



# return to **KESWICK**



## ...on a modern train from your station!

UPDATE NUMBER 61

AUTUMN 2016

### RECOVERY STARTS SOON

Clearance, repair and reinstatement work on the route between Keswick and Threlkeld is expected to start this Autumn under the guidance of the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA). The LDNPA owns and manages this section as a foot and cycle path – an arrangement which saved much of the infrastructure, especially the girder bridges, after closure as a railway in 1972.

A section of the embankment was washed out at a location where the river flow was particularly constricted and fast.

CKP Railways plc (CKP) has proposed that a new embankment should be built on an alignment nearer the north side of the gorge. That would allow more space for floodwater, reducing the strength of any future flood. It would also make the route more resilient to any future storms.



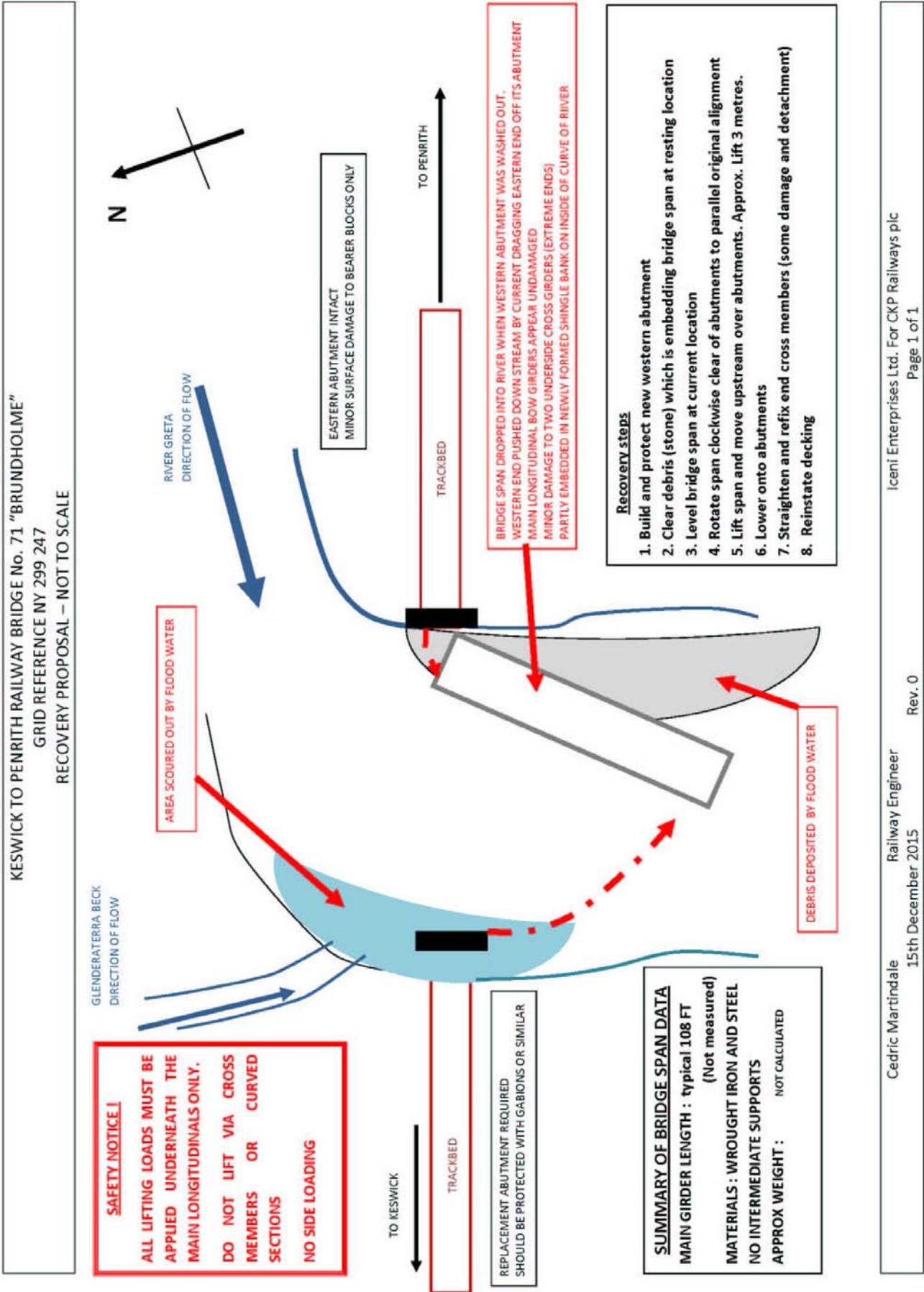
Aerial photograph (c) Terry Abraham. Annotated by Cedric Martindale

