SP Electricity North West

Coniston update following programme review

6 November 2026

Outcomes of our review

SP Electricity North West

Following the programme review, we have changed how the work will be delivered to reduce the overall impact on Coniston and the surrounding areas.

1	**More work off the highway**	Moving a significant amount of cable installation from the road into third-party land.
2	**20 weeks of closures removed**	Removing 20 weeks, around five months, of full road closures from the programme.
3	**Disruption moved to winter**	Scheduling the majority of the most disruptive work, including key road closures, outside the main visitor season.
4	**Longer working periods**	Increasing delivery to seven-day working and up to 16-hour days where safe and practical.
5	**One main route at a time**	Only working on one of the A5084, A593 or B5285 at any one time, keeping the other two clear of project activity.

What this means in practice	**There will still be significant disruption. Full closures and diversions remain necessary, particularly on the A5084 during the winter months.**

What we heard from the community

The feedback was consistent: keep Coniston accessible, protect essential journeys and reduce the cumulative impact on local trade.

Road closures / diversions

Journey times / commuting

Business / tourism

Access to properties

Healthcare / caring

School transport

What has changed, what is still being progressed, and what cannot safely or practically be done.

Progress in numbers

When we refer to ‘key road closures’ this is the A5084, A593 and B5285 (Hawkshead Hill)

Total work completed to date 3.1km = 12% of the overall project

Length of key road closures before review

A5084 3.6km
A593 1.6km
B5285 2.1km

Total length of key road closures before review

7.3km

Total number of road closure weeks reduced

20

Length of key road closures after review

A5084 2.4km
A593 0.4km
B5285 0.6km

Total length of key road closures after review

3.4km

Total length of route installed to date

3.1km

All new routes subject to land rights and consents

You said

Reduce closures and use alternatives

YOU SAID	WE DID	STATUS
Avoid full closures wherever possible	• A new route off the highway extends the route by 0.5km but reduces the road closure on the B5285 (Hawkshead Hill) from 20 weeks to six weeks.	UNDER ASSESSMENT
Use private land	• Route review identified further off-highway opportunities. • Subject to landowner agreement, 20 weeks of road closures have been identified across the A5084, A593, B5285	UNDER ASSESSMENT
Keep the work out of peak visitor periods and in winter months	• A5084 full closures are concentrated in the winter months from November 2026 to March 2027, outside of the main visitor season. • Work on minor roads and in agricultural land will continue in peak season where it does not restrict the visitor economy. • Work on Lake Road will be moved from August to avoid peak tourism. Work will be carried out in such a way as to allow vehicle access along Lake Road.	IN PLACE
Extend the project over a longer period of time to cause less disruption	• We have extended the programme to ensure that we will only ever work, in any capacity, on one of the A593, B5285 & A5084 at any one time.	IN PLACE

You said

Sequence works so Coniston remains accessible

A5084	• Current priority route for winter delivery	Working
A593	• No work while another main route is active	Kept Clear
B5285	• No work while another main route is active	Kept Clear

New commitment: we will only work in any capacity on one of the A593, B5285 and A5084 at any one time.

Upcoming work: A5084

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Monday 23rd November – Thursday 17th December

Full closure from the top of the A5084 near Rectory Lane, progressing south to Emlin hall / Lakeland Garage

Other main routes kept clear

No work on the A593 or B5285 while the A5084 phase is active.

17th December – 3rd January – Christmas road open

Road reinstated and open over the Christmas period.

4th January – 7th February 2027

Full closure progressing south from Emlin hall / Lakeland to Sunny Bank

7th February – 28th March 2027

Full closure Blawith Common

Other work

Work continues from the bottom of Bog Lane towards Knipe Fold. Other activity will take place off the highway.

A5084

Monday 23rd November – Thursday 17th December

Full closure from the top of the A5084 near Rectory Lane, progressing south to Emlin hall / Lakeland Garage

Why full road closure?

Following review, these sections of the A5084 do not have feasible alternative routes off the highway.



