

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).

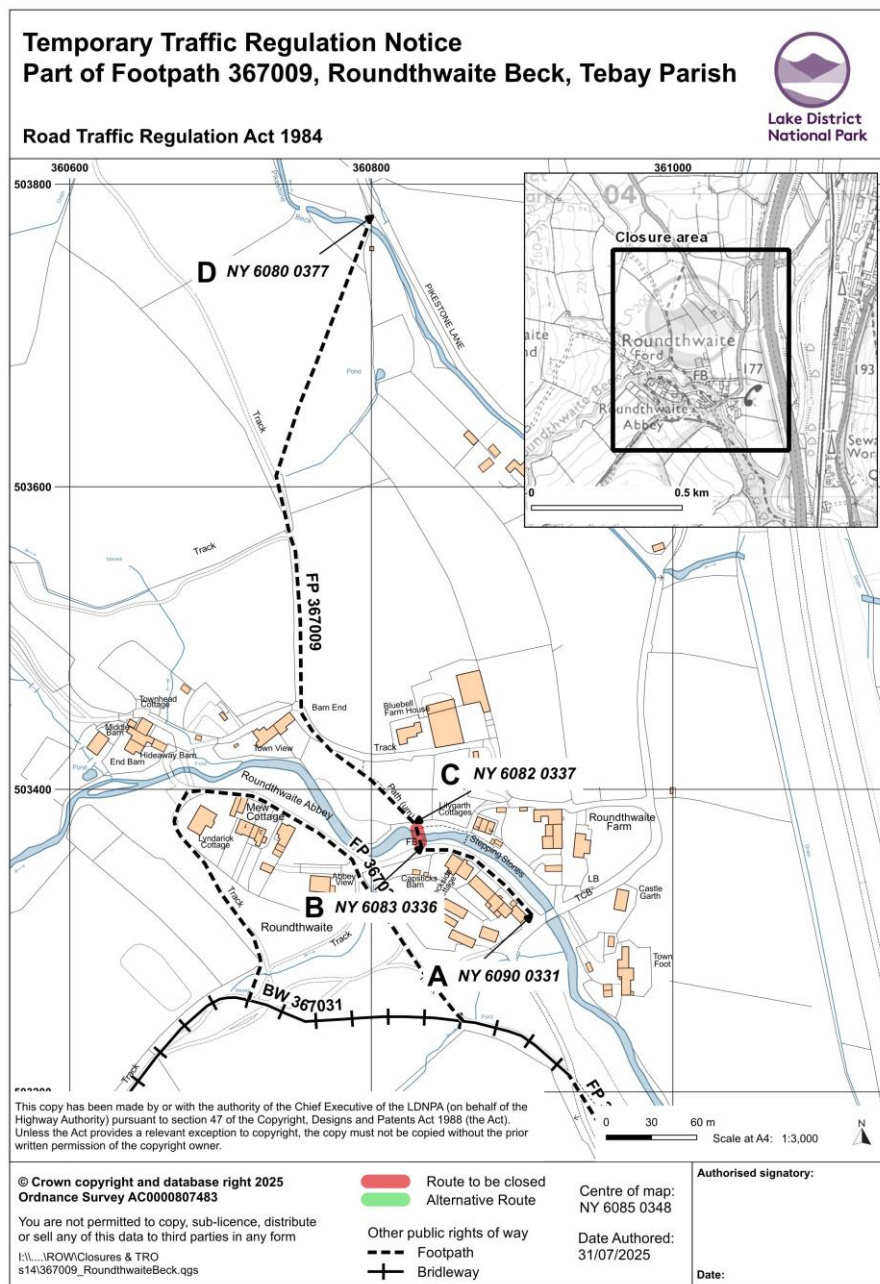
Lead Director	Steve Ratcliffe, Director of Sustainable Development	
Subject of Decision	TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE, PART OF FOOTPATH 367009, ROUNDTHWAIT BECK BRIDGE, TEBAY PARISH	
Relevant section of Scheme of Delegation	PART 4 - DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS TO OFFICERS ANNEX 4 - Functions delegated to Head of Ranger & Strategy Service, and sub-delegated to Ranger Team Leaders 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 Westmorland and Furness 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.	
Background	The bridge across Roundthwaite Beck on footpath 367009 is in poor condition, and requires a full replacement by our Ranger team. Works cannot be undertaken safely and easily whilst maintaining public access. We therefore intend to close the bridge and its approaches for the duration of the works.	
Details of Decision	<i>That we issue a Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice prohibiting use of the section of footpath 367009 over the Roundthwaite Beck bridge and its approaches during works to replace the bridge, as shown between points B and C on the plan within the report.</i>	
Details of alternative options considered and rejected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not issuing a closure notice 	
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 (285)	
Date of Report	31 July 2025	
Authorising officer	Senior Rights of Way Officer – 31 July 2025	

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE, PART OF FOOTPATH 367009, ROUNDTHWAITE BECK BRIDGE, TEBAY PARISH

1 Summary

1.1 This report recommends the temporary prohibition of traffic over a bridge and its approaches at Roundthwaite, to enable us to replace it safely and efficiently.

