

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 require that officers keep a written record of decisions which are made, either:

- a) under a specific express authorisation or
- b) under general delegated authority, where the effect of the decision is to
 - i) grant permission or licence;
 - ii) affect the rights of an individual; or
 - iii) award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects the Authority's financial position (£50,000 or over).

Lead Director	Steve Ratcliffe, Director of Sustainable Development	
Subject of Decision	PROPOSED TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER FOR FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS IN GRIZEDALE FOREST, WYTHOP WOODS AND WHINLATTER FOREST FOR MOTOR SPORT EVENTS	
Relevant section of Scheme of Delegation	<p>PART 4 - DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS TO OFFICERS ANNEX 4 - Functions delegated to Head of Ranger & Strategy Service (and exercisable by the Head of Ranger Service as that post has ceased to exist), and sub-delegated to Ranger Team Leaders.</p> <p>Rights of Way and Access Matters All functions of the Authority under the Highway Acts (whether acting pursuant to its own functions or in pursuance of functions delegated to it by the Highways Authorities) except for the making and confirmation of Definitive Map Modification Orders (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) and the decision to refer to the Planning Inspectorate of the confirmation of any orders under the Highway Acts where formal substantive representations have been made. "Substantive representations" are those which explain adequately the nature of the concerns and meet the legal considerations defined by the Highways Acts and the Planning Acts.</p>	
Background	The Grizedale Stages Rally and Malcolm Wilson Rally are major motor rallies which run annually in the Lake District. The organisers of the rallies have requested that we close rights of way in the vicinity of the routes to protect the public from danger during the events.	
Details of Decision	That we make a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for the rights of way affected by the Grizedale Stages and Malcolm Wilson Rallies in the areas of Grizedale Forest, Wythop Woods and Whinlatter Forest, to be in force for six months, but operative only on the three dates as specified in section 2.2 of the report.	
Details of alternative options considered and rejected.	To allow the events to take place without a closure order in place.	
Where a decision is made under an express authorisation, names of any Member(s) who have declared a conflict of interest		None
Author and contact details of report	William Hinchliffe, Rights of Way Officer	
Background Papers	Case file: 1410.003 (287)	
Date of Report	30 September 2025	
Authorising officer	Ranger Team Leaders' Meeting	
Date	1 October 2025	

PROPOSED TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER FOR FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS IN GRIZEDALE FOREST, WYTHOP WOODS AND WHINLATTER FOREST FOR MOTOR SPORT EVENTS

1 Summary

1.1 This report recommends the temporary prohibition of traffic over footpaths and bridleways to protect the public from danger whilst motor sport events take place.

Recommendation that: *We make a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for the areas affected by the Grizedale Stages and Malcolm Wilson Rallies in the areas of Grizedale Forest, Wythop Woods, and Whinlatter Forest – to be in force for six months, but to be operative only on three dates as specified in section 2.2 of this report.*

2 Details of Request

2.1 Two major motor rallies run annually in the Lake District - the Grizedale Stages Rally and the Malcolm Wilson Rally:

- The Grizedale Stages Rally (GSR) will take place on Saturday 6 December 2025 on both the eastern and western sides of Grizedale Forest
- The Malcolm Wilson Rally (MWR) will take place on Saturday 7 March 2026. The setting up for Grizedale and Whinlatter stages will take place on the Saturday, whereas in Wythop Woods signs and tapes closing off the paths will be done the evening before. Therefore, we have agreed that it would be wise to extend the closure to the afternoon of Friday 6 March 2026 at Wythop Woods.

2.2 In summary:

Grizedale Stages Rally Saturday 6 December 2025 (from 00:01 for 24 hours)	Grizedale West: all routes west of the Hawkshead to Satterthwaite road. Grizedale East: all routes east of the Hawkshead to Satterthwaite road (and south of the U5050).
Malcolm Wilson Rally Friday 6 March 2026 (Wythop Woods from 12:00 noon for 36 hours)	Wythop Woods: various footpaths and bridleways.
Malcolm Wilson Rally Saturday 7 March 2026 (Grizedale West and Whinlatter from 00:01 for 24 hours, Wythop Woods continuation from 6 March until 23:59 on 7 March)	Grizedale West: all routes west of the Hawkshead to Satterthwaite road. Whinlatter Forest: Various footpaths and bridleways Wythop Woods: various footpaths and bridleways.

- 2.3 The motor rally organisers (also in consultation with Forestry England (FE), the landowner) have requested that we close the rights of way affected by the rallies (as shown on the maps attached at Annex 2). The closures would be to protect the public from the likelihood of danger presented by fast-moving vehicles taking part in the rallies. We have worked with the organisers and landowners for many years and have closed the footpaths and bridleways throughout the forests, as requested, on these previous occasions.
- 2.4 The closures will be clearly signed and FE will put information on their website to highlight the dates on which the rallies will be held. Prior to last year the Grizedale Stages Rally was held over two days, with closures for one side of the forest on each day. For this year the organiser is again planning for the event to take place on just one day as they are of the view this presents the minimal disruption or potential for confusion for the public.
- 2.5 As in previous years, to ensure that we carry out the necessary closure work within the legal requirements and as efficiently as possible, we have agreed to make one order covering both rallies. This will save time and costs for both us and the organisers.
- 2.6 The order will be written so that it is clear that the paths are only closed during the events and when the site notices are in place. The paths will be open and unaffected at all other times. The routes to be used are identical to those covered by the temporary closure order made last year. A list of affected rights of way can be found in Annex 1 of this report.
- 2.7 There are no possible alternative routes for the public to use when the rallies are taking place. However, we will publicise the order by email to local bodies, such as parish councils, user groups, tourist information centres, the youth hostel association, outdoor education centres, and so on. The order will also be displayed on our website and notices published in local newspapers.
- 2.8 FE as the landowner and Relevant Authority for open access land in woodland and forestry areas are also working with the rally organisers and will be responsible for granting temporary open access restrictions (if they decide to do so) over the areas affected by the rallies. This will also be signed on the ground and shown on the Natural England Open Access website.
- 2.9 Motorsport events which make use of public footpaths, bridleways or restricted byways must have authorisation under Section 33 of the Road Traffic Act (1988). We have already given this authorisation for these two events.

3 Policy Context

- 3.1 The Vision for the Lake District National Park sets out our aspirations for what we hope to achieve by 2030. To summarise, these are to have a landscape which provides an irreplaceable source of inspiration, whose benefits to people and wildlife are valued and improved. A landscape whose natural and cultural resources are assets to be managed and used wisely for future generations.

