



**Meeting of the Lake District National Park Partnership
Tuesday 22nd October 2024 at 16:00-19:30 – University of Cumbria, Ambleside Campus**

APPROVED MINUTES

Partner Name	Organisation	Apologies received
Celia Caulcott	Independent Chair	
	ACT	Lorriane Smyth Fran Richardson
Peter Frost-Pennington	Business Task Force	
Michael Barry	Cumberland Council	
	Cumbria Association of Local Councils	Sonia Hutchinson Rachel Kelly
Robert Frewen	Country Land & Business Association	Harriet Ranson
Carole Barr	Cumbria & Lakes Local Access Forum	
Jennifer Cormack	Cumbria LEP/Cumbria Enterprise	
	Cumbria Tourism	Gill Haigh
Steve Trotter	Cumbria Wildlife Trust	
Andy Brown Carol Holt	Environment Agency	
Mark Holroyd Keith Jones	Forestry Commission/Forestry England	Kevin May
Lorayne Wall	Friends of the Lake District	Mike Hill
	Historic England	Catherine Dewar
Sarah Swindley Keith Ashcroft	Lake District Foundation	
Steve Ratcliffe Hanna Latty	LDNPA	
Michael Carter	LDNPA Chair LDNPA Member	Tiffany Hunt
Veronica Fiorato Adrian Anderson	LDNPP	
Kerry Rennie	Natural England	Helen Kirby Lucy Abram
Jez Westgarth	National Trust	
James Airey	National Farmers Union	
	RSPB	James Archer David Morris
Giles Archibald	Westmorland and Furness Council	Angela Jones Judith Derbyshire
Kate Stark	United Utilities	Chris Matthews
Helen Manns	University of Cumbria	

Observers/Speakers	Organisation	Apologies received
Simon Johnson	Fresh Water Biological Association	
Vikki Salas	West Cumbria Rivers Trust	
	Woodland Trust	Pete Leeson
Ellyse Mathers David Kennedy	EA	
Claire Gould	Westmorland and Furness Council	
Tim Duckmanton	LDNPA	
Tim Gale	ZCCP	

1. Welcome + housekeeping (Chair)

The Chair welcomed Partners to the meeting at the University of Cumbria (Ambleside campus) and thanked the UoC for hosting. The Chair outlined the agenda and focus this time on the Climate Action outcome.

Housekeeping/fire exits were noted.

2. Introduction to the University of Cumbria (Julie Mennell – Vice Chair)

Julie gave an overview of the UoC’s operations, notably the Ambleside Campus. Despite being a ‘young university’ (2007) the UoC prides itself on being different, offering 2200 degrees and being the top Northwestern university for employment. It has seen 30% growth in the last 5 years, with students located on and off campus. It has strong links with local employers/businesses and communities and considers employability of its graduates a key metric.

3. Deep Dive: Climate adaptation and resilience

The Chair briefly introduced the Deep Dive on Climate Action, noting the importance of the topic given the Partnership is about to start developing the next Plan, and discussion from today will feed into this. The Chair referenced the recent Storm Ashley, the first of the ‘season’, as a reminder of increasingly severe and unpredictable weather events.

The Chair reminded Partners that a digital voting system would be used during this session, for use on phones/tablet/laptop via www.mentimeter.com.. Q&A would follow after each speaker using this platform, with a collective discussion at the end of the session

a. Introduction to our Deep Dive: purpose and context (Tim Duckmanton – also see slides)

Tim gave some background context to the carbon reduction (budget) plans of the LDNPP, as well as the work of the Climate Action Key Outcome in the Plan. He also gave an overview of the adaptation and resilience work in the county, and why this is important in light of increasingly unpredictable and damaging weather patterns.

Tim also played a Met Office ‘Future weather forecast 2050’, outlining a possible challenging scenario if action on climate is not taken.

ACTION: Menti-meter questions and results (including ‘word map’) to be shared with meeting notes (complete)

b. Flood scenarios and other environmental impacts (Ellyse Mathers – also see slides)

In her presentation - 'Climate Change: A Watery Perspective' – Ellyse largely covered the impact of climate change on peak rainfall and river flows, and what challenges this would mean for the Lake District. This would likely increase the frequency and severity of flood events and make flood defences increasingly obsolete as time went on. Defences made only a few years ago to protect for rare occurrence floods, now face being tested increasingly frequently. Whilst acknowledging the severity of the projections (which could be particularly worrying for those in areas likely to be impacted) Ellyse noted it gave the Partnership impetus to ensure it is adequately addressed in plans going forward. Mitigation and adaptation measures can be designed and are likely to be particularly impactful on a wide catchment area (not just local static/hard defences).

c. Cumbria Impact Assessment (Claire Gould – also see slides)

