



Progress on Rights of Way Cases and Delegated Matters – 2025-2026

Summary

1. This briefing paper is for information only, and to provide updates on matters previously authorised by the Rights of Way Committee or through delegated powers, together with updates on other legal casework carried out.

Recommendation:

- a **Members note the progress.**

Policy context

2. The key aim for access and rights of way within the Lake District National Park Partnership's Plan is to enhance the quality and diversity of the visitor's experience. The Authority is performing a statutory function under powers delegated to it by Cumberland Council and Westmorland & Furness Council.
3. One of our activities is to ensure that our work effectively improves, promotes, and enhances the quality of the rights of way and countryside access land in ways that meet the needs and preferences of users and in ways that sustainably benefit the local economy and delivers wider social benefits. This fundamental management of the rights of way network includes legal orders and authorising changes.

Background

4. Under our scheme of delegation some matters are determined by Members at Rights of Way Committee meetings, whilst others are determined by the Head of Rangers or sub-delegated to Ranger Team Leaders and reported to

members. The last such report was in November 2025, so this is the update for the full year 2025-26.

5. Annex 1 attached to this report details rights of way decisions made under the Authority's Scheme of Delegation during 2025-2026.
6. The tables in the annex detail the following:

Table 1	Gates & stiles authorised by Head of Service
Table 2	Temporary traffic regulation orders authorised by Head of Service
Table 3	Uncompleted cases authorised at previous committee meetings
Table 4	Cases considered at previous committee meetings now completed
Table 5	Orders and agreements authorised by the Head of Service
Table 6	Outstanding Definitive Map Modification Order Applications
Table 7	Current Higher Priority Public Path Order Cases
Table 8	Motor Event Consents issued by Head of Service
Table 9	Open Access Authorisations and Decisions

7. Our current capacity for casework is 1.8 FTE. In addition to this we accessed funding from Natural England to employ a part-time outside consultant to help with the legal work required for the Coast-to-Coast National Trail establishment (employment has ended).

Gates and stiles – see Annex 1: Table 1

8. New gates and/or stiles can be erected across rights of way where they are considered necessary in the interests of agriculture or forestry - but these must be authorised by us. Table 1 shows those approved this year

Temporary closures of Rights of Way – Table 2

9. Temporary traffic regulation orders (TTRO) or notices (TTRN) are for closing paths for up to six months for various purposes, usually relating to public safety or works. Table 2 details those authorised – about an average number.

10. In line with government guidance, we charge external bodies for processing their requests, consequently many are cost neutral (this doesn't apply to ones relating to maintenance carried out by ourselves – such as bridge replacements).

Definitive Map Modification Orders, Public Path Orders and Creation Agreements – Tables 3 - 7

11. All modification orders are determined by the Rights of Way Committee.
 - We now have 36 outstanding applications that have not yet been to committee (one new since November 2025), and one further (post-committee) uncompleted case. Three have been confirmed during 2025-26 – two by the Planning Inspectorate.
 - We do not have any 'live' modification order cases – that is, we are not actively working on any due to capacity issues and prioritisations. Consequently, the list of outstanding applications is likely to be static for a while. Our Access & Recreation Programme Board have added the legal casework to the Risk Register.
12. Public path orders and creation agreements are authorised by the Head of Service / Ranger Team Leaders where no substantive representation / objections are received during the informal consultation process. If no objections are then received after the order has been made, it is confirmed. Our delegation scheme is that the Head of Service / Ranger Team Leaders also have powers to decide whether to forward the matter to the Secretary of State unless formal substantive representations have been made, in which case the decision reverts to this Committee.
13. There has been a lot of activity with regard to various public path order issues, as can be seen in Table 7 in particular. We are making good progress on a wide range of cases.

Consents issued under section 33 Highways Act 1980 – Table 8

14. We can grant consent for motor events to take place on public rights of way, and we do so for a number of events after imposing conditions such as signage and marshalling. Table 8 lists consents issued – about average this year, and well down on 10 years or so ago when we had double the events.

