Meeting of the Lake District National Park Partnership
Thursday 26th June 2025 at 10:00-15:30 – Bampton Memorial Hall

MINUTES

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

Observers/Speakers	Organisation	Apologies received
	Fresh Water Biological Association	Simon Johnson
	Woodland Trust	Pete Leeson
Jen Cormack	Enterprising Cumbria	
	Local Nature Partnership	Jody Ferguson
Adam	University of Edinburgh	

1. **Welcome** (Chair)

- The Chair welcomed attendees to Bampton Memorial Hall
- Minutes from 1st April (online session) were approved

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

- The Chair noted letters had been sent to MPs, on behalf of the Partnership (in conjunction with the LDNPA) expressing the challenges facing upland farming
- The Chair had also written to Baroness Batters, who is leading a review on farm profitability, on the same theme and offering to meet to discuss further

ACTION: Letters to be shared with Partners for awareness (complete)

- The Chair confirmed, following a request for volunteers at the 1st April LDNPP meeting, that Simon Johnson (FBA) has kindly agreed to take over from Jez Westgarth as Chair of the FFNC KOG
- An action in the current Plan to publish a new Shepherds' Guide is complete, with the guide launched at the NSA North Sheep Show in early June. This includes a new website: **Home | Lakeland Shepherds' Guide** (click for link) with further content being added

ACTION: Share Shepards Guide link with Partners (complete)

3. **Update on Task and Finish Group – funding opportunities for sustainable transport** (Michael Carter, LDNPA Member)

Michael Carter, Chair of the Task and Finish group, provided a brief update on the progress of the group, which has commissioned a consultant (Alistair Kirkbride) to investigate data sources and undertake factual research (jointly funded by FoLD, ACT and LDNPA). This will be interrogated and a report produced, and following discussion with the working group in late August, will then be brought back to the Partnership.

A number of Partners noted it was important to consider how the devolution process (combined mayoral authority) might impact this process, in terms of timescales and expectations.

ACTION: Once report produced bring back to Partnership

4. **Update on next Plan development work and next steps** (Veronica Fiorato, LDNPP Partnership Manager) – *also see slides*

Veronica gave an overview of the activities and timescales involved in the ongoing development of the next Partnership Plan (2026-31), including the upcoming third 'Sprint Week' in early July and preparation for consultation on the proposals later in the year.

Veronica reminded Partners the Plan is also the Plan for the Management of the World Heritage Site and this will feature prominently.

5. **'Otter Power' gamification approach to consultation** (Veronica Fiorato and Adrain Anderson – LDNPP, and Adam Chalmers University of Edinburgh)

Veronica gave an overview of the development of the 'Otter Power' game (in conjunction with the University of Edinburgh) which has been developed to be played as a player led game to get participants to collectively and constructively develop plans and policy for the Lake District. This is achieved through discussion, collaboration and consensus through a series of rounds of the game. The conversations and discussions are as important as the final outcome.

Adrian gave a brief overview of where the game has been used so far, including the Sustainable Travel and Transport Key Outcome Group (STT KOG) as well as two Lake District secondary schools (Keswick School and the Lakes School) with a range of year groups (7-9).

Adam then introduced Partners to the game materials on their (5) tables and explained how recordings of the sessions would be anonymised and the material used as part of the plan development process.

Partners then successfully played the game for around an hour and twenty minutes.

Break

6. **Workshops (discussing metrics for what success looks like) Part 1:**

Partners had already contributed to the Ambitions and Objectives drafting, and this session was designed to develop what success looks like (in conjunction with the guiding principles, and the need to be SMART). Each key theme was facilitated by an LDNPA officer.

Nature - Alice Collier
Climate - Veronica Fiorato
People - Rob Allison
Place - Chloe Swift

All Partners had the chance to participate in discussion on each topic across the two sessions (Part 1 and 2)

7. **Workshops (discussing metrics for what success looks like) Part 2:**

Partners continued the discussions on the themes they had not visited in Part 1. Each facilitator collated the feedback from their theme/table and this will be used to further Plan development.

There was no central plenary feedback in the hall, but the Chair thanked Partners for the useful discussion and reminded them that the discussions and points raised will inform the drafting team's work in Sprint Week 3.

Raw output from the sessions has been saved by the Partnership team and can be viewed on request (and has now been incorporated into the further drafting).

8. Introducing a draft Vision for the Lake District to 2051

Partners were introduced to a draft Vision statement for the Partnership (as presented to the recent LDNPA Park Strategy and Vision committee).

Partners were asked to log onto Mentimeter (or use post it notes on a flipchart if they could not connect) to express via a vote how they felt about the draft Vision.

Votes were recorded as follows – initial number represents votes from mentimeter (number in brackets is total votes when also combined with post it note votes):

Love it 1 (1)
Positive 3 (11)
Neutral 1 (2)
Needs more work 2 (5)

Partners were also asked for specific feedback on the wording of the Vision, which can be seen in **Appendix 1** (below).

9. AOB (and next full Partnership meeting 19th August 2025) (Chair)

The Chair thanked participants for an engaging and useful meeting, that covered a lot of ground and has advanced the development of the Plan. The feedback from the workshop sessions, and themes from the Otter Game, will be taken away and incorporated into Plan development. The Vision conversation and feedback was also very useful and there are several points to take away from the conversations today. The Plan is a collective work and all Partner contributions are valuable to the process.

The next Partnership meeting will be held in August with site visit *(now confirmed as 19th August at Mungrisdale Village Hall with historic environment site visit to Carrock Fell Mine and Low Beckside Barn*). The Chair reminded Partners that during the Plan development process the Partnership reserves the right to hold additional meetings and meetings not strictly on the usual quarterly format – details will be provided as and when applicable.

The Chair thanked Michael Carter (LDNPA Member), who completes his term with LDNPA at the end of June (having been appointed to the Authority by the Secretary of State in 2017). He is currently Deputy Chairman, Chair of Park Strategy & Vision Committee and Plan Coordination Group and provides an invaluable link between the Authority and the Partnership. The Chair said Michael's wisdom and commitment would be missed when he leaves the Authority. The Chair presented Micheal with a card, a small gift and a voucher for Lakes Distillery as a token of the Partnership's thanks.

a. Next meeting:

REMINDER: Next Partnership Meeting: **19th August 2025 (10.00 – 16.00, Mungrisdale Village Hall).** Session focused on next LDNPP Plan, including historic environment themed site visit (mine and barn).

Appendix 1: Feedback on Vision *(agenda item 8)*

If you answered 'needs more work' what do you think is missing? (please give a single one or two word answer) 5 9

- Lots of empasis on carbon compared to nature
- Define deeply
- Not sure about ‘deeply’
- No people – too many buzz phrases
- Like it but lack of mention of communities
- Thriving communities – people liviing and working in the area, schools, village halls etc
- Belongs to the nation
- Communities – not just local
- Context for the Vision: In 2051 it will be 100 years since the LD became a NP – needs more here to reference the WHS designation

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
FTTP	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