



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

MINUTES

Partner Name	Organisation	Apologies received
Celia Caulcott	Independent Chair	
Lorriane Smyth Fran Richardson	ACT	
Peter Frost-Pennington	Business Task Force	
Michael Barry 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 Michelle Waller	Cumbria Wildlife Trust	
Andy Brown Ellyse Mather	Environment Agency	Carol Holt
Jake Thompson Mark Holroyd Kevin May	Forestry Commission/Forestry England	Keith Jones
Mike Hill	Friends of the Lake District	
Catherine Dewar	Historic England	
Sarah Swindley	Lake District Foundation	Keith Ashcroft
Steve Ratcliffe Hanna Latty	LDNPA	Gavin Capstick
Michael Carter Peter Walter	LDNPA Chair LDNPA Member	Tiffany Hunt
Veronica Fiorato Adrian Anderson	LDNPP	
Kerry Rennie 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 Judith Derbyshire	Westmorland and Furness Council	
Kate Stark John Gorst	United Utilities	
Helen Manns	University of Cumbria	

Observers/Speakers	Organisation	Apologies received
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 1st 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)

Jez 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 13th 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: **26th 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