- 3.2 The Partnership's Plan contains the policies and actions for achieving the aims of the Vision. The main delivery aim in the Partnership's Plan for access and rights of way is to make the most of the landscape and nature as the backdrop for outdoor leisure experiences for all, particularly the next generation of returning visitors from relaxing and tranquil to adventurous and exhilarating.
- 3.3 Our Business Plan states what actions will be taken as the National Park Authority plays its part, in partnership with others, in realising the Vision. It seeks an outcome that provides high-quality and unique experiences for visitors within a stunning and globally significant landscape: experiences that compete with the best in the international market to strengthen the tourism sectors across the National Park.
- 3.4 The Strategy & Ranger Service Plan contains the Business Plan priorities for our service, including Contributing to World Class Visitor Experiences. This aims to achieve a programme of activity that will implement the adopted Cumbria and the Lake District Access and Recreation Strategy.
- 3.5 There is no specific action or policy relating to temporary closures, but they are a fundamental part of managing the rights of way network and ensuring efficient service delivery.

4 Options

- 4.1 The options are:
- a) to make an order to close the public rights of way directly affected by the rallies
 - b) to allow the events to take place without a closure order in place.

5 Proposal

- 5.1 I recommend option 4.1a for the reasons outlined in sections 2 and 8, which in summary are:
- to protect the public against danger from fast-moving vehicles
 - to safeguard the event organisers against an injury claim.

6 Demonstrating Best Value

6.1 The best value implications are as follows:

- a) The **challenge** is for us to effectively manage the network and inform the public of relevant issues.
- b) Processing temporary traffic regulation orders is not a **competitive** procedure. As Highway Authorities Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council can also process temporary closure orders, but we are the best-placed organisation to make this order as it involves closures in both Authority areas.
- c) We have carried out the required **consultations**.
- d) We have **compared** our processing of temporary closures to other similar organisations. We have no specific targets relating to them, but aim to process all requests in a timely fashion, without significant financial or staff implications.

6.2 I consider that this work is relatively good value for money. We provide this service, the public are protected, and the organisers meet our costs.

7 Finance Considerations

7.1 The costs of this temporary closure order are estimated to be £3,330 which includes:

- Staff-time (administration), stationery, postage and so on
- Advertising costs: three advertisements – in two newspapers to cover all areas (notice of intention; order; reminder for March closure ahead of MWR)
- Staff time – Ranger time and travel to check site closure notices (2 days total).

7.2 The two event organisers will meet the costs of the order equally between them- £1665 each.

8 Risk

8.1 The major risk associated with this is if a closure order were not made. The order will safeguard the public against potential incidents whilst public rights of way are in use by fast-moving vehicles. It will also safeguard the event organisers and landowners against claims from users if they were hurt using these paths through collision with vehicles involved in the rallies.

8.2 If any such claims were submitted we may be held to be partly responsible for being aware of the danger to users and not taking the necessary action to protect them. Having responsibility for the rights of way network in the National Park, we could not justifiably allow these events to run without a closure order in place, given the vehicle speeds.

9 Legal Considerations

- 9.1 We have delegated powers to temporarily restrict or prohibit the use of footpaths and bridleways under section 14 of The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 in our Agency Agreements with Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils. We also have the ability to make closure orders in our own right under section 72 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.
- 9.2 The Head of Strategy & Ranger Service (now exercisable by the Head of Ranger Service as that post has ceased to exist) has delegated powers to authorise the issue of Notices and the making of Orders for the temporary closure of paths under the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. This has been sub-delegated to the Ranger Team Leaders' Meeting.
- 9.3 Traffic can be restricted or prohibited for a number of reasons, including danger to the public (section 14(1)(b) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984).

10 Human Resources

- 10.1 The work involved in this proposal is approximately 50 hours from members of the Ranger Teams, and less than one hour from the Solicitor. The work involved is part of our day-to-day duties.

11 Sustainability

- 11.1 I have not identified any significant economic or social effects that will affect sustainability. There is an issue regarding environmental sustainability – as noted by the Open Spaces Society in their response during the consultation (see 12.4) there is a potential for the surfaces of ROW to be damaged during the rallies. Although not directly related to the order making process, any damage to the rights of way caused by the events is to be made good promptly by the organisers and FE.

12 Stakeholder Consultation

- 12.1 As with previous years, consultation for this year's events included; user groups, all affected parish councils and the councils (Highway Authorities). A full table of responses received (and our comments on them) is included in 12.4.
- 12.2 On previous occasions some user groups have raised concerns that motorsports are not an appropriate activity within the National Park. The Open Spaces Society have noted their concerns in this regard this year (as they did last year) – and their comments have been passed to the Ranger Team Leader / Head of Ranger Service to discuss and respond. This is a strategic matter and not directly related to this decision whether to temporarily close public rights of way on the basis of the likelihood of danger to the public.

12.3 Satterthwaite Parish Council raised some concerns that the TTRO could be utilised on additional dates or for additional events / purposes due to its six month duration. I have assured them that we would not authorise this without a further consultation and decision-making process, which would carefully consider the impact of additional large-scale events on local communities.

12.4 Consultation responses received and LDNPA responses (where applicable):

Consultee	Comment	LDNPA Response
Hawkshead Tourist Information Centre	<i>Looks like a sensible proposal to me, to keep the public safe. I would advise any visitors wishing to spectate either of the Events to follow the instructions published on the Rally's official websites.</i>	
Westmorland and Furness Council Countryside Access Team	<i>No objections or comments</i>	