A5084

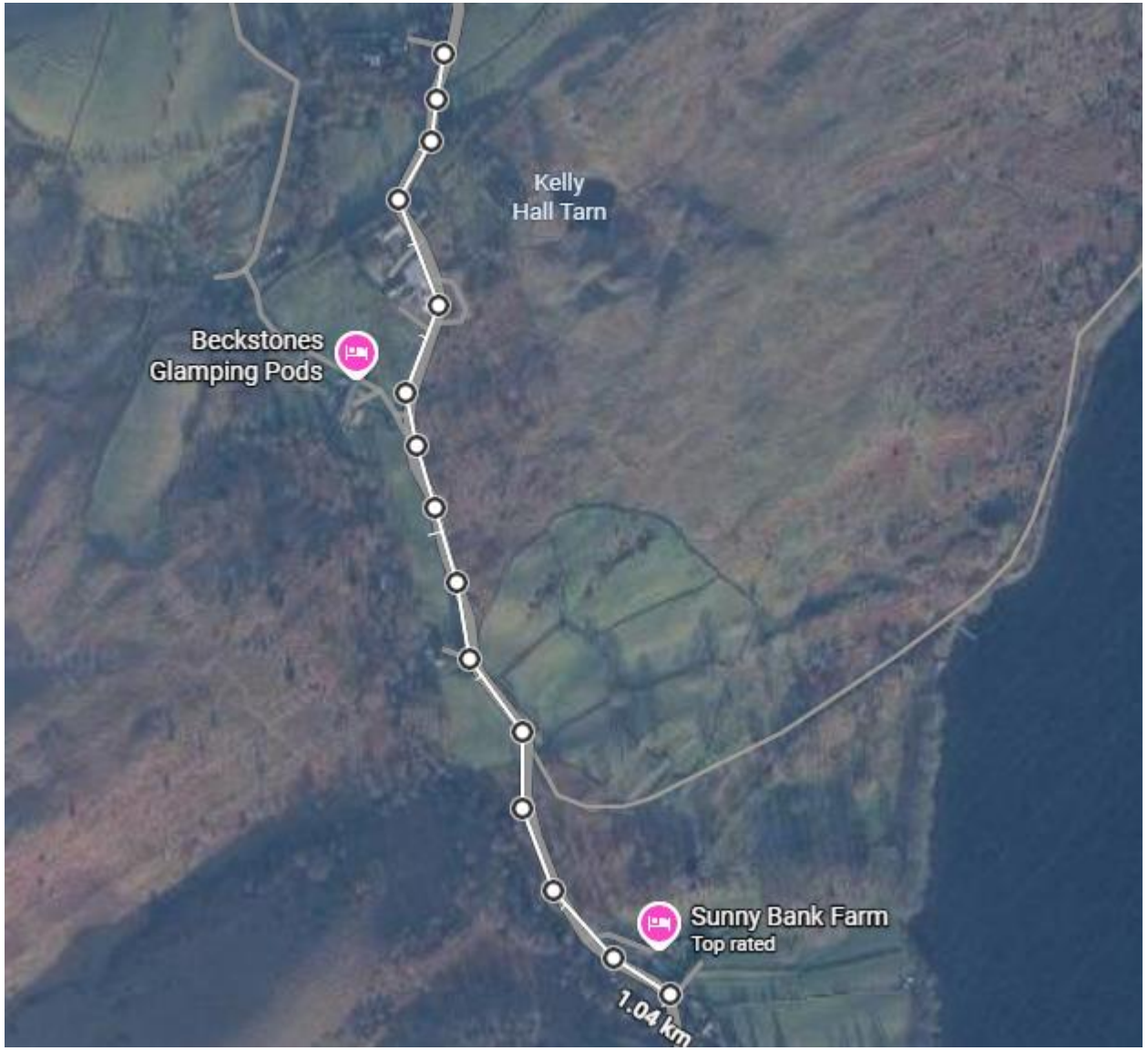
SP Electricity North West

4th January – 7th February 2027

Full closure progressing south from Emlin hall / Lakeland to Sunny Bank

Why full road closure?

