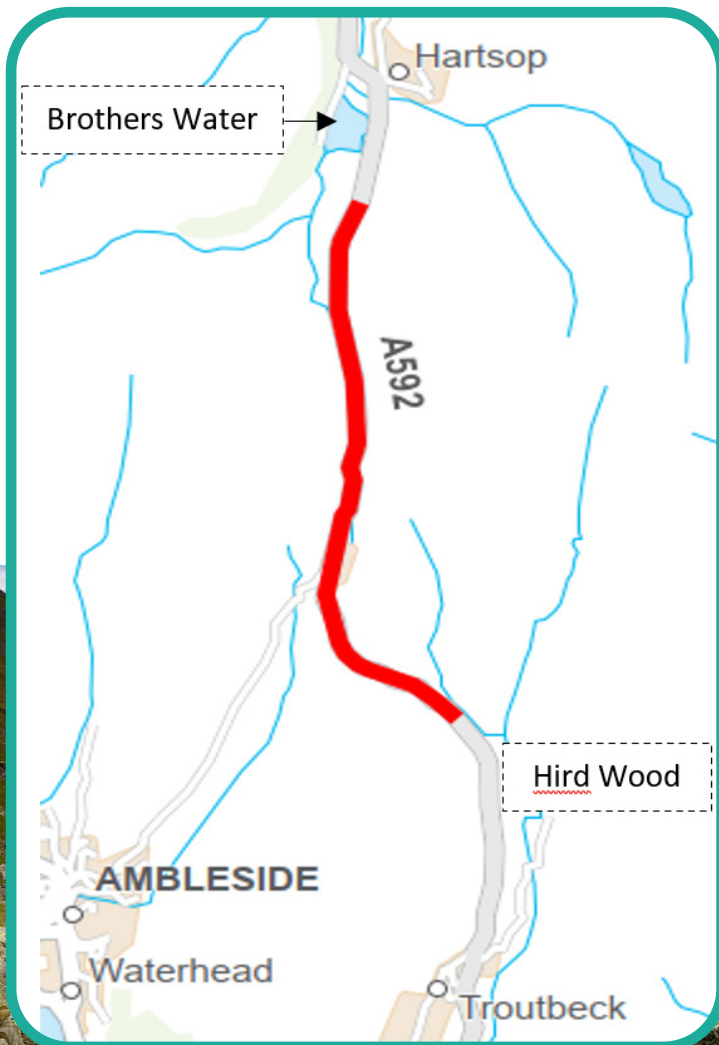


# Kirkstone Pass Road Safety Improvement Works A592

Inside this booklet, you will find more information about the Department for Transport Safer Roads Project on the Kirkstone Pass, A592.





## DfT Safer Roads Project - Kirkstone Pass

In 2018 the Council was allocated £7.4 million from the Department for Transport (DfT) in order to improve the safety of the A592 from the A66 near Rheged to Windermere.

Work needs to be carried out on a section of the A592 known as the Kirkstone Pass which is between Brothers Water and Hird Wood. This section of the A592 has many difficulties due to its location, gradient and altitude -Kirkstone Pass rises from 525 feet at Brothers Water up to 1,489 feet at the summit of the pass.

The Council has appointed Metcalfe Plant Hire Ltd to carry out all of the works on Kirkstone Pass, and work is due to commence in February 2023 for a period of 13 months.

### What works will be carried out?

#### Resurfacing

Resurfacing will be taking place along the whole length of the route; this will be made much harder due to the steep incline of the Kirkstone Pass, with a gradient of up to 25% in some areas. The narrow width also makes it harder as there is less space for the large items of plant and equipment needed to do the work.