Open Spaces Society	<p><i>Whilst accepting these dates proposed for rallies are in the relative quieter walking season the net effect is to create a significant number of cul-de-sac paths which could significantly affect many walkers, cyclists and equestrian users of the PROW network in these various areas.</i></p> <p><i>We are also concerned about the surface damage which will occur to some less sustainable parts of these routes. Whilst we understand any necessary repairs should be undertaken by the Rally organisers, it could mean that surface repairs will not occur within an acceptable period of time.</i></p> <p><i>A year or so ago Steve Tatlock assured us that a review of such activities would be considered by the appropriate policy team within the LDNPA. This does not appear to have occurred, if it has we have had no feedback. The OSS asks if you will please consult through the appropriate mechanisms within the npa to review your policy as to such intrusive and disruptive activities.</i></p>	<p>Noted concerns raised regarding the impact of these events on public use and the potential for damage of the surfaces of rights of way. Confirmed the expectation that the organisers / landowner must promptly repair any damage caused following the events, and that if this were not done it may be taken into consideration when granting Section 33 authorisation for future editions of the events. Noted that we have not had any significant issues reported or identified following previous editions of the rallies.</p> <p>Point raised regarding the Park's policy towards these events has been passed on to the Ranger Team Leader / Head of Ranger Service for strategic consideration and response, however this is outside the remit of this decision whether it is appropriate to make a temporary closure order on the basis of a likelihood of danger to the public.</p>
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<p>Satterthwaite Parish Council</p>	<p><i>This was discussed at the Council meeting on the 8th September and concerns were raised regarding the blanket approach to the dates suggested. While we realise that the 6 months is to cover the dates of the rallies only, we are concerned that does leave scope for further closures without consultation on other dates during these 6 months.</i></p> <p><i>As a small rural village, any such closures can cause a significant delay to travelling out of the village to other areas, often meaning lengthy diversions and always detrimental to our local tradespeople and businesses, holidaymakers and families.</i></p> <p><i>The Council are happy to support the actual dates for the events and their associated closure, but on an individual basis, on the specific dates only.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you for the opportunity to reply.</i></p>	<p>Noted the concerns of the Parish Council and sought to reassure that the order does not allow the rally organisers (or any other event organiser) to freely utilise the closure order at any other times or for any other purposes than those which will be specified within the order.</p> <p>Highlighted that motorsport events utilising PRow also require authorisation under Section 33 of the Road Traffic Act (1988) and that we would not authorise additional events to be run utilising this TTRO without a further consultation and decision-making process (which would give due weight to any concerns raised regarding the impact of large-scale events on the local community)..</p> <p>In response the Parish Council highlighted an example of an open access restriction near Bogle Crag (FE would be the Relevant Authority for access restrictions at this location) which was issued for the purpose of logging but following which permanent barriers appear to have remained. Confirmed that the restriction near Bogle Crag was not issued by the LDNPA and that there should be no expectation that a closure of a PRow made for a specified purpose would be applied at other times for another purpose.</p>
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13 Recommendation

13.1 We make a temporary closure order to cover both motor rally events, in force only on the dates during which the events are taking place, as detailed in 2.2.

Background Papers:	Case file reference 1410.003 (287)
Author/Post:	William Hinchliffe, Rights of Way Officer
Responsible Director:	Stephen Ratcliffe, Sustainable Development
Date Written:	30 September 2025

Authorised by:



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Ranger Team Leader

Date: 1 October 2025

Annex 1 - Route Descriptions

All the public footpaths and bridleways in the affected areas will be included in the order, as listed below. The affected areas are also shown on the relevant maps in Annex 2.

Grizedale East - Grizedale Stages Rally (Saturday 6 December 2025) only

Parish	Right of Way	From (SD)	To (SD)
Satterthwaite	BW 566008	354 937	338 926
Satterthwaite	BW 566011	339 921	349 917
Satterthwaite	BW 566012	343 918	345 913
Satterthwaite	BW 566021	345 952	354 940
Satterthwaite	FP 566028	337 945	350 941
Satterthwaite	FP 566029	347 931	353 932

Grizedale West - Grizedale Stages Rally (Saturday 6 December 2025) & Malcolm Wilson Rally (Saturday 7 March 2026)

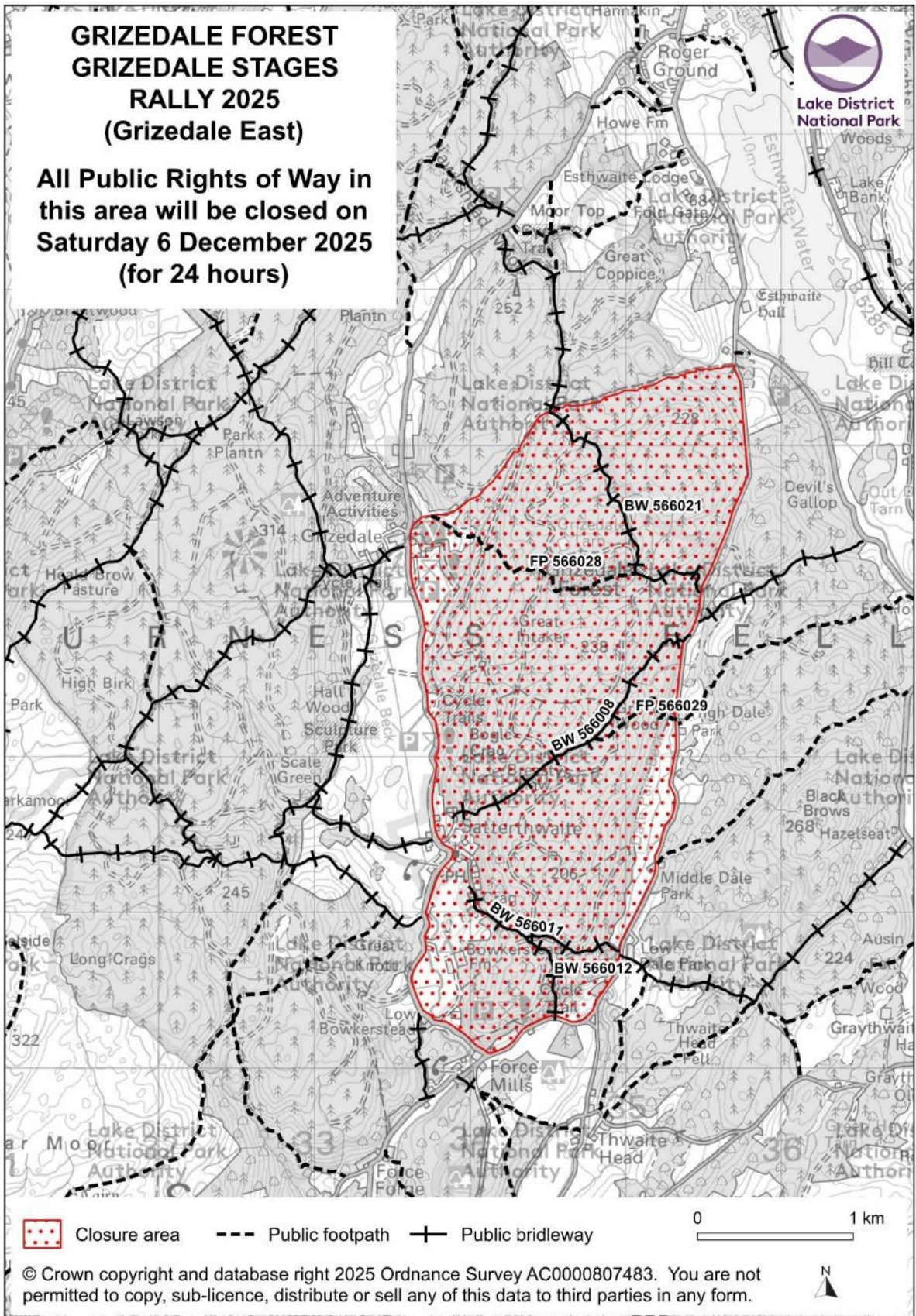
Parish	Right of Way	From (SD)	To (SD)
Colton	BW 511084	309 925	315 928
Colton	BW 511055	306 924	310 937
Colton	BW 511085	314 923	312 925
Coniston	FP 512002	318 970	324 971
Coniston	BW 512003	317 953	320 947
Coniston	FP 512004	312 949	317 951
Coniston	BW 512005	323 951	318 950
Coniston	BW 512006	318 944	323 951
Coniston	FP 512047	324 956	329 971
Coniston	FP 512061	329 976	327 984
Coniston	BW 512066	318 970	325 955
Hawkshead	BW 529005	338 963	342 964
Hawkshead	FP 529006	342 975	339 966
Hawkshead	FP 529007	336 965	337 968
Hawkshead	FP 529019	339 973	339 986
Hawkshead	BW 529039	341 965	344 978
Hawkshead	FP 529041	329 971	330 976
Satterthwaite	FP 566001	307 946	312 949
Satterthwaite	BW 566002	310 937	318 944
Satterthwaite	FP 566003	319 933	318 943
Satterthwaite	BW 566004	323 951	337 963
Satterthwaite	FP 566005	335 963	336 965
Satterthwaite	BW 566006	337 924	330 927
Satterthwaite	BW 566007	328 923	333 942
Satterthwaite	FP 566026	322 909	334 920
Satterthwaite	FP 566027	326 906	328 923
Satterthwaite	BW 566030	325 955	330 942
Satterthwaite	BW 566031	335 943	315 928
Satterthwaite	BW 566032	314 923	336 919
Satterthwaite	BW 566033	323 923	317 930
Satterthwaite	FP 566038	334 963	336 955

