

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, FOOTPATH 212045, SCALECLOSE FOOTBRIDGE, BORROWDALE 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 sub-delegated to Ranger Team Leaders and Senior Rights of Way Officer.</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 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	The footbridge over Scaleclose Gill which carries Footpath 212045 is in poor condition and requires replacement. To enable our Ranger team to undertake the replacement safely and efficiently, and prevent the risk that members of the public will try to use the incomplete new bridge during installation, a short-term temporary closure appears necessary. The works are anticipated to take five days or less, and an alternative route will be available via another footbridge on open access land.	
Details of Decision	<i>That we issue a Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice for part of Footpath 212045 to enable works to replace the footbridge over Scaleclose Gill.</i>	
Details of alternative options considered and rejected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not issuing a 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	Will Hinchliffe, Rights of Way Officer	
Background Papers	Case file 1410.003 (292)	
Date of Report	9 February 2026	
Authorising officer	Jack Holmes, Ranger Team Leader	
Date	9 February 2026	



Lake District
National Park

Lake District National Park Authority
Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice – Authorisation Report: 9 February 2026
Footpath 212045 – Scaleclose Footbridge

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE, PART OF FOOTPATH 212045, SCALECLOSE FOOTBRIDGE, BORROWDALE PARISH

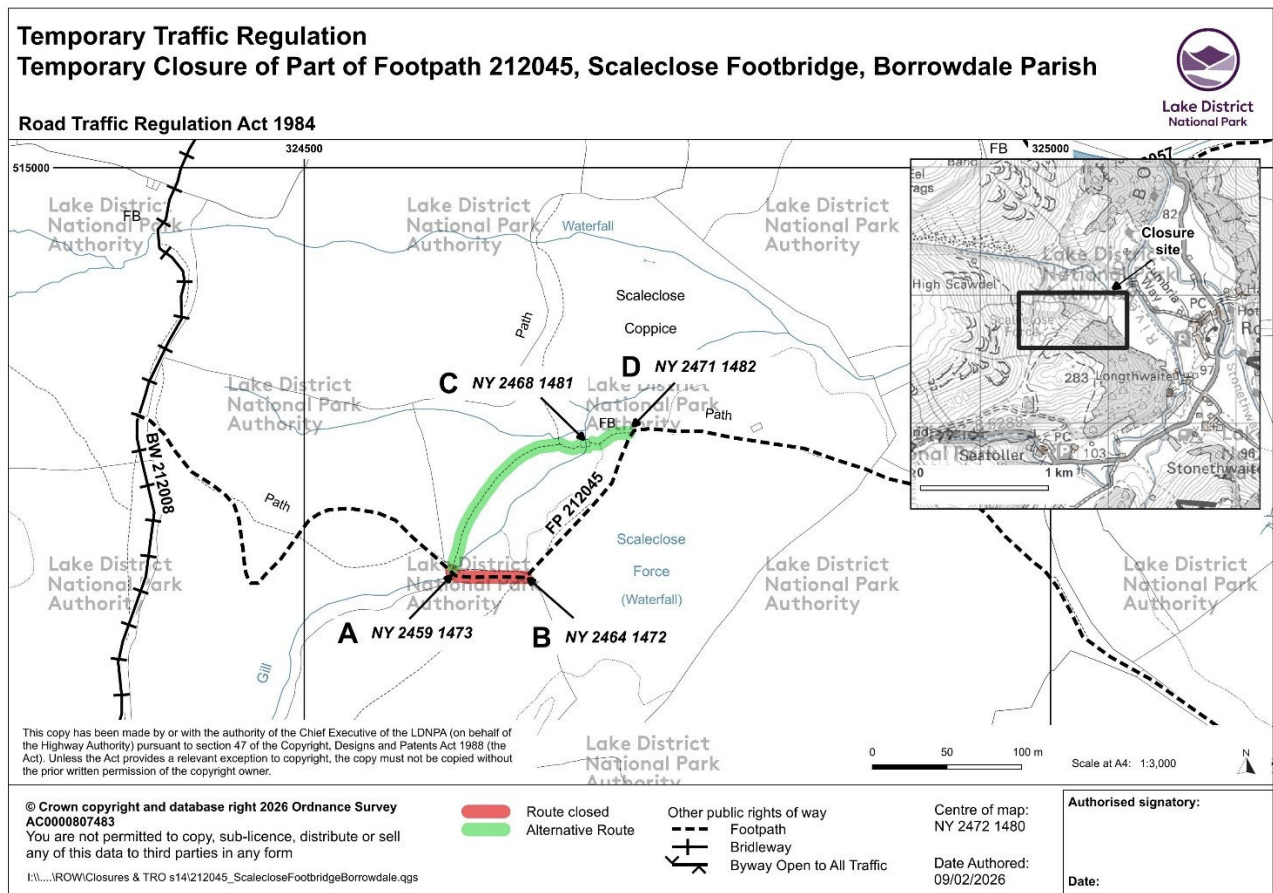
Summary

1. This report recommends the temporary prohibition of traffic on a section of footpath 212045 over the footbridge at Scaleclose Gill, and its approaches, to enable us to carry out works to replace the bridge safely and efficiently.