Authorisations and decisions taken in relation to open access land –Table 9

15. As the Relevant Authority and Access Authority for open access land designated under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, we can determine restriction applications and authorise entering into agreements relating to furniture improvements. We have not had to determine any for some while.

Publication

16. The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 requires us to keep, and publish on our website, a written record of certain decisions made under some delegated powers. The decisions taken, and the reasoning for these decisions (authorising reports or letters), for items listed in Tables 1,2,5,8, and 9 are available on a dedicated area of our new website [Openness of Governance - Lake District National Park](#).
17. Decisions taken at committee (Tables 3 and 4) are also already available on the committee pages on the website [Committees of the Lake District National Park](#).

Background papers	Rights of Way case files
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Date written	23 June 2026

Annex 1: Tables referred to in this paper

Italics are updates since the last report (November 2025)

TABLE 1: Gates & stiles authorised under delegated powers in 2025-2026.

Parish	Right of Way	Location / Grid Reference	Type of Obstruction and reason
Lakes (Grasmere)	BW 542010	New Bridge, Grasmere – NY 3275 0825	3-metre field gate to prevent stock ingress along bottleneck section of bridleway. Gate should be kept open when stock are not in adjoining field.
<i>Drigg & Carleton</i>	<i>FP 405051</i>	<i>Cumblands</i>	<i>Wicket gate in new boundary required to divide existing plot into two as part of an agro-forestry scheme.</i>
<i>Nether Staveley</i>	<i>FP 558017</i>	<i>Ashes Lane</i>	<i>New wicket gate to prevent stock egress onto Ashes Lane</i>

TABLE 2: Temporary traffic regulation orders authorised under delegated powers in 2025-2026.

Parish	Right of Way	Location	Type	Reason
Kirkby Ireleth	539017 & 539018	Far Houses	Order – 6 months from May 2025 (extended by Secretary of State)	Structural repair and tree removal works at deserted farmstead to make it safe
Ennerdale and Kinniside	407028	Galloway Bridge, Woundell Beck	Order	To enable replacement of bridge
Mungrisdale	348013	Bannerdale	Notice, converted to Order, June 2025 (extended by Secretary of State)	Danger due to erosion of riverside footpath
Tebay	367009	Roundthwaite Beck	Notice – 5 days	To enable replacement of bridge
Matterdale & Threlkeld	345049 / 369026	Wallthwaite Farm	Order – 6 months, but only for a short period within that time	To enable replacement of bridge
Buttermere and Brackenthwaite	220050	Lakeshore Path	Notice – 21 Days x 2	Rockfall causing potential danger to public using footpath beneath until fully surveyed.
Patterdale	357059	<i>Glenridding Beck</i>	<i>Notice – 5 days</i>	<i>To enable replacement of bridge</i>
Irton with Santon	411010	<i>Miterdale Forest</i>	<i>Order – 6 months</i>	<i>To enable FE contractors to undertake felling of crop trees in line with their forest plan</i>

Over Staveley	561001	Sewage Works	Order – 6 months initially	<i>Temporary closure order to enable works to install a sewage pipeline</i>
Grizedale, Whinlatter, Wythop	Various	Various	Order – 6 months	<i>Malcolm Wilson and Grizedale Stages motor rally events</i>
Broughton East	506012	Greenbank Farm	Notice then Order	<i>Due to likelihood of danger from building collapse</i>
Lakes (Grasmere)	542021 542021	“Tenters” Path	Notice	<i>To enable re-tarmacking works</i>
Borrowdale	212045	Scaleclose Bridge	Notice	<i>To enable replacement</i>
Various on West Coast	Various	Numerous	Order – 6 months initially	<i>West Coast Pylon Re-Cabling</i>

TABLE 3: Uncompleted cases authorised at previous Rights of Way Committee meetings (in order of decision date).