Bridge No. 73 (Rawsome, grid ref. NY 304 246) suffered some damage to the stonework of the western abutment and is currently closed as its condition can not be guaranteed. Some people have been removing the barriers and crossing the bridge, putting themselves and others at risk.

Bridge No. 66 (Low Pearson, grid ref NY 294 247) was completely destroyed and the wreckage will be cleared from the river.

Bridge No. 71, one of the iconic bow girder bridges, near Brundholme Woods (grid ref. NY 299 247) was swept off its abutments and now sits on a new bank of debris, almost parallel to the river bank. Part of CKP Railways plc's (CKP's) initial assessment follows:

website: [www.keswickrailway.com](http://www.keswickrailway.com) email: [ckp@martindale.force9.co.uk](mailto:ckp@martindale.force9.co.uk)



## **KESWICK – BUSY ALL YEAR ROUND**

**Just some of the larger events in the town this year:**

**New Year celebrations**

**Keswick Film Festival – 25 – 28 February**

**Words by the Water – 04 – 13 March**

**Keswick Jazz Festival – 12 - 15 May**

**Keswick Mountain Festival – 19 - 22 May**

**Pirate Day Celebrating 740 Years of Keswick’s Market Charter - 28 May**

**Keswick Beer Festival – 3 - 4 June**

**Keswick Festival – 17 - 26 June**

**Lakesman Triathlon - 19 June**

**Derwenwater Regatta – 9 - 10 July**

**Tour of Britain Cycle Race - 5 September**

**Christmas Lights Switch-on - 18 November**

**Keswick Live Advent Calendar – 1 - 24 December**

**Keswick Victorian Fayre - 4 December**

**The Keswick Convention now occupies three weeks in the summer.**

**All of these events would benefit from transport which moves more people without road congestion.**

**When the parking spaces are full, Keswick’s trading is capped and people may be unable to visit.**

## **RAIL TRAVEL EVER MORE POPULAR**

**The number of UK train journeys made last year rose 3.8%, according to the Rail Delivery Group (RDG). The organisation that represents train operators and Network Rail said there were 1.7 billion journeys made by rail in the UK between 4 January 2015 and 9 January 2016.**

**That was 62 million more than in the previous year.**

**Some people are now choosing to travel by public transport rather than car, but many others never have that choice because of age (too young or too old), physical condition, financial constraints etc.**

**Travel by train has no age restrictions, is increasingly friendly to anyone with mobility problems, does not require a licence and is not dependent on buying and registering a vehicle.**

**Rail travel is truly “transport for all” and available on a “pay as you” go basis.**

**A frequent and well planned train service underpins all types of economic activity while connecting people in an environmentally friendly way.**

## **SUCCESS IN SCOTLAND**

**The BBC reported that almost 700,000 people travelled on the Borders Railway during its first six months of operation, 22% more than forecast for the route from Edinburgh to Tweedbank.**

**Scottish Transport Minister Humza Yousaf said the passenger numbers further justified the decision to restore rail services to the region after more than 40 years.**

**Some stations saw up to six times the predicted number of passengers.**

**The “official” methods of predicting train usage have often been criticised as pessimistic, thereby helping to “justify” road development (or no transport development) rather than rail.**

## **NORTHERN TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

**In March 2016 Transport for the North, a Government body, released a strategy document covering all forms of transport in Northern England. Rail projects focus on the major metropolitan areas. Construction is under way on a series of major projects, mainly linking the larger cities.**

**Projects outside the major urban areas, such as Keswick to Penrith, must be recognised in Local Authorities’ plans and policies to go forward.**

## SUBSCRIBE NOW FOR 2017 – PRICE STILL HELD

**Subscription for a full year has always been £10** (*despite rises in VAT and postage costs !*)

If you have access to e-mail, we can send Updates electronically - saving all resources.

