



Lake District
National Park

Lake District National Park Authority: Openness of Governance
Section 33, Road Traffic Act 1988 consent – use of public rights of way for VSCC Lakeland Trial

22 September 2026

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The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

These require that officers keep and publish 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).

Section 33 Road Traffic Act 1988 Consent, Vintage Sports Car Club Lakeland Trial, November 2026

Relevant section of Scheme of Delegation

PART 4 - DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS TO OFFICERS - ANNEX 4 - Functions delegated to Head of Ranger Service and sub-delegated to Ranger Team Leaders.

Rights of Way and Access Matters - 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 the Highway Authorities) 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 the Planning Acts.

Background

The Lakeland Trial is a one-day time schedule event for up to 110 pre-1941 road cars, this year planned to be held on Saturday 7 November in the Darling How area of Forestry England land at Whinlatter Forest, at Buttermere, and at Honister Slate Mine. It has been running for many years. A couple of public rights of way are used or crossed to reach the trial sites, and one bridleway (220003 at Honister) is used as part of the hill trial. A stage of the event has been held at Wythop Woods in previous years, but is not being used this year. Section 33 consent (Road Traffic Act 1988) is required to authorise a motor vehicle trial to be held on public rights of way.

Details of Decision

Consent is granted subject to the usual conditions.

Details of alternative options considered and rejected

Not granting consent. This would be unreasonable – the event is generally well run, and popular. Landowner permission has been obtained, the public paths will be marshalled, and public access will be maintained.

Where a decision is made under an express authorisation, names of any Member(s) who have declared a conflict of interest

None

Lead Director	Hanna Latty, Director of Sustainable Development
Author and contact details of report	Will Hinchliffe, Rights of Way Officer
Background Papers	Case file 1480.019
Date of Report	22 September 2026
Authorising officer	 Jack Holmes, Ranger Team Leader (North)
Date	5 October 2026



**Lake District
National Park**

Vienna Jeavons
The Vintage Sports Car Club
Unit 1 Hockley Court
2401 Stratford Road
Hockley Heath
B94 6NW

5 October 2026

Dear Vienna

**Vintage Sports Car Club – Lakeland Trial, 7 November 2026
Section 33 Road Traffic Act 1988 Consent.**

Thank you for contacting us about this year's event. I note that the following public paths are affected, as shown on the attached route maps:

As part of the event:

- Bridleway 220003, Honister (Drumhouse)

Crossed or used as access only:

- Footpaths 242017 / 242024, Darling How

For the event planned for 7 November 2026, the National Park Authority grants consent under Section 33 of the Road Traffic Act (1988) for these sections of footpath and bridleway to be used by vehicles taking part in the Vintage Sports Car Club Trial subject to the conditions below.

In addition to the general conditions overleaf – the consent is granted based on the following specific information provided in respect of the Drumhouse section:

- The speed of the cars on the hill climbs is likely to be no more than 20mph;
- Cars will be dispersed throughout the day (9am – 4pm);
- There will be around 20 marshals on the 600 metres of the Drumhouse event route. These marshals will spot and inform any walkers approaching the route from the open access land, and any walkers, cyclists or horse-riders on the bridleways itself.
- Marshals will only allow a car to begin the hill climbs if the bridleway is clear.
- Members of the public using the bridleway will be informed of the event by the marshals. If the public wish to continue along the bridleway, cars will not be allowed to start the climb.
- Alternatively, it is acceptable for the public to be asked (not demanded) to wait for the car to complete the climb before continuing.

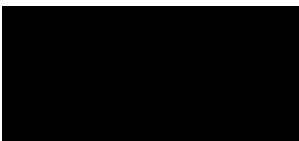
If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Will Hinchliffe, Rights of Way Officer (will.hinchliffe@lakedistrict.gov.uk, 01539 792696).

Conditions of Authorisation

You (the event organisers) shall:

1. Repair any significant damage to the surface of the footpaths and bridleways or to any walls, fences, stiles, bridges, gates or other wayside fixtures caused by the event. If this is not done within a reasonable time after notice has been given, we (the National Park Authority) shall have the right to carry out the work and charge the cost to you.
2. Indemnify us against any legal liability in respect of any claim arising out of this authorisation and any expense to which we may be put in defending any claims.
3. Arrange for marshals to be posted on the rights of way to warn people of the presence of motor vehicles and stop the competitive sections if necessary - at the locations identified on the attached map for Darling How, and mass marshalling at Fleetwith Drumhouse. Marshals should wear high visibility vests or clothing to ensure they're clearly identifiable to participants and rights of way users.
4. Erect warning signs (or substantially to the like effect) at the locations shown on the attached maps, and elsewhere as considered useful.
5. Remove the signs after the event has finished.
6. Remove litter deposited on any affected footpath or bridleway during the event.
7. Report any accidents or near miss incidents involving spectators or public rights of way users to us within 48 hours of any event.
8. Limit the number of entrants to 110 vehicles
9. Obtain any other permits or authorisation necessary for the event to comply with legislation relating to motor events both on and off the public highway.