Claire gave an update on the work currently underway on the Cumbria Climate Change Risk Assessment. This work, to be produced into a report in 2025 by Nottingham Trent University, looks at the broad spectrum of threats to Cumbria from a changing and unpredictable climate. Flooding is seen as a major risk, but also other weather impacts such as storm winds, extreme snowfall events, heatwaves and sea level changes. The impacts of these factors on communities, businesses and critical infrastructure is being considered as well as how these can be mitigated. Claire explained how this work also aligns with other plans, reports and work Local Authorities are undertaking to understand and address climate challenges.

d. Cumbria Innovative Flood Resilience (CIFR) Project (Dave Kennedy – also see slides)

Dave outlined the purpose of the CIFR project, to use innovative and cost-effective means to reduce flood risk, particularly in communities where traditional flood scheme defences are not considered cost effective or disproportionately expensive given the protection offered. This may often mean small, rural communities. Such approaches may include natural flood management (NFM) interventions, farming officers to advise on land management practices that can reduce downstream risk as well as community led preparedness, resilience and education. The approach can also involve academic monitoring of the projects, as well the use of blended finance and private sector involvement where there is also a water quality or carbon benefit to schemes.

Dave provided a case study of this approach a Grasmere, and the project benefits. However, he reminded Partners of the limitations of these approaches particularly against the backdrop of increased intensity of rainfall events.

e. Resilient Glenderamackin: resilience in action (Vikki Salas – also see slides)

Vikki gave an update on the project which aims primarily to reduce the peak flood risk to Keswick via catchment scale restoration. It also aims to improve special areas of conservation (SACs) and wider biodiversity, store carbon, improve water quality and increase farm and catchment resilience. This is largely being achieved through collaboration with local stakeholders (land managers, farmers, Partners, conservation groups) as well as private finance and matched grant funding; also learnings from other similar initiatives elsewhere. The scheme has largely focused on habitat restoration, tree planting and natural flood management techniques to repair riparian boundaries and watercourses.

f. Discussion (All/Various)

- Importance of water and climate impact in next Plan, and across the Plan
- Socio economic challenges of extreme weather
- Approach to Plan needs to be holistic and joined up, with scope for adaptive Plan as scenarios(as seen in presentations this evening) evolve
- It is clear that the situation is evolving quickly, Keswick's improved defences are already potentially becoming insufficient for more extreme events
- Role of landowners and farmers and challenge of withdrawal of Basic Payment Scheme (not enough options of Sustainable Farming Incentive)
- Challenge of tenanted farming where uncertainty of tenancies makes long term flood schemes and incentives difficult to commit to
- Need government to confirm land tax reliefs if not farming (i.e. schemes)
- Next Plan needs a systems approach, with economic and policy asks
- Important how Partnership communicates some of the difficult messages around flooding in order to give hope (to encourage action) and not fear (which might lead to despondency): Right language and tone to different audiences.
- We will need to be solution-focused
- Long term actions and priorities – not aligned with short term electoral cycles
- Need to adequately fund the environment, but note the importance of economic assessments

Supper Break

4. Chair's announcements (Chair)

The Chair noted the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP) has now been disbanded. Discussions are ongoing about the 'successor' organisation (Enterprise Cumbria) becoming an LDNPP Partner. This will be brought back to Partners as per the appropriate governance at a future meeting.

The Chair advised Partners that **West Cumbria Rivers Trust** (a longstanding observer of the Partnership) has asked to become a full Partner. WCRT would hold their seat as a representative of all the Cumbria Rivers Trusts (WCRT, Eden Rivers Trust, South Cumbria Rivers Trust, Lune Rivers Trust) on the Partnership.

DECISION: Partners agreed this unanimously with a show of hands, as per the MOU governance

ACTION: LDNPP MOU, Partner guide, website and logo compilations will need to be updated accordingly

The Chair welcomed Gavin Capstick, who was attending his first Partnership meeting in his capacity as LDNPA Chief Executive. Gavin will also be the new Climate Champion for the Partnership in relation to the Climate Action Key Outcome .

5. Plan Coordination Group report: Plan delivery highlights + risks (Michael Carter)

Michael gave a brief overview and update on the work of the Key Outcome Groups, following the PCG meeting last week. He noted the discussion at the PCG had focused on the important of engagement and comms, in particular as the LDNPP gears up to the next Plan, and to Partners themselves. He also said PCG was to trial a new way of updating Partners, including 'top' highlights and challenges. For this quarter these were:

Highlights

1. Lake District Foundation Inclusivity fund
2. Historic buildings/barns additional Farming in Protected Landscapes
3. Local Nature Recovery Strategy – good progress under leadership of Westmorland and Furness Council

Challenges

1. Four Partners still need to detail their carbon budget information from their business plans
2. LDNPP needs to be better at communicating its successes

6. Partnership Annual Report (Veronica Fiorato)

Veronica thanked Partners for recent comments on the draft Annual Report, which has now been published (online). Partners were reminded that the report details progress on the 'old' Plan (before the changes in Spring in 2024) – the next report will be on the current actions. A 'report on a page' of key metrics has also been produced as a summary of the full report.

