



**Meeting of the Lake District National Park Partnership
Wednesday 8th November 2022 at 09.30 – 12.30 – LDNPA, Brockhole**

MINUTES

Partner Name	Organisation	Apologies received
Stephen Henwood	Independent Chair	
Fran Richardson	ACT	Lorraine Smyth
Toni Magean	Allerdale Borough Council	
Kevin Sayers	United Utilities	
	Copeland Borough Council	Eric Barker
Rachel Kelly Leith Hallatsch	Cumbria Association of Local Councils	Sonia Hutchinson
	Country Land & Business Association	Lucinda Douglas Libby Bateman
Carole Barr	Cumbria & Lakes Local Access Forum	
Nigel Wilkinson	Cumbria LEP	
Gill Haigh	Cumbria Tourism	
Jane Wilson	Cumbria Wildlife Trust	
Keith Ashcroft Carol Holt	Environment Agency	
	Eden DC	Les Clark Ali Ross
	Forestry Commission / Forestry England	Keith Jones Kevin May
	Historic England	Marie Smallwood
Sarah Swindley	Lake District Foundation	
Richard Leafe Hanna Latty Steve Ratcliffe Tim Duckmanton Tiffany Hunt Michael Carter	LDNPA LDNPA Member	
Adrian Anderson Veronica Fiorato	LDNPP	
David Hall	National Farmers Union	
Chris Kaighin	Natural England	
Jez Westgarth Laura Ruxton	National Trust	
	RSPB	David Morris Blanaid Denman
Peter Frost-Pennington	Business Task Force	Maria Whitehead
	Cumbria County Council	
Dan Hudson	SLDC	
Lois Mansfield	University of Cumbria	
Stuart Clayton	Friends of the Lake District	

Kate Willshaw		
Observers/Speakers	Organisation	Apologies received
	WCRT	Jodie Mills
Simon Johnson	Fresh Water Biological Association	
Michael Carter	LDNPA Member	
Chris Billinge	Independent Observer	

1. Welcome/meeting management/purpose (Chair)

The Chair welcomed Partners to the meeting at Brockhole (thanking the hosts), and acknowledging the apologies provided. He welcomed a number of new Partners representatives, notably from the EA (Carol Holt), the BTF (Peter Frost-Pennington) and CALC (Rachel Kelly).

The Chair outlined the agenda, with a 'deep dive' focus on climate action, with a number of Partner guest speakers. He also outlined the importance of the Partnership refreshing, and now approving, the LDNPP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Veronica Fiorato (Partnership Manager) reviewed previous actions, confirm those from the previous meeting (10th Nov) which were complete, and those still progressing.

DECISION: Approval of notes from Nov 10th Partnership meeting.

2. Partnership Business Items

- a. **Update from Plan Coordination Group meeting, 19 January 2023** (verbal – see also KOG Highlight reports for information) – Michael Carter LDNPA Member

Michael advised the Partnership that Plan Coordination Group heard updates that the Plan is progressing, and it was a positive meeting. The highlight reports present a mixed picture, with more progress in some Key Outcomes than others. The PCG had heard that the STT KOG has agreed it's baselines for progress, and Lois had provided a summary of Plan indicators at the meeting. A number of actions, such as travel to work, cut across the key outcome groups and are being worked on collaboratively.

Michael also highlighted a revised change control process, which delegates minor changes to the PCG (with major changes to the plan taken to Partnership). A new action was agreed at PCG related to mobile networks (4G) in the VCPE KOG, and Climate Action KOG have changed the date for inclusion of Partner carbon reduction plans to March 2024.

DECISION: Partners noted and agreed the change control process revision.