Wythop Woods and Whinlatter Forest - Malcolm Wilson Rally only (Whinlatter Forest
Saturday 7 March 2026, Wythop Woods from 12:00 on Friday 6 March 2026 until
23:59 on Saturday 7 March 2026)

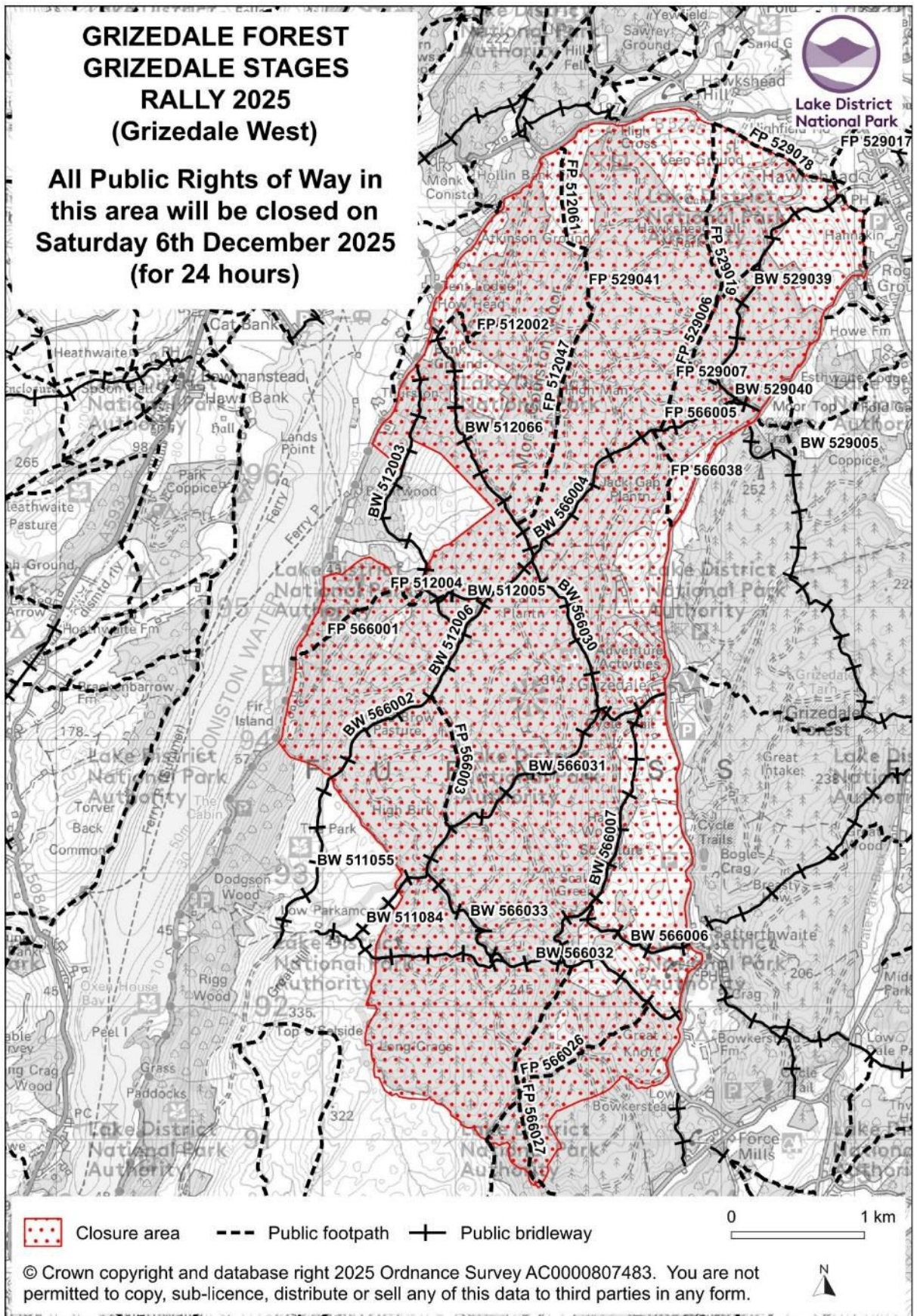
Parish	Right of Way	From (NY)	To (NY)
<i>Above Derwent</i>	<i>FP</i>	<i>201004</i>	<i>211 280</i>
<i>Above Derwent</i>	<i>BW</i>	<i>201006</i>	<i>212 047</i>
<i>Above Derwent</i>	<i>BW</i>	<i>201065</i>	<i>213 284</i>
<i>Lorton</i>	<i>FP</i>	<i>242017</i>	<i>181 256</i>
<i>Lorton</i>	<i>FP</i>	<i>242023</i>	<i>181 255</i>
<i>Lorton</i>	<i>FP</i>	<i>242024</i>	<i>181 254</i>
<i>Wythop</i>	<i>FP</i>	<i>264002</i>	<i>204 305</i>
<i>Wythop</i>	<i>BW</i>	<i>264003</i>	<i>207 290</i>
<i>Wythop</i>	<i>FP</i>	<i>264005</i>	<i>199 306</i>
<i>Wythop</i>	<i>FP</i>	<i>264009</i>	<i>207 281</i>
<i>Wythop</i>	<i>FP</i>	<i>264012</i>	<i>204 305</i>