#### Wall repairs

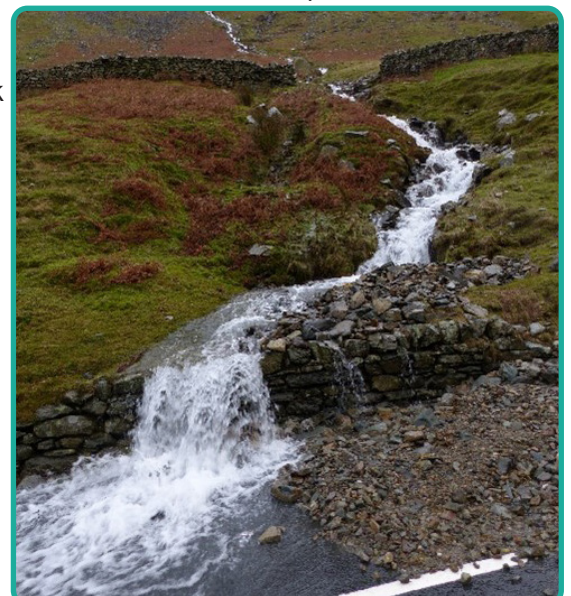
Repairs are planned for a number of the retaining walls throughout the length of the pass. These walls have been damaged over time as water from the fells erodes and undermines them. These retaining walls either need to be strengthened, repaired or replaced. Part of the challenge includes the steep drop behind some of the retaining walls and limited space on the road itself.



#### Drainage

Drainage issues will also be addressed and improvements made along this route. There are a number of large culverts (pipes underneath the road) that have either collapsed or are full of scree material (accumulation of pieces of broken rock). These culverts should channel water from the fells underneath the road and out the other side, however when they are blocked or collapsed, the water flows over the road. In cold snaps this can freeze and form black ice. There are also a large number of smaller highway drains that are either damaged or blocked.

These will require either a replacement, repair or emptying of these drains. Because the pipes are deep underneath the road, they require a section of road to be dug out to depths of up to 2.0 metres. This work can only be done under a full road closure.





### Vehicle Restraint Systems (Roadside Barriers)

As you climb the pass there are sections of the road that need landscape sensitive vehicle restraints to be installed, where currently there are metal railings. We are conscious that these new barriers will be on a road that passes through the Lake District National Park and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is key that any infrastructure is in keeping with the surrounding landscape. We are looking at timber clad barriers instead of the standard metal type – see example shown below.

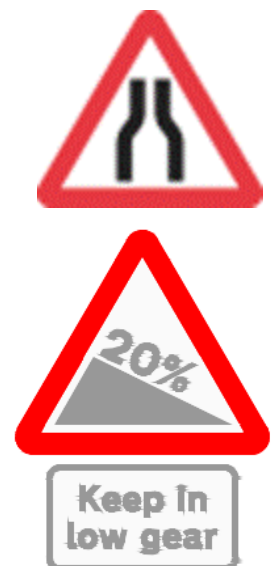
We are proposing to install a sample panel of these barriers in a couple of locations on the A592 so members of the public can get an idea of what these barriers will look like. We are currently working with landowners to agree these locations and once confirmed we will advertise these.



Example of Verge Markers (A684)

### Signage and Verge Markers

Along the section of road after Kirkstone Pass Inn heading southwards towards Hird Wood we will be installing new verge markers and improved signage. Verge markers are used to help delineate slight bends on a road, and additional signage will help tourists in particular who are not familiar with the road.





## What are the timescales for the physical works?

Owing to the scale of works and the nature of the planned interventions on a narrow and high pass they will require a lot of work to ensure future longevity for the route. To carry out these works safely there will predominately be a need for some form of traffic management on the pass between **February 2023** to **March 2024**. This includes separate full road closures at times, currently planned for **March 2023** for drainage & culvert repairs, **June 2023** for wall repairs, **October 2023** for reconstruction and patching and **March 2024** for resurfacing. During these months the Kirkstone Pass will be closed for 4/5 weeks at a time. Please see below our planned dates but these are weather dependent and could easily change. We will let you know and communicate as best we can in advance.