Assessment continues section by section to allow vehicles to pass. The A5084 averages under 5m and suitable passing positions have not yet been found within the closure limits.



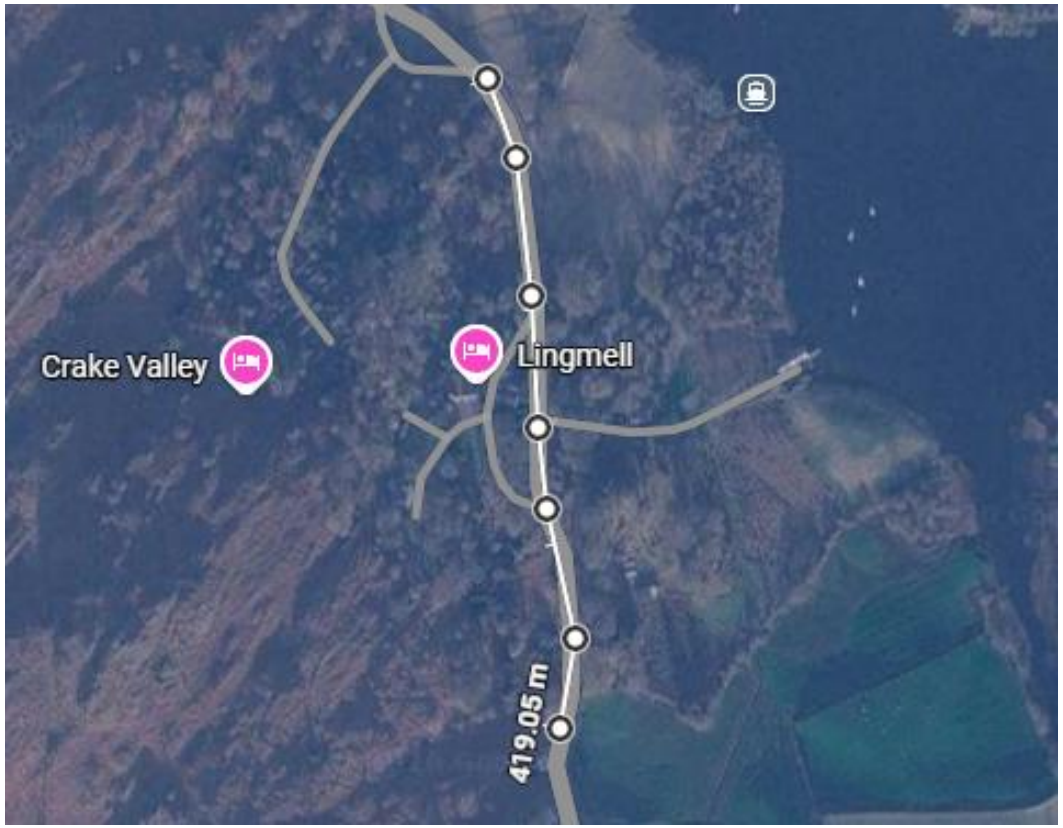
A5084

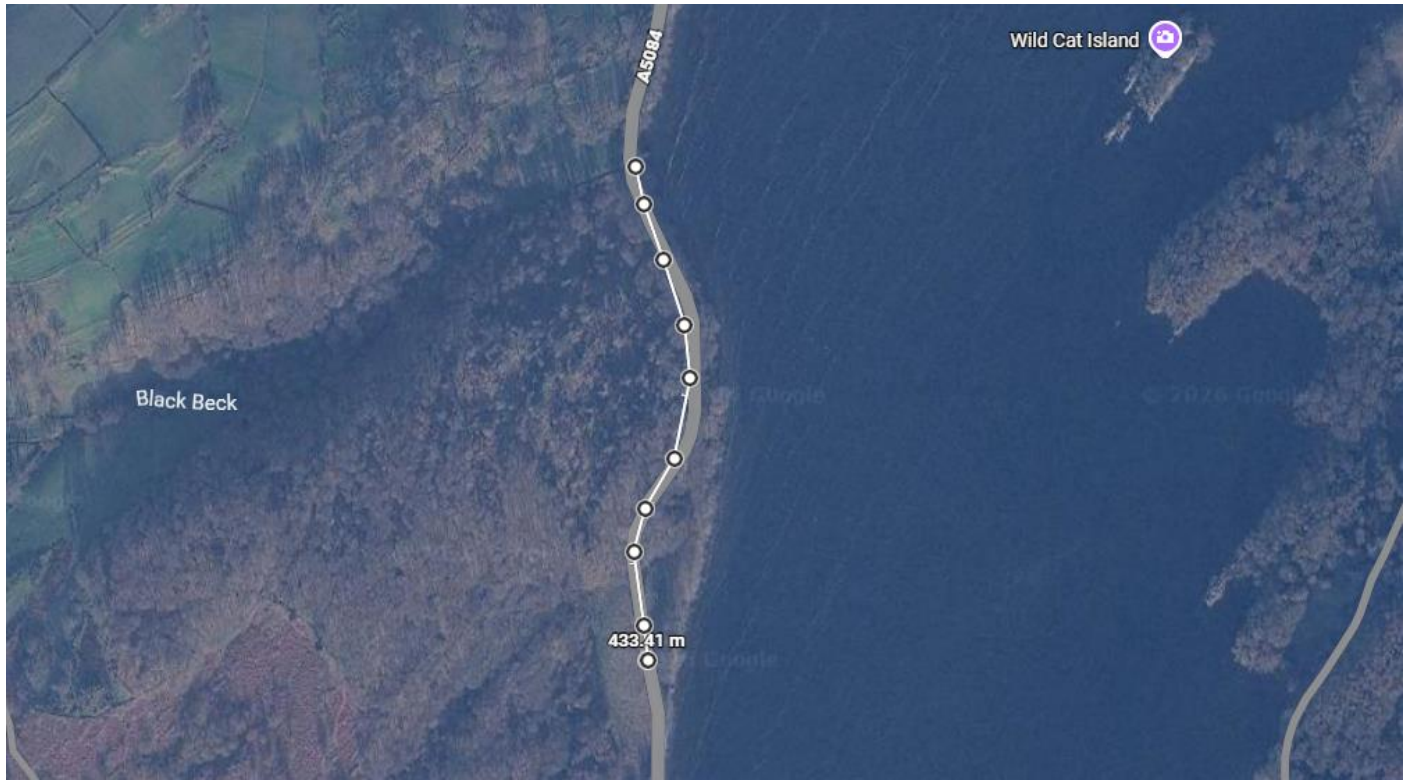
7th February – Thursday 25th March 2027

Full closure Blawith Common

Assessment ongoing to allow light traffic to pass.

