



Lake District National Park

Rights of Way Committee: 7 October 2025
Draft Minutes Subject to Committee Approval

Agenda Item: 2

Rights of Way Committee

MINUTES of a meeting of the Rights of Way Committee held at the National Park Office, Murley Moss, Kendal at 10.00 am on 22 July 2025.

Present

Ms S Mosner (Chair)
Mr W Clark
Mr M Kidd

Mr R G Minshaw
2 vacancies

Also in attendance

Chair of the Authority: Ms T Hunt MBE

10/25 Appointment of Chair

Mr Kidd nominated Ms Mosner to be appointed as Chair and Mr Minshaw seconded the appointment. There were no other nominations.

Decided: That Ms Mosner be appointed as Chair for the coming year.

11/25 Appointment of Deputy Chair

Mr Minshaw nominated Mr Clark to be appointed as Deputy Chair and Mr Kidd seconded the appointment. There were no other nominations.

Decided: That Mr Clark be appointed as Deputy Chair for the coming year.

12/25 Apologies

There were no apologies received.

13/25 Minutes

Decided: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

14/25 **Chair's Announcements**

The Committee and members of the public were informed that the meeting was being livestreamed and that a digital recording of the meeting would be made.

15/25 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of a registrable interest or disclosable pecuniary interest relating to any of the business of the Committee.

Mr Clark advised that the Public Bridleway at White Moss (agenda item 10) was in his Council Ward.

16/25 **Questions**

There were no questions relating to the business of the Committee.

17/25 **Public Participation**

There were no questions, petitions or deputations of a general nature relating to the business of the Committee.

18/25 **Diversion of Public Footpath 512021, Heathwaite, Coniston Parish**

The Rights of Way Officer presented a report discussing whether it was expedient to make an order in accordance with the application from the landowner at Heathwaite, Coniston Parish, to divert parts of footpath 512021. Plans showing the possible options for diversion, photos and descriptions of the existing footpath and diversion options were included in the Assessment Report.

The proposal concerned diverting a public footpath currently recorded on the definitive map as running from points A–F–C, with the F-C section being physically extremely difficult to use.

Two alternative diversion routes were considered for this section:

- **Route A–B and D–E:** These options were preferred by the landowner and move the path away from private dwellings.
- **Route F–G:** This option, although more convenient and scenic for the public, passes through farm buildings and tracks.

The landowner also requested that we consider diversion of a further section of the footpath from D-G-E to an alternative diversion route D-E.

The Rights of Way Officer explained that the diversion proposal aligned with 2023 Defra guidance, which supports moving footpaths away from private residences if convenience tests are met.

Members agreed that a diversion was necessary due to the impracticality of the current path.

Members discussed avoiding a mixed route (e.g., combining F–G with D–E) and agreed to choose between full eastern (A–B and D–E) or western (F–G) diversions.

Concerns were raised about the steepness and narrowness of A–B. Officers confirmed it was consistent with surrounding paths and that there were also grass verges so neither were considered a barrier to use.

Decided: Members agreed that we make an order diverting sections of footpath 512021 replacing A-F-C with A-B, and D-G-E with D-E

19/25 Creation of public bridleway – White Moss, Lakes Parish

The Senior Rights of Way Officer explained that, in October 2014, the Rights of Way Committee had resolved to enter into a series of creation agreements for bridleways in the Grasmere area. The vast majority of the proposed routes had been created / upgraded soon after, with two links remaining outstanding. One of these links had recently been completed (April 2025).

Currently, there is one short, final, bridleway link – from the Grasmere–Ambleside cycle route to the A591 - and a decision was required as to whether to continue to pursue a bridleway creation, or to abandon this part of the initial proposal.

The Senior Rights of Way Officer presented the background, noting the success of the Go Lakes project in establishing family-friendly cycle routes in the central Lake District. While the main route had been completed and was well-used, the proposed short link was not part of the original project and has faced challenges, including lack of landowner agreement and no demonstrated public demand.

Members discussed the feasibility and necessity of the proposed link. It was noted that the route is not well-suited for cycling due to terrain and road crossing issues, and that the landowner already permits cycling on an alternative route from White Moss car park. Questions were raised about whether the rise of e-bikes might increase demand, but recent consultations on the Active Travel Network showed no public interest in this specific link.

Members unanimously agreed to discontinue pursuit of the creation order for the bridleway section JKL noting that this decision did not preclude future consideration if circumstances change.

Decided: Members agreed that we no longer pursue a creation for the section JKL shown on Map 2 in the report.

20/25 Progress on Rights of Way Cases and Delegated Matters Quarter 1 (April-June) 2025-2026

The Senior Rights of Way Officer provided updates on two previously discussed Rights of Way cases shown in Table 3 of the report.

Firstly, the route at Lindale Church, initially recommended as a footpath, that had been approved by the Committee as a bridleway. A bridleway order had been made without any objections, and signage was being installed to reflect the new designation.

Secondly, the proposed diversion of the Coast-to-Coast route at Naddle Bridge had been progressed following Committee approval. Although no objections had been received, the Open Spaces Society had submitted comments regarding the loss of the old path. These were considered by the Head of Strategy and Ranger Service who approved confirmation of the order. However, it was noted that practical works including bridge and step replacements must be completed before the order is formally confirmed.

The Chair expressed satisfaction with the progress, noting the extensive consultation and effort involved in both cases. Appreciation was extended to Officers for their continued work.

Decided: Members noted the progress.

(The meeting concluded at 10:30)