### Road Closure Dates:

Dates	Duration	Temporary Traffic Management Arrangements (inc. planned works)
06/03/23 onwards	4 weeks	<b>Full Road Closure No. 1</b> (New drainage crossings and associated works, carriageway resurfacing works, boundary wall repairs etc)
05/06/23 onwards	4 weeks	<b>Full Road Closure No. 2</b> (Safety barrier works etc)
02/10/23 onwards	3 weeks	<b>Full Road Closure No. 3</b> (Carriageway reconstructions and patching)
01/03/24 onwards	4 weeks	<b>Full Road Closure No. 4</b> (Carriageway surfacing and reinstatement works)

During the road closures, the contractor will be working seven days a week to get the work completed as quickly as possible. At other times full overnight road closures will be used to help get the work completed as quickly and as safely as possible. These dates will be confirmed closer to the period. Outside of those times when a full road closure will be in place, the road will be kept open as much as possible and especially during holiday periods but with the use of temporary traffic signals to control traffic at times.

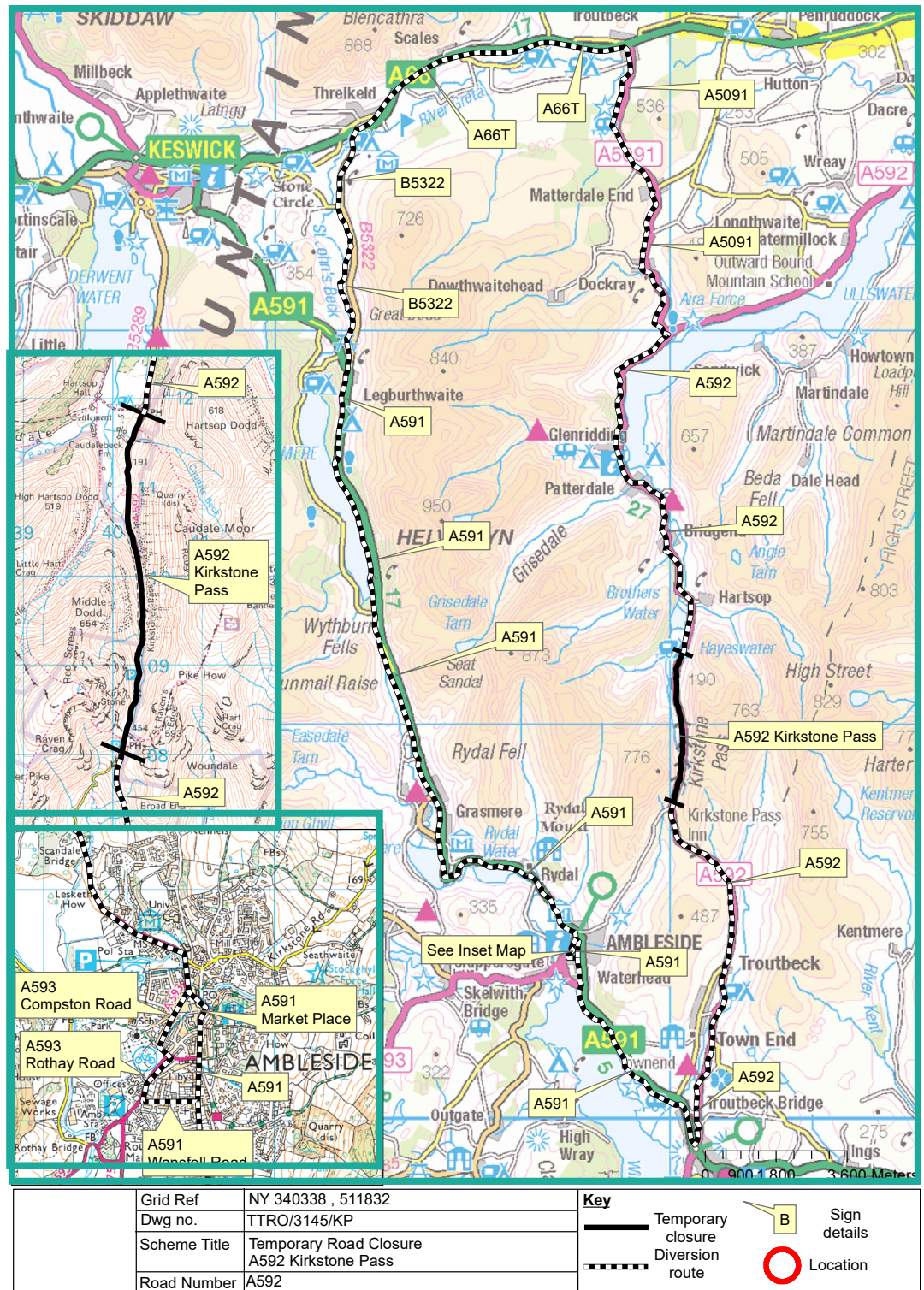
We will **ensure advance notice** is provided to **make as many people aware as possible**, we will also ensure **clear signage** is in place for diversion routes.