Yours sincerely

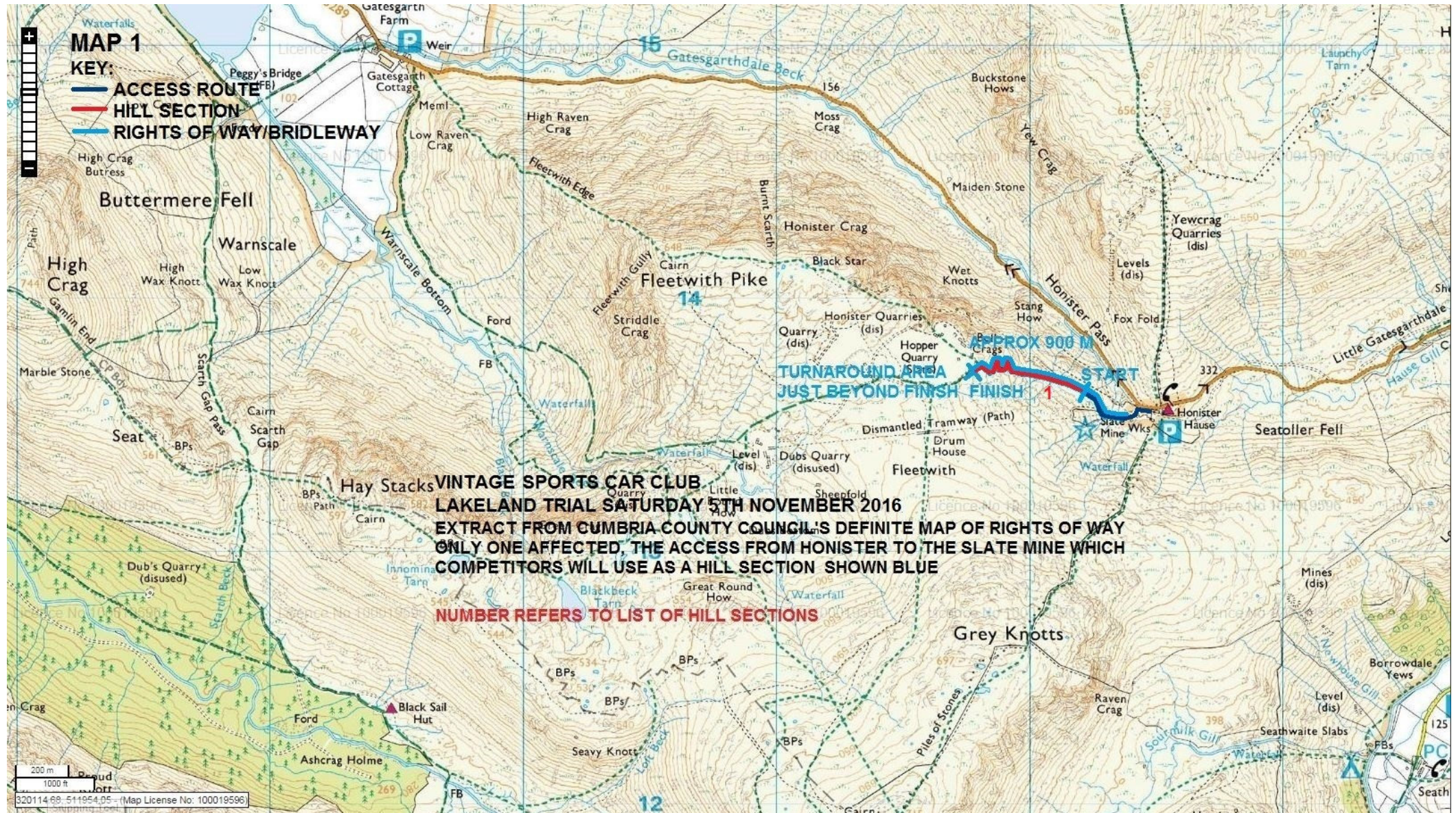


Jack Holmes, Ranger Team Leader (North)
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Overall Event Map (blue = access, red = competitive stage)



Honister (Drumhouse) Section - Bridleway 220003



Signage and Marshal Location Map for Darling How