Annex 2 – Closure Maps

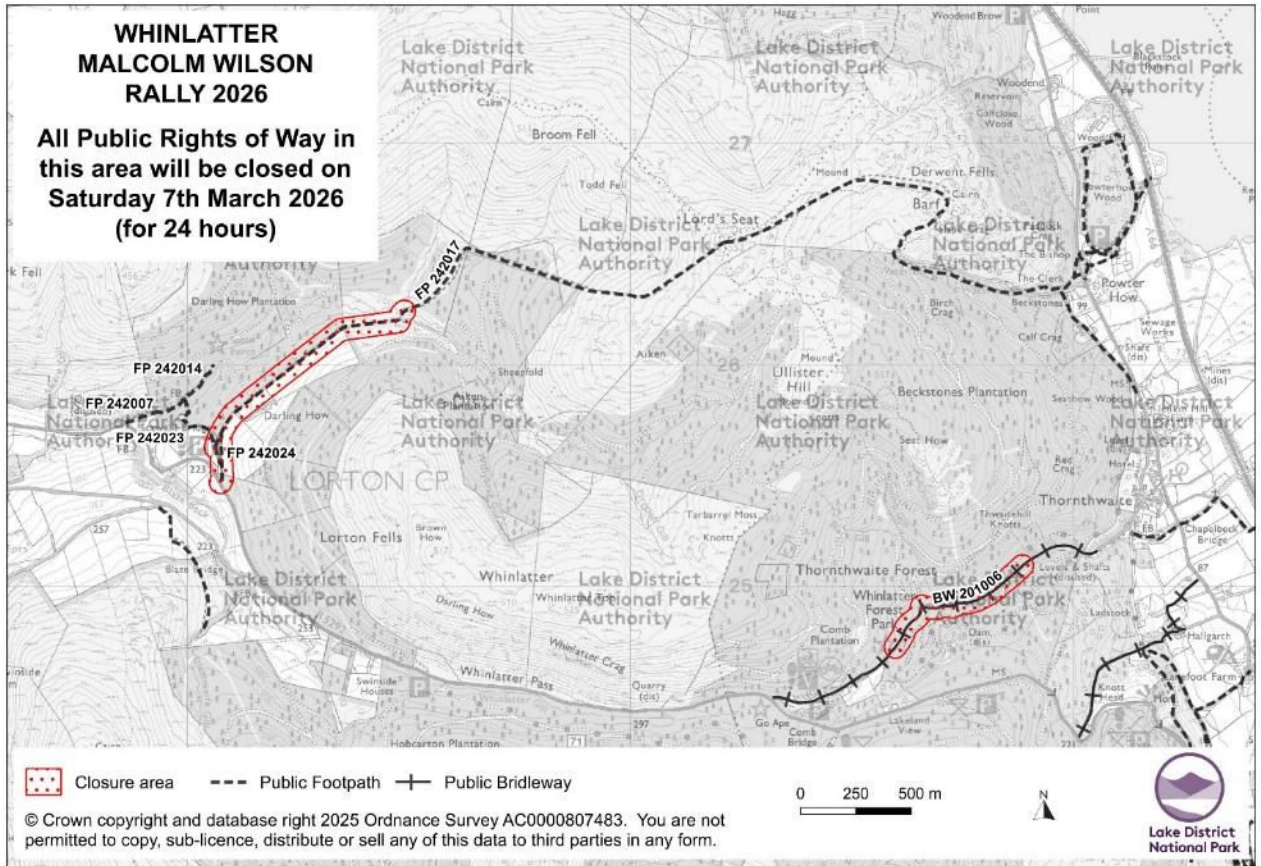
Map 1: Grizedale Forest East (Grizedale Stages Rally)



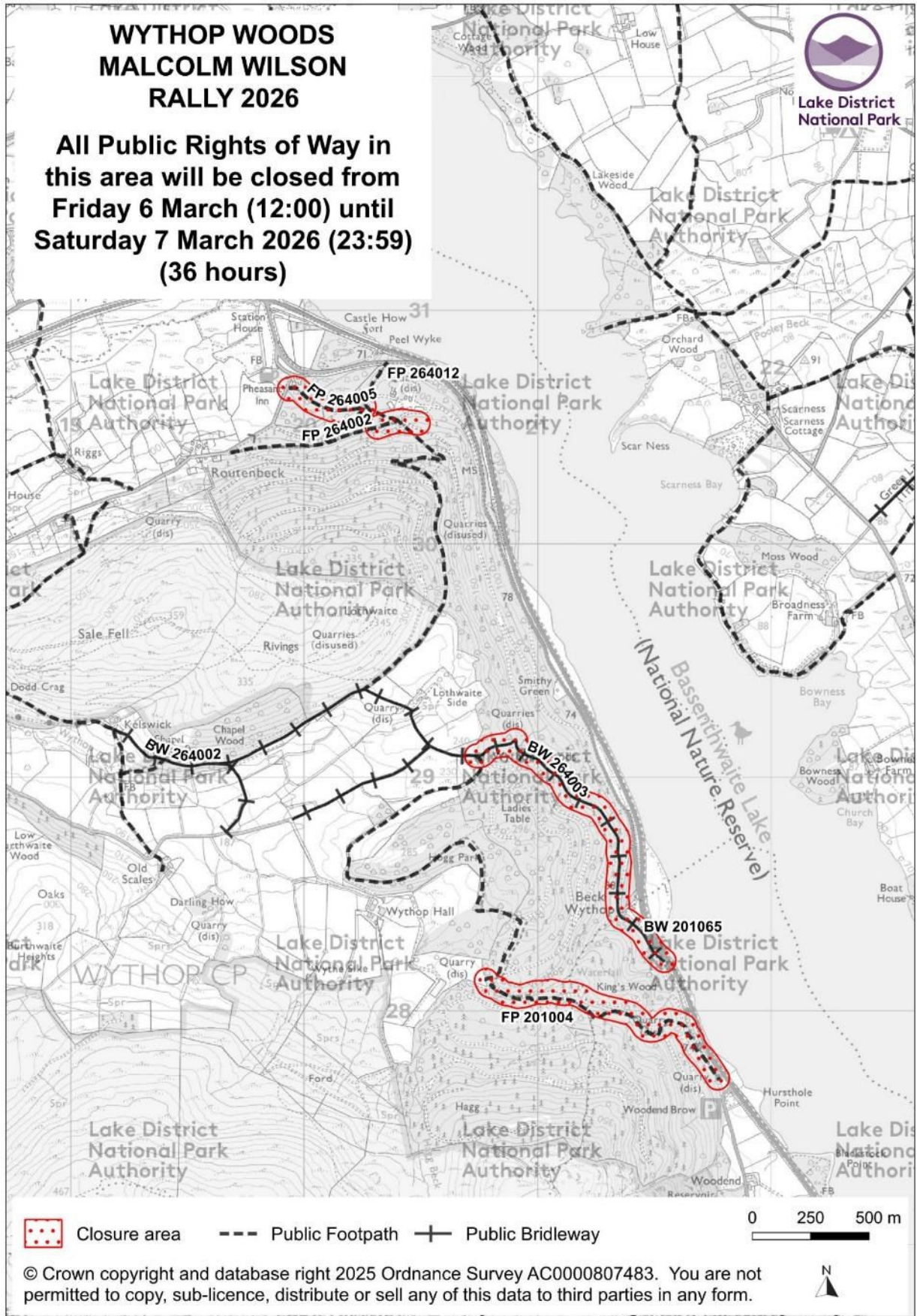
Map 2: Grizedale Forest West (Grizedale Stages & Malcolm Wilson Rallies – same closures in place for both events)



