

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 ORDER, FOOTPATH 542021 AND UNRECORDED WAY GENERALLY USED AS PART OF FOOTPATH 542021, TENTERS PATH, GRASMERE, LAKES (GRASMERE) PARISH	
Relevant section of Scheme of Delegation	<p>PART 4 - DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS TO OFFICERS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p>	
Background	The surface of Footpath 542021 has become uneven and we have received funding via DEFRA's Access For All Programme for re-tarmacking works. To enable the planned works to be carried out safely and efficiently a temporary closure appears necessary. The works are anticipated to take around two weeks and an alternative route will be available via a footway and road.	
Details of Decision	<i>That we make a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order over Footpath 542021, and the unrecorded way generally used as part of Footpath 542021, to enable works to re-tarmac the path's surface</i>	
Details of alternative options considered and rejected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not making 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 (291)	
Date of Report	2 February 2026	
Authorising officer	Steve Tatlock, Ranger Team Leader	
Date	2 February 2026	



Lake District
National Park

Lake District National Park Authority

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order – Authorisation Report: 2 February 2026

Footpath 542021 and unrecorded way generally used as part of Footpath 542021

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER, FOOTPATH 542021 AND UNRECORDED WAY GENERALLY USED AS PART OF FOOTPATH 542021, TENTERS PATH, GRASMERE, LAKES (GRASMERE) PARISH

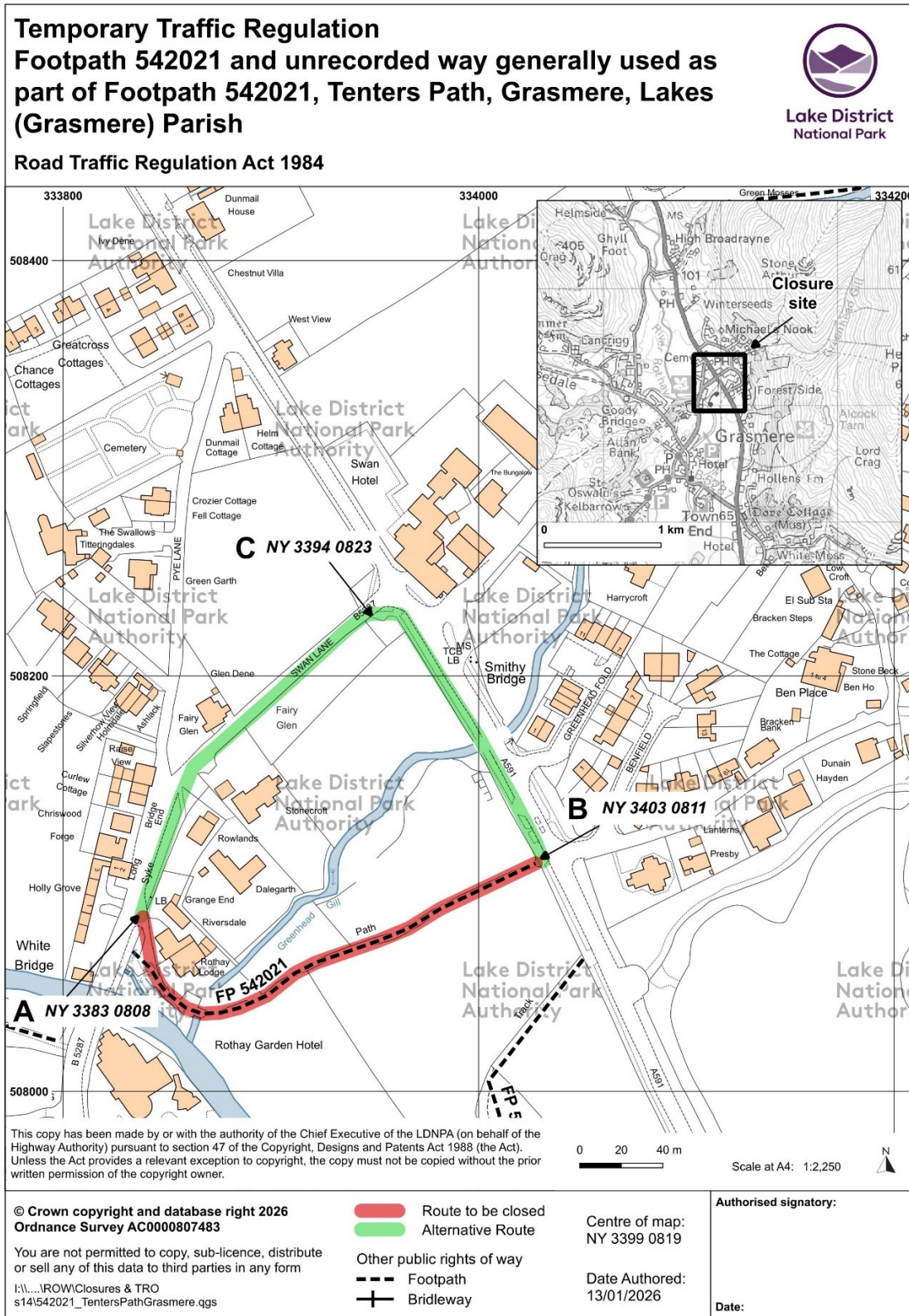
Summary

1. This report recommends the temporary prohibition of all traffic over footpath 542021 (known as the Tenters Path), and the unrecorded way generally used as part of footpath 542021, to enable works to re-tarmac the path's surface.