Open in time for Easter

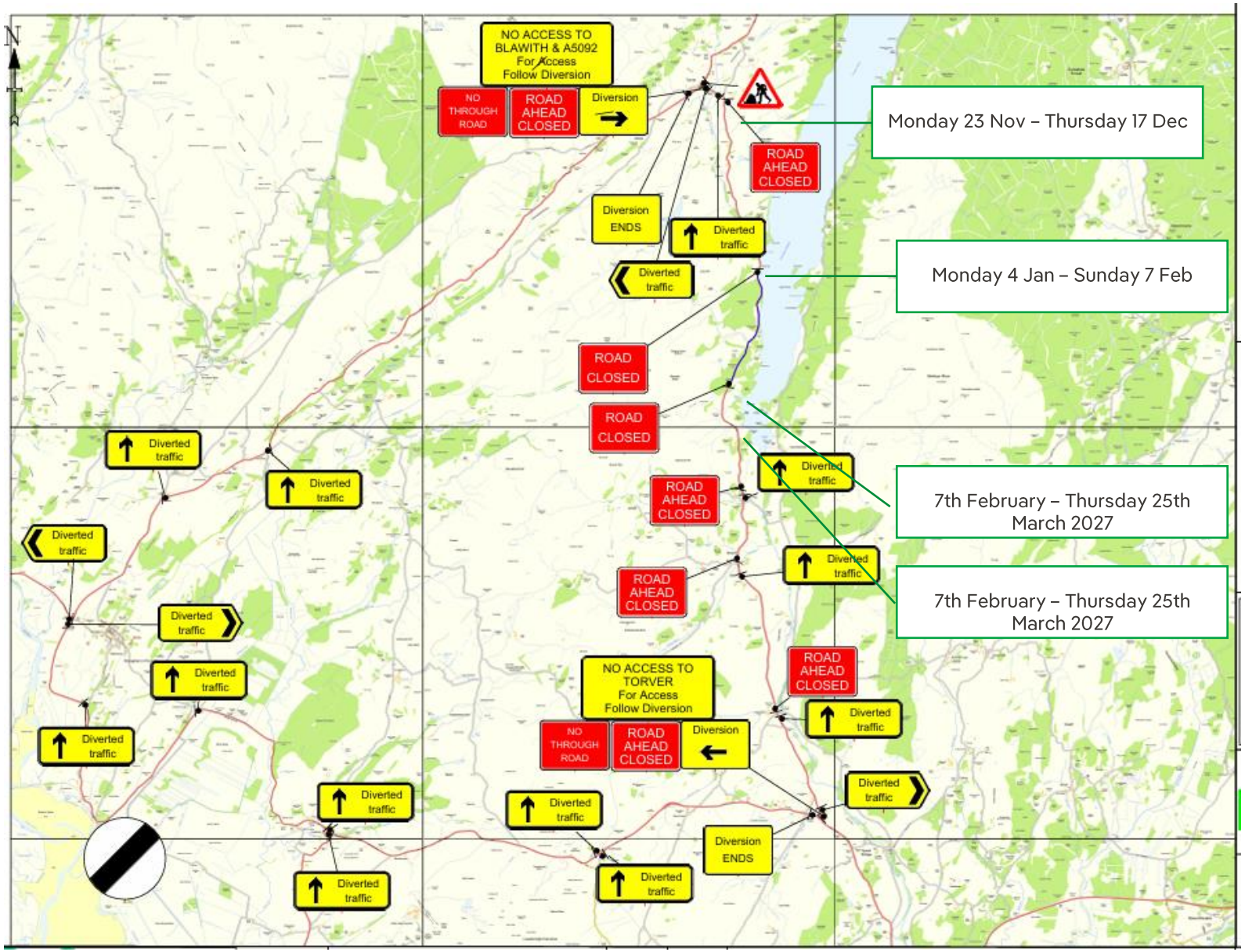




Light vehicle access

The road closure is under assessment to allow light traffic to pass. Initial assessments suggest access will be available under strict controls to ensure everyone is safe.

A5084 diversion route



Joint bay, cable pull, engineering challenges

Following the completion of the excavation and installation of ducting along the A5084, teams will need to return to complete the process of ‘pulling’ the underground 33,000-volt electricity cable through the ducting. This involves excavating 'bays' at specific points along the route to 'joint' the cables together, before filling the bays back in and reinstating the road.

Other work currently ongoing

Location	Start	Finish	Traffic management
Drunken Duck Pub to Knipe Fold	19 Oct 2026	21 Mar 2027	Road closure



Road closure
Bog Lane to the Drunken Duck Pub
Rectory Lane
Due to complete 27th November 2026

Why dates can sometimes change

We always aim to carry out our work as planned and with as little disruption as possible. However, the dates we publish for road works can sometimes change. This is because a number of factors outside our control can affect when it is safe or practical for our teams to work, such as weather conditions, ground conditions and emergency repairs.

B5285 Hawkshead Hill alternative route



Reducing the need for closure on Hawkshead Hill

Engineers have identified an alternative route to significantly reduce the time required to close the B5285 Hawkshead Hill from a 20-week road closure to a 6-week road closure, providing a 14-week reduction.

