

## **Proposed Threlkeld mine water treatment scheme – update on ground investigations**

The Coal Authority and Environment Agency (EA) have recently undertaken a ground investigation on the land where we are proposing to build a mine water treatment scheme to clean up the 25 km of rivers polluted by the former Threlkeld lead mines.

Contractors working for the Water and Abandoned Metal Mines (WAMM) project, which is funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and delivered by the Coal Authority in partnership with the EA, carried out the works during September and October 2024.

A temporary track way was used to protect the ground during the investigation in a field alongside the A66.

Trial pits were dug with an excavator and boreholes drilled to collect samples of the soils and groundwater underneath the surface. The team of engineers and geologists found deep glacial deposits of sands, gravels and clays.



*Aerial view of the temporary track way to protect the field.*

Although heavy duty matting was used to create a temporary track to allow machines to access the site, areas of grass were affected due to the rainy conditions. We expect the field to recover by spring.



*Photograph of a trial pit being dug.*

Engineers are now analysing the information to determine how we need to refine the design and layout of the mine water treatment scheme given the ground conditions in the field.

We expect it will take us a few months to refine the design before the WAMM team can bring the updated designs back to the Threlkeld community and other stakeholders such as the Lake District National Park Authority.

The project team would like to thank residents, landowners and the wider community for their patience while these works were completed.

Please find further information regarding the project at our dedicated project space: [www2.groundstability.com/project-spaces/Threlkeld/](http://www2.groundstability.com/project-spaces/Threlkeld/)

If you would like to sign up to project updates via email, please email: [threlkeld@coal.gov.uk](mailto:threlkeld@coal.gov.uk)