We will also use signage to let visitors know that **businesses are open as usual** and how they can access them.





## Diversion Routes



## Where can I find out more information?

- Metcalfe Plant Hire Ltd will work with Westmorland & Furness Council to manage communications for the works on Kirkstone Pass
- More frequently asked question (FAQs) can be found on the council's Safer Roads A592 website which will be kept up to date – just Google 'Safer Roads Cumbria A592'.
- We will use the council's social media pages – Facebook, Twitter, Next Door app.
- **General Enquiries** - please email our dedicated mailbox: [A592@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:A592@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk) with any questions or concerns you may have
- **Mailing List** - if you would like to receive direct updates from the A592 project mailing list please send your name and email address to: [A592@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:A592@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk). You can stop receiving these updates and have your contact details removed from the mailing list at any time.

## FAQs

### Why are full road closures necessary?

The nature of the planned works on the section of the A592 route between Brotherswater at the north end and Hird Wood at the south end is significant and the scope includes for areas of full width reconstruction of the carriageway, pavement and also resurfacing large sections of the road. Major upgrades to drainage which go underneath the road are planned as well as new crash barriers and repairs to retaining structures and boundary walls. Not with standing health and safety requirements to keep the contractor's workforce and all road users safe, these kinds of works can only be undertaken once the road is fully closed to traffic. For this reason, full road closures will be necessary at va

### How long will it take to do all the works?

The full programme of work for Kirkstone Pass between Brotherswater at the north end and Hird Wood at the south end is programmed to commence on 13 February 2023 and is due to be complete by the end of March 2024. This overall timescale will be subject to weather conditions particularly during the winter months when adverse weather could easily affect the progress made and prevent works being undertaken.

During the works period, there will be several key stages when different temporary traffic management arrangements will be introduced on the A592 route for varying periods of time. These will range from temporary traffic signals during the daytime only with the road kept open, overnight road closures between 9.00pm and 7.00am when the road will be closed overnight only and then separate full road closures when the road will be fully closed and not available to the general public. Each of the key stages will be for different periods of time and these may need to change if it means there are safety related issues that prevent the road from being re-opened at certain times. Equally, if good progress can be made, it should be possible for the contractor to reduce the periods of time when temporary traffic restrictions will be in place.

Changes to the programme will be kept to a minimum although other factors such as weather conditions and the scope of works to be undertaken could easily dictate that changes will have to be made. Where changes to the programme do become necessary, the Council will look to communicate any changes using a wide range of different channels including information signage on the route.

### How will the works affect my journey?

Due to the nature of the works and the various stages when different temporary traffic management arrangements will be in place, full road closures will prevent any use of the road by the general public. During these periods, each one lasting for up to 4 weeks, there will be a signed diversion route in place making use of the A5091, A66 and A591 routes (including the A593 and U5542 in Ambleside town centre). Road users will be urged to plan their journeys and to allow extra time for travel. Further details of the diversion route, updated details and advice are all provided on the Council's website.

During periods when an overnight road closure will be in place, the road will only be closed to the general public between 9.00pm and 7.00am. During the daytime, the road will be open to traffic except there may be temporary traffic management in place in the form of temporary traffic signals. If and when this is the case, road users are urged to plan their journeys and to allow extra time for travel.

When temporary traffic management arrangements include for the use of daytime traffic signals only, the road will be kept open to traffic. Again, road users are urged to plan their journeys and to allow extra time for travel.

### Why can't the work be done under temporary traffic lights?

The nature of the works to be undertaken are such that the road width is insufficient to allow the use of temporary traffic signals. The size and width of contractor's plant and equipment nowadays is also an issue and prevents two-way traffic being maintained. Health and Safety restrictions also require safety zones of a certain width to be provided so that the safety of both the workforce and road users can be maintained. In addition, there are considerable limitations within the Lake District to widen roads even on a temporary basis to allow the road to be kept open using traffic signals. This would not be allowed either on what is a very steep route with long sections of drystone walls.