You said

Essential journeys and local access for residents, carers, schools, emergency services and premises

YOU SAID	WE DID	STATUS
Vulnerable residents and healthcare access	Funding to double pharmacy home-delivery capacity from Hawkshead to Coniston, engagement with Coniston Carers, Pharmacy promotion of the Extra Care Register.	ONGOING
School travel and transport	• Engagement with John Ruskin School and Coniston Primary School, alongside council notification to school transport services. • SP ENW to provide a careers day to the high school and safety day to the primary school	ONGOING
Emergency service access	Highways notifications plus direct project contact with Police, Fire and North West Ambulance Service. Continue liaison before each high-impact closure. NWAS to attend next community drop-in.	ONGOING
Access to homes and premises	Communicate local arrangements with directly affected people before each phase.	ONGOING

You said

Clearer information and local coordination: signage, channels, local events and route information

YOU SAID	WE DID	STATUS
Improved communication	Publish revised phases, dates, route maps and diversion information. Use the Coniston webpage as the single source of truth, supported by letters and stakeholder briefings.	ONGOING
Provide a local contact	Establishing a community liaison presence in central Coniston, with a feedback and escalation log and named routes for urgent issues.	ONGOING
Make signage clearer	Use compliant traffic signs plus bespoke “open as usual” and business-specific access signs appropriate to each phase.	ONGOING
Collaborating on local events	Communicating with Grizedale Stages Rally, Coniston Power Boat Records Week, John Ruskin Museum / Bluebird activity and Tour de France.	ONGOING

You said

Alternative methods to further reduce disruption

YOU SAID	WE DID	STATUS
Allow light vehicles through closures	Assessment continues section by section. The A5084 averages under 5m and suitable passing positions have not yet been found within the closure limits.	UNDER ASSESSMENT
Work overnight / 24/7 working	• Limited programme gain, workforce availability, additional safety/noise risks and reinstatement materials requiring a 24-hour cure. • We are using seven-day and extended-hour working wherever possible.	COMPROMISE
Use different excavation technology	Further road saws and larger rock wheel technology has been reviewed. No single method in addition to what we are currently using, provides the required depth and width in every ground condition without additional utility or watercourse risk. We will always take new technologies under consideration.	ONGOING
Ensure diversions are suitable in winter months	Collaboration with Westmorland and Furness Highways Operations Adverse Weather team to ensure sufficient gritting and access arrangements.	ONGOING

Cumbria Tourism: Destination Coniston

SP Electricity North West

Working in collaboration with our partners to promote Coniston and support local businesses

Purpose	Business support	Content
Maintain visitor confidence, reinforce that Coniston and surrounding areas remain open, and give businesses practical marketing tools.	Resource hub, communications support, workshops, one-to-one marketing advice and reusable guidance and assets.	Seasonal photography, itineraries and social content available for local businesses and partners to reuse. Seasonal PR, press trips, media releases, influencer opportunities and car-free itineraries timed around closures.

“Coniston is open”	Use consistent open-for-business messaging, accurate access guidance and seasonal visitor content.
Businesses need practical help	Online resource hub, workshops, creative-content, one-to-one advice.
Visitors need alternative journey ideas	Develop car-free and slow-travel itineraries using walking, boating and cycling, coordinated with roadwork information.
How will we know it worked?	Track PR/influencer reach, businesses engaged, training participation, resource views/downloads, social reach and qualitative feedback.

How we will report progress back

SP Electricity North West

Turning commitments into measurable delivery

Road impact	20 weeks of closures removed, route-by-route delivery, unplanned changes communicated.
Access	Individual arrangements, urgent escalations, time to resolve.
Business support	Businesses engaged, Destination Coniston reach, Cross Lakes experience support, flexibility to support events on a case-by-case basis.
Communication	Updates issued on time, better signage, regular face-to-face contact, once source of truth www.enwl.co.uk/coniston .
Confidence	Feedback themes shared, clear complaints process, sentiment measured, evidence of action taken.

Our next community drop in:
Monday 23rd November,
Coniston Sports Social Centre,
4.30pm – 6.30pm

Contact

T: 0800 195 4141
E: enquiries@enwl.co.uk
W: www.enwl.co.uk/coniston