



Town Council

KLTC Summary Report No.17 – JUL / AUG 2025

18 AUG 2025

This is a summary of activities carried out by KLTC Technical Team during JUL and AUG 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 20 AUG 25.

Incidents / Adverse Events

No Health and Safety incidents were reported during this period.

Environmental Concerns – River Lune

Reports of suspected pollution in the River Lune, initially raised with the Environment Agency (EA) in May 2025, remain unanswered. White foam continues to be observed floating on the river surface, particularly accumulating around Devil's Bridge. This remains a concern for the Technical Team, especially as swimmers continue to use the river, with no signage in place warning of potentially unsafe water conditions.

Action: KLTC to follow up with the Environment Agency and consult the Lune Rivers Trust for advice and potential next steps. - ongoing

Invasive Species – Japanese Knotweed & Himalayan Balsam

Dense growth of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam has been identified at Lilywood, on the northern edge of *The Brow*, adjacent to the River Lune. Although this area falls within the Underley Estate, the Technical Team commissioned *Inspectas Land Remediation* to carry out a comprehensive survey of the site at no cost. A detailed five-year management report with recommendations is available for information on the KLTC website.

If Stage 3 works (riverbank erosion protection) proceed, significant reduction of Knotweed will be required to enable access for heavy machinery. An estimated 80% reduction of the invasive species would cost approximately £24,000 over five years. This work has not yet been commissioned.

As both Knotweed and Balsam pose a risk of spreading via foot traffic into nearby residential areas, KLTC proposes installing a single fence panel to block a narrow track. This will help redirect pedestrians around the affected zone instead of through the plant.

Action: No action to be taken at this stage – consideration by KLTC ongoing.

Geotechnical Borehole Monitoring – Tender and Progress Update

Tender returns for Stage 2 – Borehole Installation and Monitoring have now been received from the four invited contractors:

- Murphy Geospatial – £79,000
- Central Alliance – £70,000
- Rogers Geotechnical – £57,000
- Soil Engineering – no return

Following review, Rogers Geotechnical have been appointed and will commence work on site 26 AUG 2025. The programme includes the installation of 6No. boreholes to depths ranging between 10–20m, with an anticipated duration of approximately three weeks.

Total project costs, inclusive of geotechnical supervision by Keith Nicholls (covering site visits, technical advice, and reporting, at approx. £10,000), are projected to be in the region of £70,000 + VAT.

Highways Meeting – 5 August 2025

KLTC Technical Team met with W&FC Highways Engineers Dan Chalmers and John Ingle on site. Discussions focused on the potential re-opening of The Brow footpath. Positive progress was made, with the following actions agreed:

1. W&FC legal team to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) setting out responsibilities:
 - a. KLTC: commitment to ongoing monitoring
 - b. W&FC: commitment to footpath condition surveys, with a view to improving and maintaining the surface.
2. W&FC to survey the stone retaining wall to the north, where footpath cracking is evident.
3. W&FC to survey the St Mary's stone boundary/retaining wall, which runs the full length of the path.
4. W&FC arboriculturist to inspect the mature sycamore tree on the slope, which shows signs of deterioration.
5. KLTC to install fencing along the section of footpath to reduce the width for pedestrian access adjacent to the retaining wall.

The aim is to have the MoU in place and the footpath re-opened before 9 NOV 2025, ahead of any further closure enforcement orders from the Secretary of State.

Stage 1a – Tree Management and Vegetation Clearance

Craig Bradshaw and team have completed clearance of overgrown vegetation along walls and fencing, and removed moss, creating a safe and accessible working area for the borehole contractor.

Steel fence panels from the north viewing platform have been repositioned and fixed to prevent access onto unstable paving slabs.

Stage 1b – Surface Monitoring of The Brow

Malcolm Hughes Ltd continues to carry out surface level monitoring at three-month intervals. Data collected to date shows no significant movement along the footpath.

Stage 3 – Riverbank Erosion

No new developments to report this month.

Commercial Summary

The Friends of Ruskin's View (FRV) have been fully briefed on borehole installation costs and ongoing monitoring requirements. Project funds are held by FRV and will be made available to KLTC to cover all payments related to monitoring works.

Kind regards

Malcolm

Malcolm Perrin

KLTC Technical Team Lead

 **Kirkby Lonsdale** Town Council
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