- b. **WHS Periodic Review update** (verbal) – Steve Ratcliffe LDNPA

The quinquennial review will be submitted in May this year, with work on this having previously been delegated by the Partnership to the WHS Steering Group. Steve thanked Partners that had been able to supply supporting information, and looked forward to anything else being provided soon. The next WHS meeting (16th Feb) is open for any Partners to attend if they wish. The Chair reaffirmed that the Partnership was comfortable with the progress on this work and where it sits with the steering group.

c. **Chair recruitment update** (verbal) – **Veronica Fiorato LDNPP**

No candidate was selected in the first round of recruitment, and the second window for applications is now open (see communications from the team). A number of promising enquiries have been made and this should lead to applications. Closing date is the 15th Feb, with a sifting period involving Partners and then interviews. The current Chair has offered to be available for informal conversations about the role and responsibilities with any interested parties.

d. **State of the Park report update** (verbal) – **Hanna Latty LDNPA**

Hanna outlined that the preparations for the next State of the Park (SOTP) report (produced every 5 years) was underway via a scoping exercise, with the report due at the end of this year. The report will reflect some of the changes in national policy direction since the last report (2018), and the first list of indicators have been identified. Partners will be contacted for further information in March.

Hanna advised the report will go to Defra, but will ultimately be publicly available as a statutory document. Its analysis feeds into the LDNPP Management Plan, notably the identification of key outcomes. The indicators in the report are also a useful long term compilation of trend data sets. The risk of scope creep has been identified and is being managed to prevent the report from ballooning, with knock on resource implications.

Chris Kaighin advised Partners to keep an eye on Defra outcomes framework (NE are leading) and how this should be aligned with the SOTP report.

e. **Collaboration Hub update** (see paper) – **Fran Richardson ACT**

Fran provided an update (see paper) which reminded Partners of the 'Collaboration Hub' workshop and output summary from the November 2022 LDNPP meeting, and provided an update on a proposed theme for community-focused discussion using a grant to the Partnership from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. Partners were invited to agree the main focus areas for the collaborations hub, endorse the creative opportunities to take this forward, and note that the Collaboration Hub could also be useful to help Partners with other topic areas. Comments from Partners (various):

- Having some difficult conversations could help drive the plan forward
- Need to also consider the much needed resource and capacity requirements
- Long term engagement drives long term value in terms of relationships
- Important to define 'community' as there are many (such as working community)
- Is geography just Lakes or wider Cumbria?
- Could a 'citizens panel' approach be applied (avoid use of term 'jury')
- Fran noted that the work will complement the existing Windermere Panel, so that work will not be lost. Keith (EA) noted that there was a community drop in session about Love Windermere at Brockhole on 14th February
- Resources are ultimately finite and need to be mindful of effectiveness, a panel is one of a range of tools

The Chair noted that the exercise has been a good example of how to operate when looking to engage with challenging topics.

ACTION: Share details of drop in session (Love Windermere) with Business Task Force (complete)

f. **Post-Rheged road map and progress update** (slide) and **Key Outcome Group membership, priorities and synergies** (paper) – **Veronica Fiorato LDNPP**

Veronica gave a colour coded slide update on the progress of the ways of working priorities identified at the Rheged workshop. Key areas of progress (amongst others) have been induction materials, and Partnership Post (LDNPP monthly newsletter aimed at Partners on day to day activity, designed to complement the wider, update nature of Partnership Press). The Partnership is still looking for volunteers to support additional comms efforts, please contact Veronica for more details.

Veronica also drew Partners attention to the KOG report paper in their pack, with an update on transformative and non-transformative actions in the Plan (for STT, VCPE, CA and FFNC). Lake District for Everyone has specific areas of focus rather than fully defined actions at this stage, recognising the additional development needed on this new and emerging area of work.

ACTION: If Partners have any feedback on the KOG report please let Veronica know, as this can be developed to align with Partners requirements. (complete: no comments received)

The Chair said Partners were free to share progress reports such as this with internal colleagues, the LDNPP is not a secret society. He thanked Veronica for the update, noting the briefing was a usual exercise and that it should be repeated at future meetings but not necessarily every one. Various comments from Partners:

- Excellent scene setting document
- Could do with something similar for the MOU – one pager about what the LDNPP is
- Consider if different audiences might need different materials
- Should there be a progress report or dashboard on the LDNPP website? (Lois added that a dashboard is being created but taking some time)
- Consider a Partner portal on the website

3. MOU refresh ratification (paper)

The Chair reiterated from previous discussions at LDNPP meetings that the MOU refresh is not a major change, but an update to bring the Partnership in line with developments since the last signing (which will ultimately include the changes to Partnership membership from the local government re-organisation). Copies have been provided for Partners to review. Those who wish to discuss any aspect to contact the Partnership Manager. The intention is that a final draft will be available for organisations to sign at the May LDNPP meeting (or electronically if not present).