Map 3: Whinlatter Forest (Malcolm Wilson Rally)



Map 4: Wythop Woods (Malcolm Wilson Rally)



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- b) under general delegated authority, where the effect of the decision is to:
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 - ii) affect the rights of an individual; or
 - iii) award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects the Authority's financial position (£50,000 or over).

Lead Director	Steve Ratcliffe, Director of Sustainable Development	
Subject of Decision	TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE, FOOTPATH 220050, DALEGARTH / HASSNESS, BUTTERMERE LAKESHORE, BUTTERMERE & BRACKENTHWAITE PARISH	
Relevant section of Scheme of Delegation	<p>PART 4 - DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS TO OFFICERS ANNEX 4 - Functions delegated to Head of Ranger & Strategy Service (and exercisable by the Head of Ranger Service as that post has ceased to exist), and sub-delegated to Ranger Team Leaders, and for Traffic Regulation Notices sub-delegated to the Senior Rights of Way Officer.</p> <p>Rights of Way and Access Matters All functions of the Authority under the Highway Acts (whether acting pursuant to its own functions or in pursuance of functions delegated to it by Cumberland Council) except for the making and confirmation of Definitive Map Modification Orders (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) and the decision to refer to the Planning Inspectorate of the confirmation of any orders under the Highway Acts where formal substantive representations have been made. "Substantive representations" are those which explain adequately the nature of the concerns and meet the legal considerations defined by the Highways Acts and Planning Acts.</p>	
Background	<p>In May 2025 a large rock fell onto the popular lakeshore path below Dalegarth / Hassness. In September we issued a Notice (subsequently extended by a second Notice) closing the affected section of the footpath as the owners could not guarantee the safety of the rockface. The owner arranged an interim survey of the rockface and the surveyor has recommended a full survey and scaling. Contractors have commenced rock scaling works to mitigate the risk – but these are only anticipated to be completed beyond the expiry of the original Notice.</p>	
Details of Decision	<p><i>That we issue a 5-day Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice for works for the affected section of footpath 220050</i></p>	
Details of alternative options considered and rejected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not issuing a Notice • Converting the current Notice (due to likelihood of danger) to an Order 	
Where a decision is made under an express authorisation, names of any Member(s) who have declared a conflict of interest	None	
Author and contact details of report	Will Hinchliffe, Rights of Way Officer	

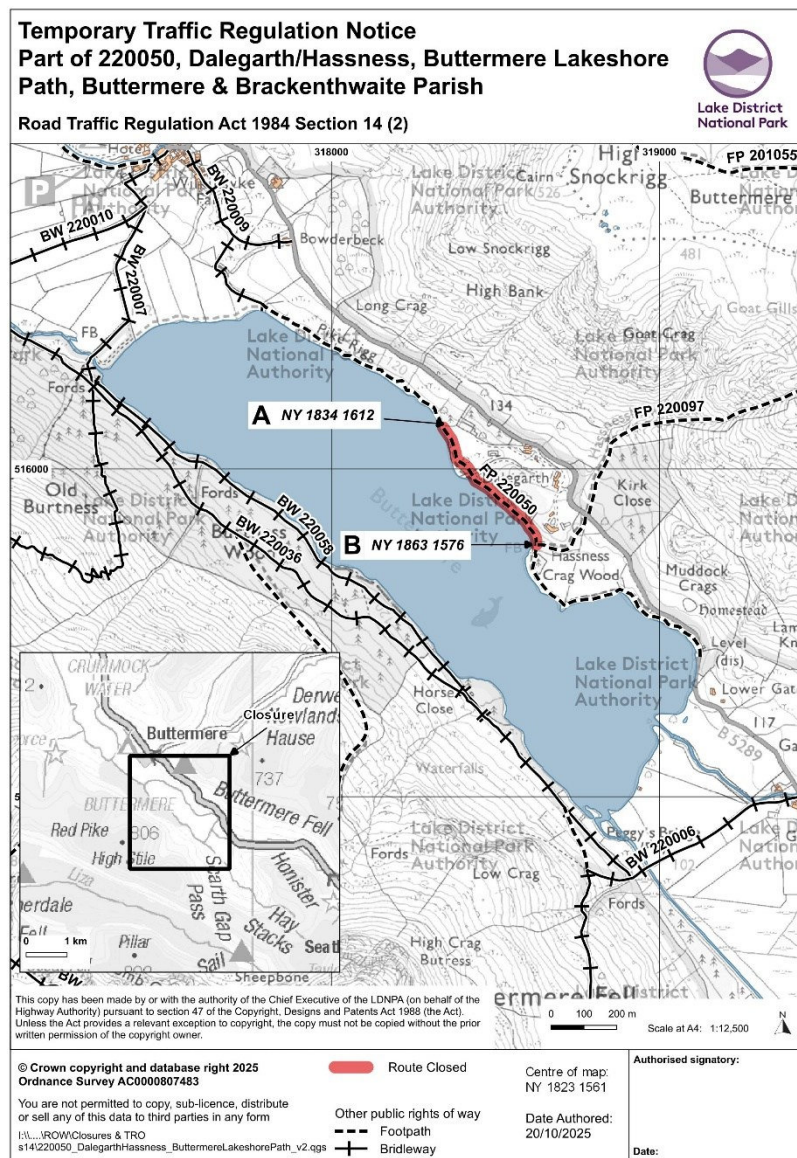
Background Papers	Case file 1410.003 (289)
Date of Report	20 October 2025
Authorising officer	Head of Ranger Service

