



**Meeting of the Lake District National Park Partnership  
Tuesday 2 May 2023 at 14:00-15:30 – New Inn, Seathwaite, Upper Duddon**

**MINUTES**

<b>Partner Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Apologies received</b>
Stephen Henwood	Independent Chair	
	ACT	Lorraine Smyth
Peter Frost-Pennington	Business Task Force	
Rachael Kelly	Cumbria Association of Local Councils	Sonia Hutchinson Leith Hallatsch
Robert Frewen	Country Land & Business Association	Lucinda Douglas
	Cumbria & Lakes Local Access Forum	Carole Barr
Jennifer Cormack	Cumbria LEP	Nigel Wilkinson
	Cumbria Tourism	Gill Haigh
Steve Trotter	Cumbria Wildlife Trust	
Ellyse Mather	Environment Agency	Carol Holt
Colin Binnie Mark Holroyd	Forestry Commission / Forestry England	Keith Jones
Mike Hill	Friends of the Lake District	
	Historic England	Marie Smallwood
Sarah Swindley	Lake District Foundation	
Hanna Latty Steve Ratcliffe Tim Duckmanton Tiffany Hunt Andrew Herbert Michael Carter	LDNPA	Richard Leafe Gavin Capstick
Veronica Fiorato	LDNPP	Adrian Anderson
Chris Kaighin Simon Webb	Natural England	
Jane Saxton Steve Jolley	National Trust	Jez Westgarth
	RSPB	Liz Charman
John Gorst	United Utilities	Kevin Sayers

<b>Observers/Speakers</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Apologies received</b>
Simon Johnson	Fresh Water Biological Association	
Dominick Spracklen	University of Leeds and Project Lead, Upper Duddon Landscape Recovery Project	
Sam Plum Angela Jones Cllr Judith Derbyshire	Westmorland and Furness Council	

## 1. Welcome/meeting management/purpose (Chair)

The Chair welcomed Partners to the meeting, saying how good it was to see people in person after a really interesting and informative morning's site visit.

He particularly welcomed a number of new faces to the meeting, whether representatives from the Upper Duddon Landscape Recovery project team, substitutes for usual Partner representatives, or Observers, including three representatives from the newly established Westmorland and Furness Council.

The Chair reminded Partners that this was his last Partnership meeting and gave apologies from his successor, Dr Celia Caulcott, who was sadly not able to be present on this occasion, but who was looking forward to meeting everyone very soon.

## 2. Partnership Business Items

### a. Update from Plan Coordination Group meeting – 20 April 2023 – Michael Carter (verbal – see also Key Outcome Group Highlight Reports for information)

Michael Carter (LDNPA Member and Chair of Plan Coordination Group) updated Partners on the most recent meeting in April, highlighting the following:

- the system of quarterly Highlight Reports now adopted by the Partnership was a good vehicle for keeping on top of what is happening across the Key Outcome Groups (KOGs) and World Heritage Steering Group (WHSSG).
- Lake District for Everyone (LDfE) was supported in its intention to seek external support to prepare briefs for its Journeys Project (exploring the barriers to engagement with the National Park for three target audiences) and that meetings of the KOG would be paused while this tender process took place.
- Challenges with compiling the Partnership's Annual Report because of delays in Partners supplying data. He thanked those who have been able to respond and encouraged others to do so, stressing the importance of this document not only for understanding as a Partnership where we are in terms of delivery, but also in reaching out to the wider public.
- Welcomed the progress by KOGs - supported by Lois Mansfield (UoC) - in taking forward research questions published in the Plan.
- Updated that a review of progress on the non-transformative actions published in the Plan demonstrated an encouraging picture
- Reminded Partners that DEFRA guidance on management plans for protected landscapes is expected shortly and will be the first step in thinking about the next iteration of the Plan.

The Chair thanked Michael for his update and reiterated the importance of supporting the Annual Report progress, calling Partners 'to arms' and reminding them that this is an important vehicle for explaining what we do to each other and the wider world, which he hoped Partners would see as an opportunity. He also agreed that the PCG meeting had demonstrated how much was going on and that positive progress is being made in delivery.

