



Lake District  
National Park

Authority: 24 June 2026

Agenda Item: 10d

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## Conservation Covenants Board

MINUTES of a meeting of the Conservation Covenants Board held at the National Park Office, Wayfaring House, Murley Moss Business Park, Kendal at 2.00 pm on 25 March 2026.

### Present

Mr M Kidd (Chair)

Mr P Walter

Mr J Jackson

### 01/26 Chair

Hanna Latty was appointed as Chair of the Conservation Covenants Board.

### 02/26 Apologies

There were no apologies received.

### 03/26 Minutes

As this is the first meeting of the Conservation Covenants Board, there were no minutes from previous meeting.

**04/26          Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of a registrable interest or disclosable pecuniary interest relating to any of the business of the Committee.

**05/26          Purpose and decision-making process of the Responsible Body (RB) service**

The Authority Solicitor presented the process for determining how the CCB will deal with applications for us to be the Responsible Body for specific applications. Members were reminded of the CCB terms of reference. Members detailed the information they would like to see to assist them in their consideration of applications and to test the following factors:

- The integrity of the person or organisation applying
- The size and nature of scheme and how demonstrate we have met integrity against any relevant Code of Conduct
- The rationale for LDNPA's role of Responsible Body for each scheme including geography, supporting strategic ambitions and environmental, social and/or economic benefits derived.
- Test of the monitoring as meeting acceptable requirements.

Minutes are to be recorded as the decision and rationale behind those decisions.

Consideration should also be given to reputational matters.

**06/26          Service level decisions for our RB and rationale**

The Nature Recovery Ranger presented an overall view of the process followed to assess and determine applications received for the LDNPA to be the responsible body for the scheme. This included a costs calculator to deal with monitoring costs over a 30-year period and a risk calculator which would be applied to all proposed schemes. It was made clear to members that we are not obligated to enter into any scheme at all.

Members indicated that they would like to see actual costs against virtual costs of entering into these schemes so we can track our assumptions. This should be produced in the form of a graph showing fees, growth assumption, costs and the net sum the Authority is holding at any point of time. This would be produced for each scheme and all scheme cumulatively. Fees, growth assumptions, and costs should be reviewed at least annually.

**07/26 Land at Southwaite Beck, Dacre**

**Recommendation to delegated officer:** Approve and, if Westmorland & Furness Council take ownership of the site, agree for the term of the scheme to be extended from 80 to 100 years commitment if requested. All habitat creation data to be shared with Biodiversity Data Centre.

**Rationale:** The Scheme sits within the local geography and the applicant has sound organisational capability. The term is 80yrs to 100yrs, so risks increase. However, there are gains in terms of nutrient neutrality (reduction in phosphorus levels) and housing.

**08/26 Barras Meadow conservation covenant application (local)**

**Recommendation to delegated officer:** Approve subject to receipt of further detail regarding cash flow and all habitat creation data to be shared with the Biodiversity Data Centre.

**Rationale:** The Scheme sits within local geography, is a high value habitat in a primary area, aligns with nature strategy, is financial creditable, and there are cultural benefits.

**09/26 Ellers Meadow conservation covenant application (Cumbria)**

**Recommendation to delegated officer:** Approve subject to the applicant securing consents for watercourses to identify flood risk to local housing, third party surveys of work undertaken to ensure compliance with terms of the conservation covenant/HMMP, clarity over ownership of the land and where the funds will be paid. All habitat creation data to be shared with Biodiversity Data Centre.

**Rationale:** The applicant is knowledgeable and skilled. The scheme is a small scheme, within the county, on land that is not in mapped LNRS but does deliver valuable water course habitat and is in a priority area. It is financially viable.

**10/26 Troakes Farm conservation covenant application (national)**

**Recommendation to delegated officer:** Approve to retain momentum to the scheme. However, members preference is that officers rapidly explore whether responsible body status can be transferred at earliest opportunity to South Downs National Park Authority or another suitable responsible body. Should South Downs National Park or other Responsible Body agree to progress this project, the terms of any conservation covenant negotiated to date should also be agreed by them. If officers fully explore this issue and find no alternative, we will proceed with relevant mitigations and controls.

**Rationale:** The applicant is a family landowner supported by a local Community Interest Company, ran by Blackdown Hills National Landscape and hosted at Devon County Council. Whilst the scheme is outside of the local geography, at the time of application we were the only responsible body of a Protected Landscape. To date, Black Hills National Landscape has covered our costs, and we have taken advantage of learning opportunities that the scheme has provided. Members understand the urgency for the scheme to progress, but their preference is for the CC to be passed to a local Protected Landscapes Responsible Body if possible, now there is one registered. This is due to the scheme being outside of the local geography, especially as any additional unprogrammed monitoring is an issue/costly.

**11/26 Storms Estate LDNPA in-house biodiversity net gain**

This matter was brought to the attention of members for information. We are currently finalising monitoring plan so need to look for a responsible body for the scheme and determine how do we take the scheme to market – through Nature Net Gains or directly.

**12/26 Pipeline applications**

Members were given an update of up-coming applications.