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE, FOOTPATH 220050, DALEGARTH / HASSNESS, BUTTERMERE LAKESHORE, BUTTERMERE & BRACKENTHWAITE PARISH

1 Summary

1.1 This report recommends we issue a Notice temporarily prohibiting all traffic over part of footpath 220050 to enable scaling works to mitigate the risk of rockfall resulting from potentially unstable rock upslope of the footpath

Recommendations: a) we issue a Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice for the affected section A-B of footpath 220050;



2 Details of Request

- 2.1 In May 2025 a large rock fell onto the popular lakeshore path below Dalegarth / Hassness. In September the owner commissioned an interim survey of the rockface and the surveyor recommended a full survey and scaling. As they could not guarantee the safety of the rockface, the owners requested that the path be closed until this full survey and scaling had been carried out. We issued a (21-day) temporary closure Notice due to the likelihood of danger to the public and subsequently issued a second Notice extending this for a further 21-day period.
- 2.2 The owner's contractors have now begun scaling works to remove potentially unstable rock upslope of the path – they anticipate eventually removing around 20 tons of rock. The owner has also arranged for an assessment by a Geotechnical Engineer. The Engineer has confirmed that it appears the rockfall which occurred was due to 'root-jacking' of the rock by trees. They have identified a remaining large slab of rock (approximately 4 x 1.5 x 1.5m) which is sited on a steep plane and with a very dilated open joint at the back which presents a significant rock fall hazard to the path. They have recommended that until the unstable rock is removed the path is kept closed.
- 2.3 It is possible that in the process of removing the unstable rock damage will be sustained to the path surface. If this does occur the owner will be responsible for reinstating / repairing the surface, they are aware of this requirement.
- 2.4 The owner's rock scaling contractors are preparing plans to remove the remaining loose rock (including the large slab – which will require specialist equipment), but this is expected to take until Friday 24 October to be completed, and the current Notice expires on 21 October. They are also planning to undertake tree works in coming months to reduce the risk from further root-jacking of the rock – but do not envisage these necessitating further closure(s) of the footpath.
- 2.5 There is no suitable alternative route through the landholding or which could be agreed through the grounds of the neighbouring properties. This means that if walkers wish to continue around the lake without retracing their steps, they will have to use the Buttermere to Gatesgarth road. We will therefore ensure that signs are erected at various points around the lake, such as at the beginnings of the lakeshore path, in the car parks and so on. This will bring the issue to the attention of walkers, who will then be able to decide whether to proceed on the road, or choose a different walk. Signage locations are overleaf.
- 2.6 The owners (supplemented by updates from the Authority's own volunteers) have highlighted that there have been issues with walkers not paying heed to the closure and continuing through the site. The contractors intend to erect Heras fencing to prevent this, and are providing banks persons whilst scaling works are underway. To further discourage use of the closed path the owners have asked us to consider increasing the extent of the closure to a point further northwest along the shore where there is a kissing gate which could provide a clear point at which access could be restricted. They believe reaching the closure earlier along the path will lead to fewer users attempting to proceed through the site having got so far along the lakeshore.

- 2.7 To enable these works to be carried out safely it appears expedient to issue a Notice for works to enable the remaining rock scaling to be undertaken safely and efficiently. Alternatively, we could convert the current Notice to an Order – but as the primary purpose of further extending this closure is to enable the works to mitigate the risk of rockfall, and these are expected to be completed within the 5-day timescale of a Notice for works, it appears more appropriate in my view to issue a Notice rather than convert the closure to an Order. This will also enable us to implement the change to the extent of the closure requested by the owner.