**b. Climate Action KOG update – Tim Duckmanton (verbal)**

Tim Duckmanton (LDNPA and Officer Lead for the Climate Action KOG), provided an update for Partners on this work area, particularly given the Deep Dive on carbon at the February Partnership meeting. He briefed Partners that:

- Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP) and Electricity North West were undertaking some work together looking at renewable energy in the Lake District.
- Rose Lord from Lake District National Park Authority is drafting some retrofitting guidance in support of action 2 (lobbying government to reduce VAT on the maintenance, repair and retrofitting of traditional buildings as a pilot in the Lake District).
- Gave a ‘heads up’ that the Climate Action KOG will be undertaking a further survey of Partners on carbon reduction measures.
- ZCCP is working with the Partnership on a pipeline of carbon reduction projects.
- The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation-funded Collaboration Hub will be working the KOG and ZCCP on community activity and champions.

Simon Johnson (FBA) wanted to record particular thanks to Martin Sleath, Sustainability Officer from the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), and speaker at our February carbon reduction Deep Dive, for his support in helping the Freshwater Biological Association’s planning for its journey towards net zero, using the same methodology for carbon measurements as the LDNPA. Tim confirmed that he was happy to offer similar support to others across the Partnership.

**b. New Partner: Westmorland & Furness Council – Chair (verbal)**

The Chair reminded Partners that local government reorganisation across Cumbria has resulted in a significant change to the membership of the Partnership with Cumbria County Council, Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council, Eden District Council and South Lakeland District Council all ceasing to exist on the 1 April 2023. He acknowledged, with grateful thanks on behalf of the Partnership, the very considerable and valuable contributions made by representatives from these local authorities over the years.

The Chair also reminded Partners that there are now two new unitary authorities in Cumbria – Westmorland and Furness (W&F), and Cumberland – and welcomed representatives from W&F to the meeting and thanked them for their interest in joining the Partnership.

In line with due process, the Chair confirmed that the meeting was quorate and asked voting Partners whether they were happy for W&F to join. **DECISION:** the vote was carried such that Westmorland and Furness Council was elected a Partner.

The Chair welcomed W&F Council to the Partnership. Angela Jones, Director of Thriving Places responded with thanks. She confirmed that the council had gone through formal process and had agreed that Councillor Judith Derbyshire would be their Partner representative, Angela would attend as a non-voting officer, and that Councillor Matt Brereton would be reserve representative.

A question was raised as to whether Cumberland Council was also interested in joining, and the Chair explained that he was in touch with representatives there on this subject.

**c. MOU refresh: ratifying the MOU – Chair (verbal)**

The Chair reminded Partners that they had discussed the refresh of the MOU at a number of previous meetings and looked to Partners to ratify the revised MOU at this meeting having had time to consider the revised text.

Mike Hill (FoLD) indicated that Friends of the Lake District would be keen to see an opportunity to discuss a refresh of the Vision for the Partnership, the Chair confirming that this is included in the MOU.

Jennifer Cormack (CLEP) made some suggestions on behalf of Nigel Wilkinson in his absence. The Chair confirmed that he was happy to take a Chair's decision to amend Section 4.4. removing reference to EU laws as suggested, and the Partnership Manager confirmed that the name of the LEP had been updated throughout the document as requested.

**DECISION:** Partners ratified the refreshed MOU, which is therefore live from 2 May 2023.

There was acknowledgement from the Chair that at a future point a slimmed down version of the MOU would be desirable.

**3. Deep Dive: Nature Recovery**

Veronica Fiorato (LDNPP Partnership Manager) introduced the Deep Dive on Nature Recovery with Nature Recovery Plan, reminding Partners that it was at Partnership request that we were exploring this topic and welcoming the opportunity to get out on site in the morning and learn about the Upper Duddon Landscape Recovery project. She reminded partners that supporting landscape-scale recovery is one of the actions in the Partnership Plan.