Parish	Right of Way	Location	Type of Order	Committee Date	Reason	Current position (progress since last committee meeting in italics)
Threlkeld	New footpath	Above Doddick	Modification	Aug 2007	Addition of footpath.	Order made Sept 2007, objections – users contacted about inquiry. Little response.
Bassenthwaite	206003	Holly Bank	Modification	April 2013	Modify alignment where path goes over edge of quarry.	Objection received. Deregulation Act may provide a solution through ‘Modification Consent Order’ when finally in force.
Blindbothel	n/a	High Rogerscale	Creation	April 2013	Addition of bridleway – Committee recommended reconsult as footpath.	Delayed due to capacity and other priorities.
Shap Rural and Bampton	306004 & 361039	Naddle Bridge, Thornthwaite Hall & High Park	Diversion	April 2025	Coast-to-Coast Path	Order made – no objections. Practical work required before confirmation.

TABLE 4: Cases considered at previous Rights of Way Committee meetings completed to date in 2025-2026.

Parish	Right of Way	Location	Order Type	Committee Date	Reason	Current position (progress since last committee meeting in italics)
Lakes	Various	White Moss to Grasmere	Creation	October 2014	Upgrade footpaths to bridleways.	July 2025 committee agreed not to pursue final link
Lindale & Newton-in-Cartmel	New	The Gill to School Hill via Churchyard	Modification	December 2024	Claimed Footpath	Bridleway and Footpath DMMO confirmed April 2024 – paperwork and certifications to complete.
Broughton West	520070 520071	Occupation Lane	Modification	August 2022	Addition of two bridleways	<i>Orders made – objection(s) received. Confirmed by Secretary of State, Spring 2026</i>
Gosforth / Wasdale	New	River Irt	Modification	January 2023	Claimed footpath alongside and over River Irt	<i>Order made - objections received. Confirmed by Secretary of State, Spring 2026</i>
Coniston	512021	Heathwaite	Diversion	July 2025	Diversion out of garden	<i>Confirmed unopposed November 2025</i>
Muncaster	418036	Edgecombe House, Ravenglass	Modification	November 2025	Modify alignment in gardens	<i>Order made – no objections. Confirmed unopposed April 2026</i>

TABLE 5: Public path orders and agreements authorised under delegated powers in 2025-2026.

Parish	Right of Way	Location	Order Type	Reason
Underbarrow & Bradleyfield	FP 577022	Fallen Yew	Diversion	Development works obstructed legal line – diversion onto new track.
Bampton and Shap Rural	306004 / 361039	Naddle Bridge	Diversion	Confirmation following previous committee decision.
Shap Rural	361038 / 361050	Shap Abbey	Diversion and Creation	Public Path Order needed to ensure that Wainwright's Coast to Coast National Trail follows a legal Public Right of Way for its entire length. <i>Amended through secondary authorisation.</i>
Lakes: Grasmere, St Johns Castlerigg and Wythburn, and Borrowdale	Various	<i>Between Far Easedale and Rosthwaite</i>	<i>Diversion of Bridleway, with associated extinguishment s and creations</i>	<i>Public Path Order needed to ensure that Wainwright's Coast to Coast National Trail follows a legal Public Right of Way for its entire length.</i>

Colton	<i>FP 511098</i>	<i>YMCA to Rusland Heights</i>	<i>Creation</i>	<i>New footpath offered by landowner.</i>
Claife	<i>FP 510004</i>	<i>Knott Cottage</i>	<i>Diversion</i>	<i>To rectify previous diversion and remove definitive line from garden.</i>
Patterdale	<i>FP 357083</i>	<i>Glenridding Dodd</i>	<i>Creation</i>	<i>To create public footpath over Ramblers funded improvement works carried out by Fix the Fells.</i>
Askham	<i>FP 305011</i>	<i>Askham Hall Farm</i>	<i>Diversion</i>	<i>To resolve long-standing (30 years+) obstruction.</i>

TABLE 6: Outstanding Definitive Map Modification Order Applications (yet to come to Rights of Way Committee)

