

Campaign for the Lord Carlisle Heritage Trail Questionnaire Summary

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent community questionnaire sharing your views, experiences and concerns.

We've been overwhelmed with the response, having received just shy of 130 replies. Although the initial deadline has passed, we continue to welcome further submissions.

Your responses give us a very clear picture of what matters most and how we should move forward together.

This summary explains the shared priorities, the proposed approach, and how you can stay involved.



- This is a community-led, wildlife-friendly project.
- The priority is safety and protecting long-established access.
- The trail will remain low-key, natural and local.
- We will not proceed with any phase without listening to residents.
- No landowner will profit unfairly from community fundraising.
- Volunteers and local expertise are at the heart of the project.

What The Community Told Us

► Strong support for protecting access

Almost everyone wants to see the route between Halton-Lea-Gate, Midgeholme, Tindale and Hallbankgate protected for walking, cycling and horse riding. Many people have used it for decades.

Residents described the route as:

- a safe alternative to the A689
- important for nature and wildlife
- vital for health and wellbeing
- part of daily life for dog walking, commuting, visiting the Hub, and reaching the bus

► Support for resolving the Whites Cut issue

Most residents support securing the land at Whites Cut if it prevents further damage and protects access. However, many feel strongly that the community should not pay more than the new owner paid.

► A clear desire to restore the Tindale bridge

The bridge is seen as essential for reconnecting the whole route. Support for its restoration is extremely strong.

► A preference for a low-key, nature-friendly approach

Residents want:

- a natural, peaceful route
- no commercialisation
- strong protection for wildlife
- considerate car parking
- clear dog-control measures

► Some concerns, especially from Tindale

A small number of residents raised concerns about:

- increased footfall
- parking pressure
- wildlife disturbance
- loss of privacy
- litter and dog fouling

These concerns are real and will be addressed directly.

Together, we can protect this historic route for generations.

Your feedback has shaped a clear, balanced and community-driven plan. The next steps will be taken openly, carefully and with full respect for residents, wildlife and the landscape we all value.

What The Project Will Focus On

Based on your feedback, the project will prioritise:

1. Securing access along the core route (Halton-Lea-Gate → Midgeholme → Tindale → Hallbankgate)

This is the area of strongest agreement.

We are currently compiling a DMMO (Definitive Map Modification Order) application to designate the route as a Public Right of Way (Bridleway).

2. Resolving the Whites Cut situation

Through legal protection and negotiation.

Right of Way application/designation and enforcement of restoration obligations will strengthen our position to ensure the owner does not unduly profit from a community purchase. An independent valuation will be commissioned and a grant-matched fundraising plan (e.g. 50% grants, 50% community) will be prepared.

3. Restoring the Tindale bridge

A key step to reconnect the whole route safely.

Contact has been made with the land agent and future options to restore access will be discussed.

4. Protecting wildlife and the natural character of the area

Many residents expressed deep concern for wildlife, especially around Whites Cut, Howard Pond, and the wooded areas. This will be a wildlife-first trail, not a tourist attraction.

We will continue to consult with staff from RSPB Geltsdale, North Pennines National Landscape and local naturalists, and act on their recommendations.

5. Keeping the trail low-impact and community-led

Commercial development will not be pursued.

How We Will Communicate

Residents prefer:

- **Newsletters** (most popular)
- **Website**
- **Facebook**
- **Public meetings** for major decisions

We will use all four means and continue to email those on our contact list with regular updates.

How You Can Get Involved

Many residents offered help — thank you. There will be opportunities to support:

- evidence gathering for protecting access
- fundraising
- bridge restoration support
- practical maintenance
- communications
- wildlife monitoring



Public Right of Way User Evidence Statements from the community are a crucial part of protecting access

- the more evidence we can provide to the council of long-term use of the route, the better the chance of securing it as a designated Right of Way.

Please visit www.lchtrail.org to download and complete a User Evidence Statement form.

Forms can also be collected and returned to **Hallbankgate Hub** or **Halton-Lea-Gate Post Office**.

What Happens Next

Over the coming weeks we will continue the legal process to protect access.

- Landowners are being contacted and an application for a DMMO (Public Right of Way designation) is being prepared.
- Farlam Parish Council and Hartleyburn Parish Council are preparing to submit applications to designate the historic track as an Asset of Community Value (ACV).