Recommendation: *That we issue a Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice prohibiting use of the section of footpath 367009 over the Roundthwaite Beck bridge and its approaches during works to replace the bridge, as shown between points B and C on the plan.*



Map 1: Location Plan

2 Details of Request

- 2.1 The bridge over Roundthwaite Beck at NY 6083 0336 is in poor condition and requires replacement by our Ranger team. The bridge is 7.3 metres in length, with steel beams and a timber deck and handrails. This sits on stone abutments with a drop to the beck of approximately 2 metres. We do not have a record of when the current bridge was installed – as it was within the ‘extension area’ which became part of the National Park in 2016. We have some emails from the records provided by the council relating to repairs made in 2013, so the bridge is a minimum of 12 years old.
- 2.2 The deck and handrails of the bridge are showing signs of advanced rot, and it appears expedient that we replace them before the deterioration progresses to the extent it becomes unsafe. The steel beams also appear to have some corrosion – and given they are of unknown age and that it is difficult for our Ranger team and volunteers to fully assess the condition of steel features during bridge surveys our Ranger has concluded the beams also require replacement.
- 2.3 Our Ranger has decided on a full replacement of the bridge with a wholly timber construction. The steel beams will be removed and may be kept for use elsewhere if we can establish that they are suitable for reuse. Once works begin it will not be possible for users to cross the bridge until the replacement is complete. There will be vehicles and heavy machinery in use on the relatively confined approaches to the bridge to lift beams and other materials – therefore maintaining public access would introduce hazards to users and hamper the efficiency with which our Ranger team could replace the bridge.
- 2.4 There is no suitable location to install a temporary bridge and no safe ford immediately beside the bridge. There is no nearby suitable alternative route using public rights of way, the only available highway alternative therefore being the surrounding road network. However, there are a couple of tracks through private properties in the vicinity which appear to link with the footpath, and a set of stepping stones a short distance along the beck– the Ranger has been asked to visit and assess the suitability of these as alternatives ahead of the works, and seek the owners’ permission for their use by the public during the works if viable. The plan and notice will be updated to include these accordingly.
- 2.5 The works are anticipated to commence on Monday 4 August 2025 and it is expected the replacement of the bridge will be complete within the 5-day period of a single temporary closure notice for works.
- 2.6 Photos of the bridge from previous surveys in 2022 and 2023 are below:



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.

4 Options

- 4.1 The options are to:
- a) Issue a temporary closure notice
 - b) Do not issue a temporary closure notice

5 Proposal

- 5.1 I recommend option 4.1a. This will allow the replacement of the bridge to go ahead safely and efficiently. The disruption to the public will be reduced as much as possible by erection of site notices to inform them of the closure (and an alternative included on the notice – if available). We will also inform consultees, users groups, and the landowner of the closure.

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 and notices is not a **competitive** procedure. Westmorland and Furness Council can also process temporary closure notices, but we are the best placed organisation to issue this notice.
 - c) There is no requirement to undertake **consultation** in relation to temporary closure notices – but we will notify our usual consultees of the closure.
 - 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.

7 Finance Considerations

- 7.1 The costs of a temporary closure notice are approximately £340 (which covers staff-time, stationery and postage). As this work is to enable us to carry out maintenance on the rights of way network, it is appropriate that we meet all the costs from existing budgets and our own time.

8 Risk

- 8.1 The major risk associated with this is if we do not issue a closure notice. The closure will safeguard potential users of the footpath who may be injured if they attempt to use the bridge and its approaches during the works, in particular there would be concerns about movement of machinery, materials and vehicles immediately beside the bridge creating a hazard to users, along with the physical absence of a safe crossing. If the bridge replacement were not undertaken now there would be an increasing risk of the bridge, which is already in poor condition, becoming unsafe and posing a hazard to users.

9 Legal Considerations

- 9.1 The relevant grounds for restricting or prohibiting traffic on this path is within section 14(1) or (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984; namely to enable works to be executed on or near the path.
- 9.2 The Head of Strategy & Ranger Service has delegated powers to authorise the making of Notices 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 Westmorland and Furness Council. These have been sub-delegated to the Ranger Team Leaders and Senior Rights of Way Officer.

10 Human Resources

- 10.1 The [legal] work involved in this proposal is approximately 3 hours from members of the Ranger team, and 0.5 hours from the GIS technician. The work involved is part of our day-to-day duties, and most 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 Summary and Recommendations

- 12.1 Although we would rather maintenance was carried out with no interruption to public access, on some occasions it is unavoidable. This bridge is in poor condition and requires replacement to remain safe. As movement of machinery and heavy materials will be taking place on the bridge's approaches during the works I feel that this internal closure request is reasonable and that we should issue the required temporary closure notice. The works should be complete within the 5-day duration of the notice and the Ranger has been asked to assess and seek permission for use of alternatives which are predominantly off the vehicular road.

Authorised by:



Nick Thorne, Senior Rights of Way Officer

Date: 31 July 2025

Background Papers	Case file 1410.003 (285)
Author:	Will Hinchliffe, Rights of Way Officer
Date Written:	31 July 2025
Version	Final