**Nature Recovery Plan**

Tim Duckmanton (LDNPA) then provided a briefing on the Nature Recovery Plan (NRP; formerly called the Nature Recovery Prospectus but the change to 'Plan' better articulating the Partnership's intention) and that there is a desire to see 30% of land allocated for nature by 2023. He acknowledged the wide authorship of the document including representatives of Partner organisations. The Plan is in draft form and will be shared with the FFNC KOG on 21 June 2023 for sign-off.

In terms of delivery, some activity is already happening including - as we have heard for the Upper Duddon, for example - consideration of the feasibility of the reintroduction of black grouse and water voles. The aim, by 2030, is to see a nature super-boost such that on entering the National Park one would notice that there is more biodiversity present. The three priority areas of work are:

1. SSSIs in good condition
2. Core Nature Areas
3. Integrating nature through all of our work

The NRP also includes monitoring of success, so a baseline of information is needed in order to evaluate this. The estimated costing of the work to date is in the region of c£50 million but this does not yet include work on water quality. Some money is already in the pipeline, some we will need to bid for or seek investment money for.

Simon Johnson (FBA) noted that fresh water is disproportionately affected by climate change and offered to help shape the future iteration of the Plan by putting the 'Lake back into the Lake District'.

Angela Jones (W&F) explained that Westmorland and Furness Council is now the responsible authority for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) so welcomed the briefing on the NRP and asked whether there was any collation of new landscape recovery bids across the National Park, also believing that private sector finance was necessary to help support this. Tim confirmed that the FFNC KOG group is aware of current likely landscape recovery bids, with Hanna Latty (LDNPA) stressing the importance of the Partnership sharing resources and expertise across the private finance landscape to maximise opportunities and avoid conflicting bids for the same.

Chris Kaighin (NE; project sponsor for the Nature Recovery Plan action) gave thanks to Tim and the NRP team for taking this important document forward. He encouraged Partners to read the document and stressed the importance of aligning the aspirations of the NRP with Partners' business plans.

#### **Q&A for the Upper Duddon Landscape Recovery project team**

Partners were given the opportunity to ask the Upper Duddon project team members any questions of clarification following the morning site visit, before a wider discussion on what the Partnership had seen and heard. A question was asked about how the project team ensures wide engagement, to which Dominick Spracklen (UoL) responded that the team is really good at engaging different audiences at different levels, for instance John Hodgson is a former forest teacher. They also tied discussions back to a local perspective, for instance people in the valley can remember black grouse, or know that placenames reference the former presence of pine martens. Simon Webb (NE and Upper Duddon project) said that they had found that farmers advocating to other farmers was the best way to engage that community.

#### **Reflections on the site visit**

Andrew Herbert (LDNPA and FFNC officer lead) then lead the conversation reflecting on the site visit learning from the morning session. The following thoughts were shared by Partners:

- Impressive scale of joint working across the Upper Duddon and the holistic approach.
- Such optimism and positivity.
- Importance of project leadership. University of Leeds involvement a catalyst.
- Lots of organisational logos on display but all the team speaking with one voice.
- Wondering how we shift this approach to more visible part of the central lakes; and how do we confidently talk about this nationally?
- Important that there isn't a blanket approach – different areas/valleys which need treating differently.
- Importance of local communication in the conversation early on and co-creation. Also honesty between partners.
- So impressed by the partnership working. While already knew the area, the visit allowed the valley to be viewed through a different lens.
- Importance of using quick wins to get buy-in.
- Really good that WHS not seen as a barrier and a real exemplar of what can be achieved for nature recovery in a cultural landscape.
- Can the Partnership help the Upper Duddon team work through the private finance situation together?

- A complex subject for the Tik Tok generation: were there any quick videos/drone use that could be used to help engage? Dominick responded to confirm that they had done some time lapse photography and they also had some drone footage, but the team was nervous about promoting too far as the valley is relatively quiet v tourist challenge, while needing to share the good work.
- All WHS themes are visible and being managed through the Upper Duddon project.
- Paddy Deady from Troutal Farm expressed really well his passion as a farmer while also delivering environmental improvements.

