



**Meeting of the Lake District National Park Partnership  
 Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 at 10:00-12:00 – Online (Teams)**

***DRAFT MINUTES***

| <b>Partner Name</b>                        | <b>Organisation</b>                     | <b>Apologies received</b> |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| Celia Caulcott                             | Independent Chair                       |                           |
| Lorriane Smyth<br>Fran Richardson          | ACT                                     |                           |
| Peter Frost-Pennington                     | Business Task Force                     |                           |
| Michael Barry<br>Sally Lansbury            | Cumberland Council                      |                           |
| Rachel Kelly                               | Cumbria Association of Local Councils   | Sonia Hutchinson          |
| Robert Frewen                              | Country Land & Business Association     | Harriet Ranson            |
| Carole Barr                                | Cumbria & Lakes Local Access Forum      |                           |
| Jennifer Cormack                           | Enterprising Cumbria                    |                           |
| Gill Haigh                                 | Cumbria Tourism                         |                           |
| Steve Trotter<br>Michelle Waller           | Cumbria Wildlife Trust                  |                           |
| Andy Brown<br>Ellyse Mather                | Environment Agency                      | Carol Holt                |
| Jake Thompson<br>Mark Holroyd<br>Kevin May | Forestry Commission/Forestry<br>England | Keith Jones               |
| Mike Hill                                  | Friends of the Lake District            |                           |
| Catherine Dewar                            | Historic England                        |                           |
| Sarah Swindley                             | Lake District Foundation                | Keith Ashcroft            |
| Steve Ratcliffe<br>Hanna Latty             | LDNPA                                   | Gavin Capstick            |
| Michael Carter<br>Peter Walter             | LDNPA Chair<br>LDNPA Member             | Tiffany Hunt              |
| Veronica Fiorato<br>Adrian Anderson        | LDNPP                                   |                           |
| Kerry Rennie<br>Helen Kirby                | Natural England                         |                           |
| Jez Westgarth                              | National Trust                          |                           |
| David Hall                                 | National Farmers Union                  |                           |
| James Archer                               | RSPB                                    | David Morris              |
| Jodie Mills                                | West Cumbria Rivers Trust               |                           |
| Angela Jones<br>Judith Derbyshire          | Westmorland and Furness Council         |                           |
| Kate Stark<br>John Gorst                   | United Utilities                        |                           |

| Helen Manns               | University of Cumbria              |                           |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Observers/Speakers</b> | <b>Organisation</b>                | <b>Apologies received</b> |
| Simon Johnson             | Fresh Water Biological Association |                           |
| Pete Leeson               | Woodland Trust                     |                           |
| Isobel Brown              | Enterprising Cumbria               |                           |
| Jody Ferguson             | Local Nature Partnership           |                           |

### 1. Welcome (Chair)

- Minutes from 22 Jan (Rheged session) approved
- This (April) Partnership meeting is held online for convenience of attendees and to focus on Partnership business (due to the Plan workshop focus in January). Two Partners also asked for an online session this time, although generally meetings will be held in person (often including site visits)

### 2. Chair's announcements (Chair)

- Update on proposed Defra visit (now provisionally August to avoid lambing – TBC)
- Letters have been sent to government on behalf of the Partnership regarding housing (on behalf of VCPE KOG – as agreed with Jonathan Brook as Chair), and one supporting the Rural Enabler Service
- The Partnership also responded to the Reforming the Right to Buy government consultation

### 3. Proposed new Partner: Freshwater Biological Association (Chair)

Partners unanimously approved the **Freshwater Biological Association (FBA)** as full LDNPP Partner (previously an observer organisation). The Chair welcomed the FBA as a full member, with Simon Johnson as Partner rep. This is particularly welcome at this key point in Plan development, where water will feature heavily, and FBA's commitment to long term data sets and exciting and bold projects.

### 4. Plan Coordination Group and Key Outcome Group updates: Plan delivery (Michael Carter)

Michael (and KOG Chairs) gave an overview and update on the work (key actions and progress) of the (current) Plan's Key Outcome Groups (STT, FFNC, LDfE, VCPE, CA). The Plan Coordination Group remains focused on delivering the existing Plan whilst the new one is still being developed.

Further specific detail can be found the **KOG highlight reports**, which were sent to Partners with the agenda/papers for 1<sup>st</sup> April Partnership meeting.

**ACTION:** Partnership to write to government on retaining bus fare cap

### 5. New Chair for the FFNC Key Outcome Group (Chair)

It was announced Jez Westgarth (National Trust) would step down as FFNC KOG Chair after a long and successful stint – an **ACTION** was taken to find a new Chair of this

group. Simon Johnson of FBA volunteered to support. Jez committed to remaining the National Trust's Partner rep overall, and an NT member of his team will continue to sit on the FFNC KOG. The Partnership thanked Jez for his efforts.

**6. Collaboration Hub update: working with the community in Wasdale (Fran Richardson)**

Fran Richardson (ACT) gave an update on the Collaboration Hub Project (see slides) and new funding for this (5 years), particularly the community engagement work undertaken recently in Wasdale. Partners were reminded that the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation is funding the Partnership's Collaboration Hub, with frequent updates to Partners at previous meetings. Partners agreed it would be useful to consider where the approach, as used in Wasdale, could be used replicated in other parts of the Lake District.