Recommendation that:

We make a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for footpath 542021, and the unrecorded way generally used as part of footpath 542021, as shown between points A and B on the plan

Map 1: Location Plan



Background

2. The surface of the Tenters Path at Grasmere is very old and in a poor state of repair. We have received reports of a couple of incidents where members of the public have fallen on the uneven surface. The current tarmac is of a very basic standard, with no sub-base beneath the tarmac. Our Ranger has therefore prepared a job for a contractor to dig out the existing path surface, build up an MOT sub-base then re-surface this with tarmac. This should result in an improved surface which is less prone to becoming uneven in future. Funding is in place for these works from DEFRA's Access For All programme, and the works must be completed before the end of March to meet the terms of the funding.
3. During the works the full width of the path will be obstructed by the digging up and re-laying of the path. The path is very narrow and confined for much of its length, with no verge available which walkers could use to circumnavigate the works. There will also be vehicles and machinery in use for the works which would present a hazard if the path remained open to the public. The new tarmac surface will not be suitable for walking on until it has dried / cured.
4. It therefore appears appropriate to make an Order temporarily closing this footpath to enable these works to be carried out safely and efficiently. It is anticipated that the works will commence in late February or early March, and that they will take around two weeks. Our Ranger has aimed for these dates as they will avoid the path being closed during school holidays. Although an Order may remain in effect for up to six months, the closure would be in force only until the works are complete and the new surface ready for use.
5. Map 1 above shows the path to be closed (in red between points A and B), and the most direct available alternative route (in green between points A, C and B). The alternative route utilises Swan Lane and the footway along the A591. Part of Swan Lane has no pavement – the Countryside Access team at Westmorland and Furness Council have been consulted about use of this and confirmed that they are supportive of our suggestion to indicate this as an

alternative route, given that it is realistically the alternative which will be used by pedestrians whilst the footpath is closed. There is already frequent use of this road by walkers, and there is an existing 'pedestrians in road' type triangular hazard sign at the junction of Swan Lane and Pye Lane. As suggested by the Westmorland and Furness Councillor who responded to our consultation, it appears logical that a similar sign is erected close to point C whilst the works are ongoing and the contractors will be asked to provide this.

Policy context

Links to Vision and Management Plan

6. 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.

Links to Business Plan

7. There is no specific action or policy relating to temporary closures within the Business Plan, but they are a fundamental part of managing the rights of way network and ensuring efficient service delivery.

Options

8. The options are to:
 - a) Make a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order
 - b) Do not make an Order

Proposals

9. I recommend option 8a for the reasons set out in the Background section. A closure of the footpath will enable the proposed re-tarmacking works to be undertaken safely and efficiently. The path will be wholly obstructed during much of the works, and without a closure it would be difficult practically to

carry out the re-surfacing. The closure should only be in effect for a couple of weeks, and an alternative route is available.

Stakeholder consultation

10. We have carried out a consultation with interested bodies and individuals, including Westmorland and Furness Council (the Highway Authority), the Parish Council, Local Access Forum and various user groups.
11. We received the following responses:

Name of stakeholder	Consultation response
Open Spaces Society	The OSS recognise the need for this work and accept the TCO as necessary especially, although by road, there is an alternative route suggested.
Westmorland and Furness Councillor	It seems impractical to proceed with this work if the signage isn't clear. Can we do something to improve the signage at the White Bridge end (village end)? Enhanced signage from The Swan bus stop would be greatly beneficial. The number of people walking on the road down the narrow Swan Lane is quite dangerous, as many seem unaware that a footpath runs parallel to this road into Grasmere Village.

Demonstrating best value

12. **Challenged** – the challenge is for us to effectively manage the network and inform the public of relevant issues.
13. **Compared** – 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.
14. **Consulted** – we have carried out the required consultations.
15. **Compete** – processing Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders is not a competitive procedure. Westmorland and Furness Council can also process temporary closure Orders, but we are the best-placed organisation to make this order.

Finance considerations

16. The costs of a temporary closure Order are approximately £1,060 (which covers staff-time, stationery and postage), plus the cost of two newspaper adverts. 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.

Risk

17. The major risk associated with this is if we do not make an Order. As discussed in paragraph 3 there would be hazards to members of the public from machinery and vehicle movements, and the path surface will be disturbed during the works.

Legal considerations

18. The relevant ground for prohibiting traffic on this path is within Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984; namely to enable works to be executed on or near the path (Section 14 (1)).
19. Part of this closure would be over a section of the path which is not the recorded definitive line of the public right of way. This anomaly is at the western end of the footpath, where it meets the B5287, with the definitive line meeting the road approximately 15 metres south-southwest of the route generally in use - this appears to have been a longstanding issue. Section 142 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 empowers the closure of 'any length of highway or of any other road to which the public has access', which would include this section of path. This anomaly is recorded in our systems and in future we may consider whether it is appropriate to make an Order to resolve this or seek to reinstate the recorded definitive line.
20. The Head of Strategy and Ranger Service has delegated powers (now exercisable by the Head of Ranger Service as that post has ceased to exist) 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.

Human resources

21. 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 most of it has already been undertaken.

Diversity implications

22. I have not identified any issues relating to diversity as a result of the making of a TTRO, or a decision not to.

Sustainability

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

Authorised by:



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Ranger Team Leader

Date: 2 February 2026

Background papers:	Case file 1410.003 (291)
Author / Post:	Will Hinchliffe, Rights of Way Officer
Responsible Director:	Steve Ratcliffe, Director of Sustainable Development
Date written:	2 February 2026