3 Policy Context

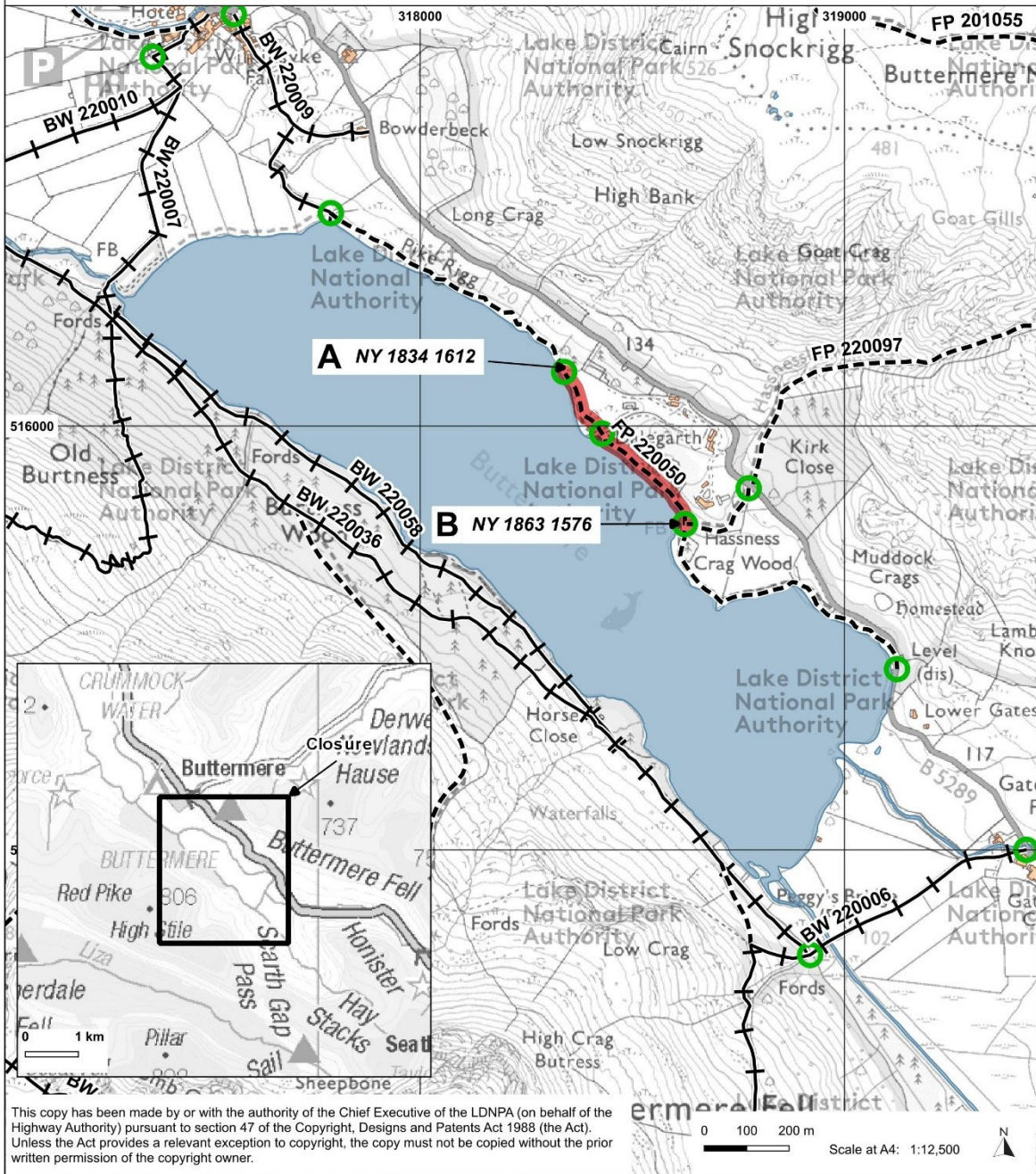
- 3.1 A key outcome of the Vision for the Lake District National Park 2006 – 2030 is a landscape which provides an irreplaceable source of inspiration, whose benefits to people and wildlife are valued and improved. Our Partnership’s Plan is the Management Plan for the Lake District National Park which contains our policies for achieving the aims and desired outcomes for the Vision.
- 3.2 There is no specific action or policy relating to temporary closures, but they are a fundamental part of managing the rights of way network and ensuring efficient service delivery.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice Part of 220050, Dalegarth/Hassness, Buttermere Lakeshore Path, Buttermere & Brackenthwaite Parish



Lake District
National Park

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Section 14 (2)



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Scale at A4: 1:12,500

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s14\220050_DalegarthHassness_ButtermereLakeshorePath_v2.qgs

- Route Closed
- Other public rights of way
- Footpath
- Bridleway

Centre of map:
NY 1823 1561

Date Authored:
20/10/2025

Authorised signatory:

Date:

Suggested Signage Locations

4 Options

4.1 The options are to:

- a) Issue a Notice for works
- b) Do not issue a Notice
- c) Converting the current Notice (due to likelihood of danger) to an Order

5 Proposal

5.1 I recommend option 4.1a for the reasons set out in section 2.

6 Best Value Implications

6.1 The Best Value implications are:

- a) The **challenge** is for us to effectively manage the network and inform the public of relevant issues.
- b) Processing temporary traffic regulation orders is not a **competitive** procedure. Cumberland Council can also process temporary closure notices and orders, but we are the best placed organisation to do this.
- c) We have **compared** our processing of temporary closures to other similar organisations. We have no specific targets relating to them, but aim to process all requests in a timely fashion, without significant financial or staff implications.

7 Finance Considerations

7.1 The standard costs of a temporary closure Notice are approximately £340 (which covers staff-time, stationery and postage). The landowners will be meeting all these costs.

8 Risk

8.1 The main risk associated with this is if we do not make a Notice or Order. If a closure does not remain in effect there will be a risk to footpath users from rockfall. This risk will be most significant whilst scaling works are underway – it would be extremely dangerous to allow users to continue to utilise the footpath whilst rock is being actively dislodged upslope by contractors.

8.2 A secondary risk is reputational. This is a popular path with no suitable alternative other than the road and we have been made aware that some users have continued to walk along the closed section despite the closure notices and fencing erected to discourage its use. Clearly some users have been of the view that the closure was superfluous. However, now that works are actually being undertaken scaling unstable rock it appears likely that most reasonable users would be understanding of the need for the closure.

9 Legal Considerations

- 9.1 The relevant grounds for restricting or prohibiting traffic on this right of way is within section 14(1)(a) and 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984; namely because works are being or are proposed to be executed on or near the road. Such a Notice can last for 5 days.
- 9.2 It is not possible to issue a third Notice extending a closure because of the likelihood of danger to the public. It would only be possible to further extend the closure on the same grounds by converting the Notice to an Order. However, the Department for Transport (on behalf of the Secretary of State) have previously provided us advice that it is acceptable to issue a new Notice immediately replacing the current Notice on its expiry providing that the new Notice is for a different reason / ground.
- 9.3 The Head of Ranger Service has delegated powers to authorise the making of Notices and Orders for the temporary closure of paths under the provisions of Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and under our Agency Agreement with Cumberland Council. These have been sub-delegated to the Ranger Team Leaders and to the Senior Rights of Way Officer.

10 Human Resources

- 10.1 The work involved in this proposal is approximately 15 hours from members of the Ranger team, and 0.5 hours from the GIS Officer. The work involved is part of our day-to-day duties, and much of it has already been undertaken.

11 Sustainability

- 11.1 I have not identified any significant environmental, economic or social effects that will affect sustainability.

12 Consultation

- 12.1 There is no requirement to consult upon issuing a Notice. We will notify the usual interested bodies and individuals including Cumberland Council (the Highway Authority), the Parish Council, Local Access Forum and various user groups.

13 Summary and Recommendations

- 13.1 The landowner has identified a likelihood of danger to the public from potential rockfalls that they consider cannot be mitigated until a full survey and rock scaling has taken place, and this is scheduled for mid-October 2025.
- 13.2 The Head of Ranger Service has considered the matter, and has consulted our legal services team. The recommendation is to issue a Notice now, as a precautionary matter, then carry out a risk assessment to see if the notice can be removed and the path re-opened. And if not – to issue a second Notice reassess the matter after the full survey and scaling has taken place.

Background Papers Case file 1410.003 (289)
Author: Will Hinchliffe, Rights of Way Officer
Date Written: 20 October 2025

Version Final

Authorised by:



Steve Gaskell, Head of Ranger Service

Date: 20 October 2025