John Gorst (UU and Upper Duddon project team) stressed the importance of peer-to-peer encouragement/influencing/explaining the art of the possible across the partner organisations. Dominick thanked Partners for their positive feedback which, on behalf of the team, he said was really good to hear. Andrew encouraged Partners to consider how the Partnership can help the Upper Duddon project going forward.

### **Landscape-scale change in the Lake District**

Hanna Latty (LDNPA) then led discussion about landscape-scale change more broadly across the National Park, reminding Partners that the Upper Duddon is a demonstrator project (a DEFRA-funded landscape-recovery pilot) and that there was really strong alignment with lots of elements in the Plan. She reminded Partners of the question that had been posed to them ahead of the day:

*Using the Upper Duddon Landscape Recovery Project as a case study, how do we negotiate landscape-scale change in the Lake District to deliver the Partnership Plan's ambitions for nature recovery, climate action, and sustaining cultural heritage, taking due regard of its Special Qualities and Outstanding Universal Value?*

and asked for thoughts on how we do this elsewhere? Partners responded:

- Collaboration!
- Can the Partnership encourage another such scheme in another valley?
- Importance of a place-based approach and not just what's on your logo: regardless of who you work for you are working for the place. Bottle that!
- W&F has a role to play as a new authority.
- Collaboration, coherence, prioritisation.
- A challenge to the word prioritisation, suggesting that we need to spark activity even if the land is dull!
- How does today's conversation translate into action including allowing people in different organisations to collaborate?
- Importance of keeping the 'specialness' of an area and its cultural heritage as well as encouraging landscape/nature recovery.

John suggested that for success not only is local engagement needed, but people willing to 'push the envelope' in their organisations to make landscape-scale projects happen.

Dominick suggested that it was important not to think about the cost of such projects but rather that they were an investment in the National Park and also in local jobs (as demonstrated in the Upper Duddon).

### **Wrapping up and next steps**

The Chair thanked Dominick and the Upper Duddon team for introducing the Partnership to the Upper Duddon and their landscape-recovery work; it was also good to be reminded that the Partnership Plan enables and supports such projects. He felt that it was important that the Partnership should engage with and support the project going forward, and also suggested that

it would be good for Partners to undertake a visit to the Duddon again before very long in order to see progress on the ground.

#### **4. AOB**

##### **Retirement of Partnership Chair**

The Chair took the opportunity to make some closing remarks as he was standing down from the role after five years (not the three that he had originally intended!) reminding Partners that the Covid-19 pandemic created an 'interesting' working environment for them all. He thanked from the LDNPA, Richard Leafe, Steve Ratcliffe, Tim Duckmanton, Hanna Latty and other officers for their incredible support, noting Hanna had taken up a challenging new role herself during this time. He thanked previous and current Partnership Managers who he said do all the work, and to Adrian Anderson - who sadly couldn't be with Partners on this occasion - for all that he does in support of the Partnership. Finally, he thanked all Partners for their support for the Partnership and for him as Chair saying that he was so privileged to be a part of this. He told an anecdote about his first visit to the Upper Duddon when camping in the rain for three days, and was glad that the weather had been kinder on this occasion, welcoming the opportunity to get out in the Park for his last Partnership meeting.

Steve Ratcliffe offered thanks on behalf of the Partnership, noting that when Stephen was appointed in 2018 the Partnership was keen to get someone for the Chair role who would roll up their sleeves and get involved. He complimented Stephen on his consummate diplomatic skills, and his pandemic steerage including the enormous achievement of delivering the writing of the current Plan. He referenced Stephen's passion for the place and the Partnership, and referred to his firm and steady hand on the tiller. The Partnership then gave Stephen a card and gift in thanks.

**REMINDER: Next Partnership Meeting: 25th July am, time and venue tbc**

**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