*... but please, please, do tell us if you change your e-mail address !!!*

**Cheques payable to "Iceni Enterprises Ltd", please, and send to the address below.**

**Next Update planned for summer / autumn – plus e-mail or website alerts for hot news.**

*Iceni Enterprises Ltd. does not pass on mailing list details to anybody else !*

## WHAT TO BUY TO SUPPORT THE RAILWAY PROJECT

25% of the price of each item goes directly to the Keswick to Penrith Railway Project.

*The BBC found that only 8% of the price of charity Christmas Cards goes to the named causes.*

1. The report "Return to Keswick - the case for a New Railway" is available at £20 per copy direct from us (post free), or order through bookshops by quoting ISBN 978-1-902543-02-4.
2. "Trains to Keswick" is a professionally produced film featuring people along the line. Originally in VHS format, the DVD version with additional information is available at £14 per copy.
3. Fine Art prints and greetings cards featuring a stunning winter view of the steam hauled "Lakes Express" near Bassenthwaite Lake station, painted by Eric Bottomley of the Guild of Railway Artists. Prints (24" x 16") are £18 each, cards (6" x 8") with envelopes - £1.40 each (minimum order of 3 cards please).

## Interested in Sustainable Transport generally ?

CKP Railways plc Director, Cedric Martindale, has produced a book to inform and encourage debate.

Too often planning of communities neglects transport, while transport planning may be done later by operators who are not part of the communities they are expected to serve. Communities may not know what is available while Local Authorities may not have a clear idea of what transport would be appropriate.

The book takes a broader view of transport in the light of people's needs, economic and environmental factors, planning systems - offering information and opinions gained from working and living in many different places. It aims to help anyone studying transport or trying to find solutions for transport and connectivity problems.

The book has 264 pages and many illustrations, with a soft cover. ISBN 978 1 902543 04 8.  
Available direct from Iceni Enterprises Ltd. at £ 27.50 per copy including UK second class postage.

Order forms are distributed with Updates and can be downloaded from the website

*N.B. All prices above include postage to addresses in the UK, but please add £2.50 per order for posting to addresses outside the UK (Posting packages to overseas destinations is not cheap !).*

**Cheques or Postal Orders payable to Iceni Enterprises Ltd for all items above, please.**

## A FEW DATES FROM HISTORY

1845	Cockermouth and Workington Railway opened
1861	Cockermouth Keswick and Penrith Railway Company constituted by Act of Parliament
1864	Railway open for freight traffic linking west Cumbria with north east England heavy industries
1865	Passenger trains started running
1901	Double track sections opened Threlkeld – Penruddock and Blencow – Redhills because of increasing traffic
1920s	Bridges strengthened for heavier main line trains to Keswick such as Convention specials and Newcastle dining trains
1963	Beeching Report published listing Workington to Penrith route all for closure
1966	Workington to Keswick closed to make way for the A66 road to support British Leyland bus factory in Workington
1970	A66 road mostly complete with railway still in place between Keswick and Penrith. Road re-routed in places to avoid railway
1972	Keswick to Penrith closed after reprieve in 1966 because of massive protests
1988	CKP Railways plc formed with the aim of re-opening the route for all day every day modern train services
1990s	Project qualifies for Millennium and Heritage Lottery Fund support but receives no money
2000	Bonds first issued to provide independent funding for design and development work
2001	Digital survey and alignment design work commissioned by CKP Railways plc
2007	Business Case report by Northwest Regional Development Agency
2008	Keswick Town Council becomes Public Sector Champion for the Keswick to Penrith Railway Project
2010	Lake District National Park Authority protects the route in its Local Development Framework policies
2013	Project described as "worthwhile" by Regional Growth Fund assessors but no money forthcoming