



Notification of Road Closure Fred Whitton Challenge 2023 Sunday 7th May 2023

Dear Parish Council, Business or Resident,

The Fred Whitton Challenge Steering Group will once again be delivering the Fred Whitton Challenge cycling event on Sunday 7th May 2023 in aid of a number of charities including Macmillan Cancer Support, Cumbria Air Ambulances and the Mountain Rescue. This year we will have 2,200 riders taking part in a difficult 182km (113 mile) route, predominantly on open roads.

Following the success of the road closure on previous events, I am writing to inform you that we are working with Cumbria County Council to close Harknott Pass/Wrynose Pass and Blea Tarn to traffic on Sunday 7th May 2023. This decision was made to improve the safety of our cyclists and other road users across this remote and difficult terrain. We have organised this closure to keep disruption to a minimum and **we will maintain access all day** to any residents and businesses in Beckfoot and Boot (from the direction of Eskdale), Cockley Beck (from the direction of Seathwaite) and Great Langdale/Little Langdale (from the direction of Skelwith Bridge). **Emergency access throughout the day will not be affected.** Below I have summarised some further details of the closure.

Date: Sunday 7th May 2023

Timings: 10:30 – 18:30 (we aim to open the roads again as early as possible and have stricter cut off times this year to ensure this)

Closure Locations: Bottom of Hardknott Pass (after Wha Farm House and before the cattle grid) through to the end of Wrynose Pass (after Fell Foot Farm but before the cattle grid), to the bottom on Blea Tarn decent (at the cattle grid).

Diversion: Austhwaite Brow, Sella Brow, Bank End (Broughton-in-Furness), A595, A593. This diversion is further in terms of distance but will be a faster and safer option when cycle event traffic is accounted for.

If you have any queries about the information I have provided in advance of the event, then please feel free to contact me via email on josh@fredwhittonchallenge.co.uk. If you have any queries on the day of the event, please call 01539 435 463, this is a line through to the event control room. We welcome any feedback, but ask if you could please return your feedback to us by Monday 20th March 2023.

I would also like to take this opportunity to note, that as well as the road closures outlined above, there will be an elevated number of cyclists to share the roads with so please be vigilant when pulling out of junctions and overtaking. Thank you for your time and patience.

Kind Regards,

Josh O'Boyle – Event Manager
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