DECISION: Partners approve the Annual Report

ACTION: Partners commit to share and promote the Annual Report

7. Next Partnership Plan planning (Veronica Fiorato – also see slides)

Veronica gave a brief overview, using a timeline slide, of the Partnership Plan development process, which will kick off in the new year and run until publication (envisaged in April 2026, although MUST be in place by October 2026). The public consultation for the draft Plan will be in Autumn 2025. Veronica also shared with Partners the guiding principles of the Plan (see slide) and asked for further input.

8. World Heritage Site: update on State of Conservation report and Interpretation Strategy progress (Steve Ratcliffe - verbal)

Steve reminded Partners that the final draft report had been delegated to the World Heritage Steering Group, which submitted ahead of time to Historic England. The international team at HE had a few minor amends to align the Lake District SOC report in line with other SOC reports from the UK. Any further amends are to be delegated to Celia and Hanna (in Steve's absence in China) – these are only likely to be related to volume reduction (as the report was considered very thorough) rather than content or emphasis.

DECISION: Partners content for Ceila and Hanna to oversee any final amends.

Steve also advised Partners of two UNESCO technical reviews. The first, Windermere Gateway, UNESCO is supportive in principle pending a number of planning questions. On the second, the Interpretation Strategy, again UNESCO is supportive but has made some helpful recommendations for refinement. These are being worked on by the Interpretation Strategy Board, with the intention that the strategy will come to Partners for final sign-off in April 2025.

9. Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) update (Claire Gould – also see slides)

Claire gave an update to Partners on the LNRS, which has been covered with Partners previously at an earlier LDNPP meeting. Claire reminded Partners of the purpose of the strategy and detailed the priority species and habitat, as well as the opportunity mapping used. Claire outlined the stakeholders involved as well as the process, timescales and next steps (including consultation in early 2025). Partners are invited to give their views and details of any suitable habitat sites.

ACTION: Share detailed slides with Partners as part of meeting follow up information, along with LNRS links and survey page ([complete](#))

10. AOB

a. Landscapes Connections (National Heritage Fund grant opportunity)

Hanna Latty gave an update about a National Heritage Lottery fund, open to organisations which look after National Parks and can Partner with National Park Authorities. The key principles are heritage, environment, inclusion/access and ongoing sustainability. Hanna advised she would look to arrange a Partner workshop to think about timings around submitting a Partnership bid to the fund. Following a question from Steve Trotter, Hanna confirmed that 'nature' is also included in the focus of the fund. Funds from this opportunity could be key to delivery in some aspects of the Partnership Plan.

ACTION: Hanna to arrange a Partner workshop

b. Meeting types and times straw poll

Given it was over two years since the Partnership 'ways of working' meeting (Rheged, July 2022) Veronica wanted to check with Partners that the format and style of meetings still met the requirements. Partners affirmed they have enjoyed the site visits and the 'deep dive' formats. On evening meetings Partners thought they are useful but preferred these in summer to take advantage of the lighter nights.

c. Anything else?

Jez Westgarth made Partners aware that the National Trust will shortly publicise its 10-year strategy. It has a strong focus on nature and climate. Partners are welcome to contact Jez if they see anything in the media and have questions.

ACTION: More information to be shared with Partners in the new year.

Kerry Rennie thought Partners should get better at lift sharing to meetings, she had offered for this session but had no take up

Carole Barr felt Partnership meetings should have an online/hybrid option, on carbon and inclusivity grounds. The Chair advised her preference, given meetings are only quarterly, is for in person interaction and networking, as well as site visits. However, the Chair noted Partners should be canvassed for their opinions.

ACTION: In follow up email ask Partners for views on hybrid options and bring back to future Partnership meeting.

Peter Frost-Pennington wanted to remind Partners of the cultural heritage aspects of the National Park and WHS designation, and the Halloween event at Muncaster Castle!

d. Next meeting: January 2025

REMINDER: Next Partnership Meeting: **22nd January 2024 (09.30 – 15.00, Rheged Penrith)**. Facilitated session focused on next LDNPP Plan and will be the ‘collective kick-off’ of this process so it is important that Partner rep decision makers are able to attend.

The Chair advised that **Janet Hughes** (Defra Programme Director for the Future Farming and Countryside Programme) intends to join the 1st of April Partnership meeting.

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