

Landslip and embankment restoration at Buttermere to Scarth Gap

Description of the works

This work involved the repair of a landslip affecting the bridleway leading from Buttermere to Scarth Gap. The design called for the provision of a gabion wall, Reno Mattresses, a piped culvert and new drainage. The landslip was located on the lower slopes of Buttermere Fell and affected an 8m long section of bridleway. The aim of the work was to stabilise the landslip and reinstate of the bridleway.

Key elements of the Work

The first challenge was to try and come up with a design, and after thinking through various options we settled on using Reno Mattresses as this would allow the finished job to blend into the existing bank once it was top soiled.

The second challenge was gaining access to the works. The structure would require a lot of stone which would have to be brought to the site by some mechanical means. The footpath was clearly not designed for plant and machinery and was both steep and narrow. After considering using a helicopter as is common with these types of job, we decided on upgrading the existing footpath to enable 1.5t dumpers to bring stone and materials to the site.

The gabions were constructed on site and fair stone faced to present an aesthetically pleasing finish to tie in with the location. Two pipes were installed, one to catch water coming down the footpath, and one to catch water seepage flowing under the structure. These pipes were backfilled with stone which allowed water to flow through the structure without washing it away. The structure was finally covered with topsoil and blended into the landscape. Additional work was instructed by the LDNPA to provide slate cut off drains are shown in the adjacent photo.



Client	Lake District National Park Authority
Location of works	Buttermere in Lake District National Park
Value of works	£70,000
Duration of works	9 weeks