Parish	Right of Way	Location	Date received	Effect of application	Current position
Lakes: Rydal	544023	Rydal Park	Aug 2004	Claimed bridleway, mainly over existing footpath	Acknowledged. No action yet.
Hawkshead	529023	Yewfield - Rose Cottage	May 2004	Claimed bridleway over existing footpath	Acknowledged. No action yet.
Hawkshead & Coniston	512 & 529 - 6 paths	Tarn Hows circuit	Dec 2005	Claimed bridleway over existing footpath Tarn Hows circuit	Acknowledged. No action yet.
Colton Satterthwaite	511084 56032	Parkamoor - Satterthwaite	Dec 2005	Claimed byway over existing bridleway	Acknowledged. Applicants confirmed will accept Restricted Byway rather than Byway Open to All Traffic
Colton Satterthwaite	511084 566031	Parkamoor - Grizedale	Dec 2005	Claimed byway over existing bridleway	Acknowledged. Applicants confirmed will accept Restricted Byway rather than Byway Open to All Traffic
Coniston Satterthwaite	512066 566030	Monk Coniston - Grizedale	Dec 2005	Claimed byway over existing bridleway	Acknowledged. Applicants confirmed will accept Restricted Byway rather than Byway Open to All Traffic

Dunnerdale with Seathwaite	521057	Park Head Road	Dec 2005	Claimed byway over existing bridleway	Acknowledged. Applicants confirmed will accept Restricted Byway rather than Byway Open to All Traffic
Lakes: Langdales	543045	Baysbrown to Langdale Rd	Feb 2006	Claimed byway over existing bridleway	Acknowledged. Applicants confirmed will accept Restricted Byway rather than Byway Open to All Traffic
Satterthwaite	566034	Force Forge	Dec 2005	Claimed byway over existing bridleway	Acknowledged. Applicants confirmed will accept Restricted Byway rather than Byway Open to All Traffic
St John's Castlerigg	249007	Church to Sosgill Bridge	Jan 2006	Claimed byway over existing bridleway	Acknowledged. Applicants confirmed will accept Restricted Byway rather than Byway Open to All Traffic
Lakes: Langdale	New	Scout Crag	May 2007	Claimed footpath	Acknowledged. No challenge to usage yet.
Strickland Roger	New	Gurnal Dubs Road	Sept 2019	Claimed footpath	Added to Register Jan 2020. To contact landowners.
Bampton	New	Bampton Smithy	April 2020	Claimed footpath	Added to Register July 2020. No action yet.

Shap Rural	New	Lindens	April 2020	Claimed bridleway	Added to Register July 2020. No action yet.
Shap Rural	New	Hegdale	April 2020	Claimed bridleway	Added to Register July 2020. No action yet.
Crook	New	Box Tree Farm	April 2020	Claimed footpath	Added to Register July 2020. No action yet.
Crook	New	St Catherine's	April 2020	Claimed footpath	Added to Register July 2020. No action yet.
Underbarrow & Bradleyfield	New	Beckside	April 2020	Claimed footpath	Added to Register July 2020. No action yet.
Underbarrow & Bradleyfield	577021	Nook Lane	April 2020	Claimed restricted byway – partly over existing footpath	Added to Register July 2020. No action yet.
Crosthwaite & Lyth	514016	Holmes & Savinhill Roads	April 2020	Claimed Right of way (no status specified) – part already recorded as footpath	Added to Register July 2020. No action yet.
Crosthwaite & Lyth	New	Holmes Lane	April 2020	Claimed bridleway	Added to Register July 2020. No action yet.
Helsington	New	Dobdale Road	May 2021	Claimed footpath	Added to Register May 2021. No action yet.
Whitwell & Selside	New	Leagate	May 2021	Claimed bridleway	Added to Register May 2021. No action yet.