Recommendation that:

We issue a Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice for part of footpath 212045 to enable works to replace the bridge, as shown between points A and B on the plan

Map 1: Location Plan



Background

- The footbridge over Scaleclose Gill, at NY 2460 1472, is in poor condition and requires replacement by our Ranger team. The current bridge was installed in 2007. Over the last four years our team have carried out a number of jobs to repair rotting uprights and deckboards, and rot has also been identified in the beams. It now appears prudent to replace the whole bridge due to its deterioration and the likelihood the structure will not remain safe much longer (which would necessitate a longer closure). This replacement has been included in our planned bridge work programme for 2026.
- Once the old bridge has been removed it will not be possible for users to safely cross Scaleclose Gill via the footpath until the replacement is complete – the gill is steep and rocky, with a significant drop from the banks to the beck,

and strong water flow after rainfall, so it is not suitable for fording. Installation of the new bridge will not be possible in a day, and therefore the partially complete bridge will be unattended at times – the greatest risk if the footpath were to remain open throughout would be that members of the public may try to cross via the new bridge before it is complete. Additionally, closing the bridge will enable our team to carry out the replacement (which will include use of heavy machinery / equipment) efficiently, with minimal disturbance.

4. It therefore appears appropriate to issue a Notice temporarily closing the section of the footpath over the bridge and its approaches to enable these works to be carried out. It is anticipated that the duration of the works will be five days or less, and currently the team are aiming to carry out the replacement in the week commencing 2 March 2026. Completing the works at this time will avoid the replacement taking place during school holidays. This is reliant on the delivery of materials to site by helicopter in February – if this is postponed due to the weather then the works date may also need to be delayed. The notice will only be issued once we know when the works will actually commence and will come into effect on that date.
5. Map 1 above shows the section of path to be closed - in red between points A and B. Keeping the section between points B and D open appears appropriate as there is a well-used trod across open access land which continues southwest from point B which would otherwise be cut off. An alternative route will be available as shown between points A, C and D – via a trod over open access land and footbridge maintained by the National Trust (who are the landowner here).
6. Site notices will be installed at either end of the closed section of footpath and on the approaches (point D and the junction of the footpath with bridleway 212008). Directional signage may also be needed to aid path users with following the alternative route.

7. Photos of the bridge are provided below for context:

From the North -



From the South –



Photo taken after replacement of deckboards and upright in 2024 –



Policy context

Links to Vision and Management Plan

8. 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

9. 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

10. The options are to:
 - a) Issue a Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice
 - b) Do not issue a Notice

Proposals

11. I recommend option 10a for the reasons set out in the Background section. A closure of the footpath will enable the proposed bridge replacement to be undertaken safely and efficiently. Path users will be made aware that the bridge is undergoing replacement, and the likelihood anyone will attempt to use the new bridge before it is complete will be mitigated with the availability of an alternative route.

Stakeholder consultation

12. There is no requirement to consult when issuing temporary closure notices. However, as this closure is being planned ahead, we will send a notification email to our usual interested parties (Parish Council, Highway Authority, user groups and so on) to make them aware of the upcoming closure.

Demonstrating best value

13. **Challenged** – the challenge is for us to effectively manage the network and inform the public of relevant issues.
14. **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.
15. **Consulted** – we have carried out the required consultations.
16. **Compete** – processing Temporary Traffic Regulation Notices is not a competitive procedure. Cumberland Council can also process temporary

closure Orders, but we are the best-placed organisation to make this order, particularly in this case where the closure will facilitate our works to maintain the rights of way network.

Finance considerations

17. The cost of issuing a temporary closure Notice is approximately £340 (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

18. The major risk associated with this is if we do not close the footpath whilst the bridge replacement works are underway. As discussed in the Background section there would be a significant risk to any members of the public who attempted to use the new bridge whilst installation is ongoing. There would be additional hazards to members of the public during the works due to the use of heavy machinery / equipment, and movement of materials, and for our staff in having to manage the approach of members of the public to the site whilst carrying out the works.

Legal considerations

19. 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.
20. The Head of Strategy and Ranger Service has delegated powers to authorise the issue of Notices 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 and Senior Rights of Way Officer.

Human resources

21. The (legal) work involved in this proposal is approximately 3 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 which would result from the issuing of this Notice, or a decision not to.

Sustainability

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

Authorised by:



Jack Holmes, Ranger Team Leader (North)

Date: 9 February 2026

Background papers:	Case file 1410.003 (292)
Author / Post:	Will Hinchliffe, Rights of Way Officer
Responsible Director:	Steve Ratcliffe, Director of Sustainable Development
Date written:	9 February 2026