



Progress on Rights of Way Cases and Delegated Matters 2026-2027: QUARTERS 1 & 2 (April – September 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 and 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. This update is for the first half of 2025-26.

5. Annex 1 attached to this report details rights of way decisions made under the Authority's Scheme of Delegation so far during 2026-2027.

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.

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 – just one so far 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 – it looks fewer than normal, but one case was actually three separate closures.
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, and one further (post-committee) uncompleted case.
 - 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, and a paper was provided to them for this.
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. Tables 5 and 6 show that 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 – just two so far this year.

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](#).

List of annexes

Annex 1: Tables referred to in this paper

Background papers	Rights of Way case files
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