Lowther	342006 and new	Parkside Lane	Dec 2021	Claimed Restricted Byway, partly over recorded footpath	Added to Register Feb 2022. Application provided to landowner - awaiting response.
Lowther Thrimby	New - part 342003	Hackthorpe Old Turnpike	Dec 2021	Claimed Restricted Byway	Added to Register Feb 2022. Application provided to landowner - awaiting response.
Waberthwaite	428003	Corney Moor Lane	Jan 2022	Claimed Restricted Byway over recorded footpath	Added to Register Feb 2022. No action yet.
Waberthwaite	428003 428023	Ravenglass Lane	Jan 2022	Claimed Restricted Byway over recorded footpath	Added to Register Feb 2022. No action yet.
Waberthwaite Bootle	428027 402009	Middleton Place Lane	Jan 2022	Claimed Restricted Byway over recorded footpath	Added to Register Feb 2022. No action yet.
Irton-with- Santon	411029 411033 411034	Irton Moorside Lane	Jan 2022	Claimed Restricted Byway over recorded footpath	Added to Register Feb 2022. Some landowners have been in touch and information exchanged.
Eskdale	408018	Smithybrow Lane	Jan 2022	Claimed Restricted Byway over recorded footpath	Added to Register Feb 2022. No action yet.
Bootle	402009 402029	Long Lane	Jan 2022	Claimed Restricted Byway over recorded footpath	Added to Register Feb 2022. No action yet.

Waberthwaite	428019	Newbiggin Lane	Dec 2023	Claimed Restricted Byway over recorded footpath	Added to Register Dec 2023. No action yet.
Irton-with-Santon	New	Frith's Path	Feb 2024	Claimed footpath	Added to Register Feb 2024. Some contact with some landowners.
Irton-with-Santon	New	Plumgarth	Feb 2024	Claimed footpath	Added to Register Feb 2024. Some contact with some landowners.
Caldbeck	221009 221059	Nether Row to The Street	May 2024	Modify footpaths to restricted byway	Added to Register October 2024. No action yet.
Over Staveley	New	<i>Abbey Care Home</i>	<i>Nov 2025</i>	<i>Add footpath</i>	<i>Added to Register. Landowner opposed to additions. No further action taken yet.</i>

TABLE 7: Active Cases not already referred to other tables (we have many known issues and cases – these are the ones we are actively working on at present, or have high/medium priority but are currently on hold)

Parish	Right of Way	Location	Details	Brief Notes
Above Derwent	FP 201023	Newlands Beck	Path eroded into river – diversion required.	<i>Ongoing discussions with landowner.</i>
Askham	FP 305011	Askham Hall Farm	<i>Diversion to resolve long-standing (30 years+) obstruction.</i>	<i>Order made – no objections, will be confirmed as unopposed.</i>
Barton with Pooley Bridge	307006	Seat Farm	Landowner has constructed garden and hot tub over FP and signed a new route.	Landowner applied for diversion – consultations complete, considering responses.
Bootle	402006	Eskmeals	<i>Application to divert path out of garden</i>	<i>Consulting soon</i>
Buttermere & Loweswater	220046 243031	Crummock Water Outflow	<i>Large development regarding decommissioning of Crummock Water, with some path diversions</i>	<i>On hold – planning application withdrawn, will be resubmitted.</i>
Claife	510004	Knott Cottage	<i>To rectify previous diversion issue and remove path from garden</i>	<i>Order now confirmed</i>
Colton	New	Great Knott Wood	New bridleway as part of West Windermere Way	Discussing with landowners.

Colton	FP 511098	YMCA to Rusland Heights	Creation	<i>New footpath offered by landowner. Creation now completed.</i>
Ennerdale & Kinniside	407043 407059	Longmoor Bridge	<i>New vehicular bridge intersects two paths.</i>	<i>Consulting on diversions</i>
Gosforth	Various	Bleng Forest	Community led project to create 8km new bridleways, and two new bridges.	Forestry England agreed proposals internally – <i>Funding obtained to repair bridges before progressing. Owners of approach road opposed.</i>
Helsington	530015	Berry Holme	<i>Planning permission error (barn built over line of path) – diversion required.</i>	<i>Consulting on diversion.</i>
Lakes: Grasmere	New	Riverside Path	Adoption of current permitted path	<i>Order made, after a few surface issues, it is likely to be confirmed.</i>
Lakes: Grasmere, St Johns Castlerigg and Wythburn,	Various	<i>Between Far Easedale and Rosthwaite</i>	<i>Diversion of Bridleway, with associated extinguishments and creations</i>	<i>Public Path Order needed to ensure that Wainwright's Coast to Coast National Trail follows a legal Public Right of Way for its entire length.</i>

