will assist by writing the scope of work and three prices will be obtained from selected Contractors. Scoping will commence OCT24.

Items for consideration include:-

- Define the scope of works for detailed Ground Investigation;
- Soil sampling, depth of strata and classification of soils;
- Costs for GI and analysis;
- Options and Appraisal for repair work

**Stage 3. - Erosion at river level:**

Monitoring is required along the bottom of the slope at river level. The loose boulder / stone / gravel embankment is vulnerable to stormy weather when rainfall is high and the river flowing fast causing serious erosion problems. A number of small trees and heavy vegetation needs to be cleared this winter. Local surveys and scoping the works will be carried out free of charge by the Technical Team.

A 'river gauge board' is to be installed at the foot of the Radical Steps to monitor the depth of the River Lune during storms so we can review the extent of erosion following severe weather. Costs of around £300.

The Technical Team are in talks with local quarry Contractors TK Robinson who recently completed a riverbank strengthening project at Underley bridge. A new concept design is being developed to install a 4m high wall of rock, backed with concrete along the foot of The Brow to eliminate river erosion. Feasibility and costs are being discussed and the Environment Agency kept informed.

Kind regards  
Malcolm

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 Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council

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