Notwithstanding the above, there will be periods within the overall works programme when daytime traffic signals only will be used and the road will be kept open to traffic as much as possible. This needs to coincide with specific works operations such as crash barrier works that will enable the contractor to work safely and ensure the safety of the public can also be maintained.



**It will take me ages and cost a fortune to travel the diversion route when the road is closed.**

Unfortunately, the location of the planned works and the geography of the area is such that the diversion route for traffic has to be long using other A class roads in the area. This is unfortunately unavoidable. It is acknowledged there will be additional costs incurred by road users during times when full road closures will be in place. Again, and regrettably, this is unavoidable for the periods of time when the road closures will be in place and is no different to when the road is impassable owing to adverse weather conditions.

**I have a business on the A592. How will my customers access my business?**

Your customers will be directed around the diversion routes during times when a full road closure is in place. The Council will keep residents and businesses as up to date as possible, allowing you time to let your customers know in advance. The Council's website will be managed and updated on a regular basis to provide the very latest details of temporary traffic management arrangements.

**My child takes the school bus. How will they get to school?**

Unfortunately, school buses and all other forms of public transport will be affected by the temporary traffic management arrangements in place at different times. This will mean school transport and other forms of public transport will need to use the signed diversion routes when full road closures are in place. At other times, when the road is open, albeit with temporary traffic management arrangements in place using traffic signals, the school bus and public transport will be able to use the A592 route as normal. The Council will communicate with schools, education providers and public transport operators likely to be affected in advance so they can make their own temporary arrangements. The Council will also endeavor to do this as far as possible in advance to help minimise any inconvenience and to enable others to plan accordingly.

**Will emergency vehicles still be able to get through?**

During the works, we have had to reassess our earlier decision that emergency vehicles could access Kirkstone Pass during the road closures. As a result of the narrow roads and plant machinery required to perform the tasks and also the excavation work that is taking place, we are unable to maintain access to Kirkstone pass for emergency vehicles during the road closure periods. The emergency services have had prior warning of the works and closures so can plan their response to an incident accordingly. It is our priority to ensure the health and safety of our staff and the public, and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

**Will there be access for pedestrians and cyclists?**

During the works, we have had to reassess our earlier decision that cyclists and pedestrians could access Kirkstone Pass during the works and road closures. As a result of the narrow roads and plant machinery required to perform the tasks, cyclists and pedestrians are not permitted access to Kirkstone pass during the road closure periods. It is our priority to ensure the health and safety of our staff and the public, and we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