and Borrowdale				
Lamplugh	New	Cogra Moss	Creation of new bridleway and upgrade of footpath to bridleway to create a circular limited mobility path around the tarn.	Practical works by Forestry England completed. United Utilities agreed to creation. <i>Awaiting support from Cumberland Council.</i>
Loweswater	243017	Pottergill	<i>Diversion and over fell</i>	<i>Paper to this committee.</i>
Matterdale	345013	Brownrigg Farm	<i>Application to divert path out of yard, June 2025</i>	<i>Consulting</i>
Matterdale and Patterdale	New	Aira Force to Glenridding	Possible conversion of permitted path (Ullswater Way) to public footpath.	In discussions with landowner, costing up works. <i>Team Leader to make decision.</i>
Millom Without	416007 - 416009 416014	Boadhole	BW & FP - confusion over status and alignments. Order made, objection received from landowner.	Delayed – lower priority than other issues.
Orton	355041	Huck's Bridge	<i>Landslip took much of path away c2005 – working to see if we can divert path.</i>	<i>In discussions.</i>

Patterdale	FP 357083	<i>Glenridding Dodd</i>	<i>Creation</i>	<i>To create public footpath over Ramblers funded improvement works carried out by Fix the Fells.</i>
Patterdale	357004	<i>Hartsop Hall</i>	<i>New barn being proposed over definitive line.</i>	<i>Consulting on diversion.</i>
St John's Castlerigg & Wythburn	249056	Bridge End Farm	Barn given consent to be built over definitive line.	Site visits held – will need a diversion.
Shap Rural	Various	Wet Sleddale Packhorse Bridge & Sleddale Hall	A number of permitted bridleways and CROW footpaths could be converted to bridleways.	Part of United Utilities / Sustainable Catchment Management Programme project. <i>In staff work programmes for 2026-27, site visit to be held July 2026.</i>
Shap Rural	FP 361035	Swindale Foot	River changed course, fields permanently flooded, diversion needed.	<i>Funding awaited for bridge to enable this to happen.</i>
Threlkeld	New	Setmabanning & Birkett Mire	Keswick Railway Path extension.	<i>Drafting committee paper for October 2026.</i>
Underbarrow & Bradleyfield	577040	<i>Capplerigg Lane</i>	<i>Definitive line planted over</i>	<i>Consulting</i>

Wasdale	408054	Greendale Gill	Relic from the Fix the Fells Project that was omitted from confirmation. Needs confirming.	<i>Confirmed by Secretary of State.</i>
Whinfell	FP & BW	Alongside Borrow Beck	Potential diversion of bridleway which is likely to be further undercut in near future	Path closed at present whilst investigations as to solutions are underway.

TABLE 8: Motor Events on public rights of way authorised under delegated powers in 2025-2026.

Location	Details
Grizedale, Whinlatter, Wythop	Section 33 consent authorising use of public rights of way during Malcolm Wilson Rally motorsport event
Grizedale Forest	Section 33 consent authorising use of public rights of way during Grizedale Stages Rally motorsport event
Duddon and Bootle	Section 33 consent authorising use of public rights of way during Lakes 2-Day Trial motorcycle event
Whinlatter, Honister, Buttermere, Crummock Water	Section 33 Consent authorising use of public rights of way during the Vintage Sports Car Club Lakeland Trial

TABLE 9: Open Access Authorisations and Restrictions decided under delegated powers.

Parish	Location / Grid Reference	Issue
None		