



## Town Council

KLTC Summary Report No.18 – SEPT 2025

04 OCT 2025

**This is a summary of activities carried out by KLTC Technical Team during SEPT 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 08 OCT 25.*

### Incidents / Adverse Events

#### 1. Theft from Borehole Rig

Rogers Geotechnical Services have reported the theft of a fire extinguisher from their borehole rig. The rig was securely locked on The Brow footpath over the weekend; however, it is noted that members of the public sometimes climb over the fence to access the path. The Council extends its apologies to Rogers Geotechnical Services for the inconvenience. **No further action required.**

#### 2. Donation Box Security

It has been identified that the donation box located adjacent to The Brow viewing area had remained unlocked for several years, during which time no one took responsibility for collecting the cash donations made to Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council in support of The Brow. As a result, donations appear to have been lost over a number of years—estimated at approximately **£500 per year**. The donation box has now been secured, and since doing so, collections have averaged **at least £10 per week**. All future proceeds will be allocated towards the re-opening of the footpath.

### 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

This item is significant if Stage 3 works are to proceed in the near future. It serves as an **early warning**, prompting KLTC to act by advising landowners of their responsibility to manage Japanese Knotweed.

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.

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

### **Geotechnical Borehole Monitoring – progress Update**

Six boreholes have now been installed along The Brow footpath, and data is being recorded weekly to monitor any movement below ground level.

During installation, one of the inclinometer casings (BH.4) was unfortunately damaged. The joint between the casing sections became dislodged, allowing concrete to enter the casing. As a result, BH.4 will be re-drilled and a new casing installed.

All monitoring data is being recorded and collated by Rogers Geotechnical Services and forwarded to Keith Nicholls for analysis.

No invoices have been received from Rogers to date, so final project costs are not yet confirmed.

### **W&FC Highways Engineering – progress update**

A Structural Report considering the condition of the stone retaining wall supporting the edge of footpath to the North, St Marys stone boundary wall and condition of the full extent of The Brow footpath has been received by KLTC Technical Team in confidence and FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

A DRAFT Memorandum of Understanding (also in confidence) has also been received by the Technical Team for consideration. This MoU will be shared with KLTC Chair for review and comment by return to W&FC.

The following actions by KLTC and W&FC are being progressed:-

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. **Complete**
3. W&FC to survey the St Mary's stone boundary/retaining wall, which runs the full length of the path. **Complete**
4. W&FC arboriculturist to inspect the mature sycamore tree on the slope, which shows signs of deterioration. **Complete**
5. KLTC to obtain costs for pollarding. **Complete - £1600 + VAT**
6. KLTC to install fencing along the section of footpath to reduce the width for pedestrian access adjacent to the retaining wall. **In progress**

The aim remains 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**

No new developments to report this month.

### **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.

### **Media Attention – Grievances and Complaints**

The Technical Team have received numerous enquiries from the *Westmorland Gazette*, *BBC Radio Cumbria* and local *MP Lizzi Collinge*. All queries have been addressed promptly, professionally and transparently.

Written correspondence, radio interviews and a site visit to The Brow (Lizzi Collinge 23 SEPT 2025) require considerable time and effort, temporarily diverting resources from ongoing technical work.

Despite this, the Technical Team remain transparent and cooperative with external stakeholders — including the *Westmorland Gazette*, *BBC Radio Cumbria*, and MP Lizzi Collinge — all of whom have expressed satisfaction after interviews, site visits, and correspondence.

Kind regards

Malcolm

***Malcolm Perrin***

***KLTC Technical Team Lead***

 **Kirkby Lonsdale** Town Council

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