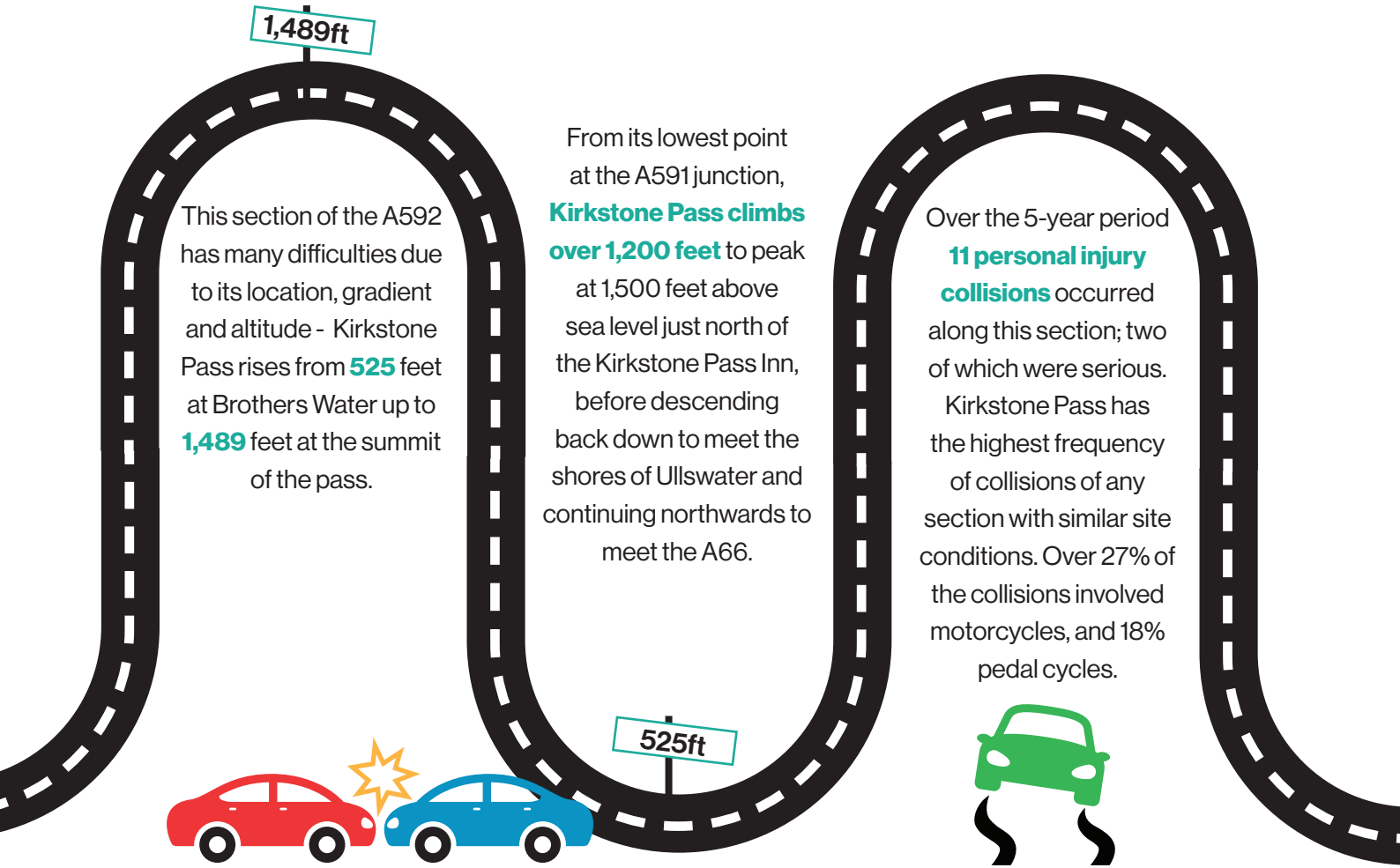
**I live in the area, can I get through the road closure, as you can't be working on the road 24 hours a day?**

During the planned road closures, the contractor will be working from 7am until 7pm, seven days a week. Outside of these times, the road will remain closed to vehicles due to the nature of the work planned, the narrow width of the road and the equipment that will be needed. Therefore access will not be maintained outside these working times as it has been with the recent A592 resurfacing scheme. During these closures, local businesses in the area will be open as usual, but residents and visitors will need to use the signed diversions and are advised to plan their journeys ahead, as extra time may be needed to get to their destinations. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

**How can I get up to date information about this project?**

We are intending to keep the website up to date on a weekly basis and any changes and updated information will be added regularly and shared on social media. We will be providing QR codes locally to businesses. You can also sign up to our mailing list by emailing [A592@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:A592@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk).





Since July 2018 to July 2021 there have been **9** accidents on Kirkstone Pass including **5** serious.

According to a Government watchdog, deaths and injuries on Britain's roads costs the NHS **£470m** every year and the economy **£8bn** as well as destroying families.

**Thank you again for your patience and support while we work to improve our road network making it safer for everyone.**

If you require this document in another format (e.g. CD, audio cassette, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে নম্বরে টেলিফোন করুন।

如果您希望通过母语了解此信息，请致电

Jeigu norétumėte gauti šią informaciją savo kalba, skambinkite telefonu

W celu uzyskania informacji w Państwa języku proszę zatelefonować pod numer

Se quiser aceder a esta informação na sua língua, telefone para o

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde görmek istiyorsanız lütfen numaralı telefonu arayınız