**ACTION:** Share slides with follow up email

**7. Next Plan: development progress and proposed next steps (Veronica Fiorato)**

Veronica (LDNPP Partnership Manager) gave an update on the progress and timescales of the (new) Partnership Plan (Go Live Apr 2026) – see slides. Veronica also touched on developing plans for stakeholder engagement, and emerging government guidance on Management Plans. Partners will have further opportunity to input and feedback on the evidence papers in a series of workshops in May. A number of Partners raised points related to their areas of specific interest, but were overwhelmingly positive on the direction of travel and the structured, evidence based approach of the Plan work.

**ACTION:** Share slides with follow up email

Veronica also reminded Partners there would be an ask of them for data for the upcoming Partnership Annual Report (Partners will receive automated emails from the LDF asking for this data).

**8. World Heritage Site: Interpretation Strategy & Action Plan (Steve Ratcliffe)**

Steve Ratcliffe (LDNPA) gave an update on World Heritage (notably the interpretation strategy itself and associated action plan). Partners agreed to approve these documents, and support the emerging delivery plan. Steve thanked the working group that had tirelessly helped to develop these documents which included representative from a number of Partners (including the BTF, HE and NT). Steve noted there was still work to do, particularly around training in the action Plan, and noted the BTF was interested in taking forward working around the WHS branding tools.

**DECISION:** Partners also delegated authority to Steve/WHs Steering Group for any further changes.

Steve committed to periodically report back to the Partnership on progress.

**9. National Trust: new 10-year strategy (Jez Westgarth)**

Jeze Westgarth gave an update on the National Trusts 10 year strategy (see slides), which has significant alignment with the emerging themes in the next LDNPP Plan.

In summary The National Trust's 10-year strategy, titled "People and nature thriving: Our strategy to 2035," focuses on restoring nature, ending unequal access to nature, beauty, and history, and inspiring more people to care and take action. It aims to make nature, beauty, and heritage accessible to all, particularly young people, by removing barriers, improving urban green spaces, and fostering a sense of ownership. The strategy also emphasizes renewing ways of working, embracing new technologies, and diversifying partnerships and the workforce.

**ACTION:** Share slides with follow up email

#### **10. Enterprising Cumbria: Going for Growth, Cumbria's Economic Strategy 2025-2045** (Isobel Brown)

Time constraints of the meeting meant there was insufficient time for Isobel to provide this update, and Enterprising Cumbria will be invited to update Partners at a future meeting.

**ACTION:** Share slides with follow up email

Partners were encouraged to respond to the Cumbria devolution consultation (closes 13<sup>th</sup> April).

#### **11. AOB (and next full Partnership meeting 26th June 2025)** (Chair)

##### **a. Task and Finish Group - funding**

Michael Carter gave a brief update on a task and finish group (previously agreed by Partners) looking at funding options for sustainable transport in the Lake District. Michael asked Partners to consider providing funds to commission a researcher for this piece of work

**ACTION:** Partners able to contribute to get in touch with LDNPP team.

##### **b. Partners were made aware of the Love Windermere Partnership's recent report ['A Changing Windermere'](#)**

The "A Changing Windermere" report summarises the current state of Windermere, highlighting the impacts of climate change, pollution, and human activity on the lake's water quality and ecology. It emphasises the need for a collaborative, science-driven approach to address the challenges and ensure a healthier future for Windermere.

##### **c. Next meeting:**

**REMINDER:** Next Partnership Meeting: **26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (10.00 – 15.30, Brampton Memorial Hall)**. Session focused on next LDNPP Plan

**General list of acronyms used at Partnership meetings:**

|       |                                       |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| AES   | Agri-Environment Schemes              |
| BA    | Breakthrough Actions                  |
| BDUK  | Broadband Delivery UK                 |
| BTF   | Business Task Force                   |
| CAP   | Common Agricultural Policy            |
| CLS   | Carbon Landscapes Scheme              |
| CHF   | Community Housing Fund                |
| CLT   | Community Land Trusts                 |
| CLH   | Community-led Housing                 |
| CW    | Cumbria Woodlands                     |
| CWT   | Cumbria Wildlife Trust                |
| FC    | Forestry Commission                   |
| FLD   | Friends of the Lake District          |
| FTA   | Free Trade Agreement                  |
| FOTP  | Fibre to the premises                 |
| FTE   | Full time equivalent                  |
| GS    | Gain Share                            |
| HLS   | Higher Level Stewardship              |
| LCA   | Landscape Character Assessment        |
| LDNPA | Lake District National Park Authority |
| LEP   | Local Enterprise Partnership          |
| NCA   | National Character Area               |
| NE    | Natural England                       |
| NERC  | Natural Environment Research Council  |
| NFM   | Natural Flood Management              |
| NFU   | National Farmers Union                |
| NT    | National Trust                        |
| SOTP  | State of The Park Report              |
| SSSI  | Site of Special Scientific Interest   |
| TAG   | Technical Advisory Group              |
| TOR   | Terms of reference                    |
| TVGM  | Tactical Visitor Management Group     |
| UU    | United Utilities                      |