Break

4. Deep Dive: carbon and energy reduction and renewables (see slides)

This was the first 'deep dive' session for a Partnership meeting, the format having emerged from last year's 'ways of working' session at Rheged.

Tim Duckmanton - LDNPA (see slides) provided a synopsis of speakers in the session, as well as detailing the key actions the Partnership was taking on the Climate Action theme via the Key Outcome Group (KOG).

Richard Leafe - LDNPA (*see slides*) gave an update on the re-baseline of the carbon budget work, including the data and trends and the increased level of (difficult) activity needed to achieve the 2037 net-zero ambition in the plan. The new model gives greater granularity on carbon savings based on land management (e.g. peat soils), emissions related to livestock and the growing challenge of visitor travel carbon (which has increased in recent years and to and from destination travel remains an issue). There are some opportunities for agriculture (payment schemes with environmental factor) but also potentially downsides in terms of changes from some types of farming.

Richard also outlined his work with other National Park Authorities to ensure consistent and comparable figures are recorded across protected landscapes. Richard also highlighted the important links between this work and Zero Carbon Cumbria. It remains important for Partners to continue with their commitment in the Plan to reduce emissions and also to be seen to be leading the way on this issue.

Gary Sharples and Laura Ruxton – National Trust (*see slides*) gave a presentation on their renewable energy infrastructure and projects across their Lake District estate. The increasing uncertainty and cost of energy, given recent crises, had given this work added impetus and financial viability on top of the obvious carbon saving benefits. The NT has worked closely with a number of Partners (within and outside the LDNPP) on these projects, and are happy to share information and learnings with others.

Projects have included micro-hydro, solar and biomass – with a cumulative generation enough to power approximately 2000 homes. Attention has also been paid to siting these installations where habitat and historic environment restoration has been possible to enhance local surroundings and holistically use land (an example is turbine halls ‘disguised’ as farm barns using traditional stone and slate materials).

Martin Sleath LDNPA (*see slides*) – provided an update on the LDNPA’s own carbon reduction strategies. This has included energy generation (solar, biomass and water source heat pump) at LDNPA properties, as well as improvements to insulation and lightning. The LDNPA’s fleet of vehicles has been electrified (except heavy duty vehicles), including the provision of charging infrastructure at office sites, via use of grants and investment. Each ‘service’ within the LDNPA has been given carbon budgets and support to identify savings.

The approach has largely focused on reducing carbon, rather an offsetting as this market is immature and it is currently unclear what value (financially and environmentally) this represents. Some offsetting may ultimately be needed to reduce final emissions to get to net zero, for example there are not currently suitable solutions to replace diesel 4x4s used by rangers for off road and heavy duty usage.

Sarah Swindley – Lake District Foundation (*see slides*) provided an update on the Low Carbon Lake District Grant Scheme and decarbonisation. This included scheme aims as well as facts and figures related to average costs and carbon saved. Sarah also highlighted some more unexpected benefits of the work. These included the relationships that developed, the importance of the scheme to small businesses in particular - in the context of covid recovery and the number of businesses that would not necessarily have engaged with calculating their carbon footprints otherwise. The challenges and opportunities of the scheme going forward were also outlined.

ACTION: Slides/reports/presentations to be sent to Partners in meeting follow up email (complete)

Partners asked a number of questions related to the specifics of CO2 breakdown by category, and figures related to private transport use to the Lake District (91% most recently, up from 86% in 2018 and 81% in 2015 – impact of pandemic and rail strike disruption). Partners were also interested in the technical details of micro-hydro and how this impacts fish life. It was also suggested that the Partnership remain mindful of how to inform ‘the person in the street’ about the importance of this work, and how they can also play a part (not just organisational action).

Switching energy providers to 100% renewable tariffs was highlight as a ‘quick win’ for Partners, and Richard Leafe highlighted that the key things people could do would be to consume local food and drink, and electrify transport.

Workshop and discussion (exercise) Tim Duckmanton LDNPA – Tim lead an exercise (based on Partner discussion) asking the following questions:

- a. What do we need to say to Government increase renewable energy production?
- b. What can the Partnership do collectively to deliver these ideas?
- c. What can your organisation do to support this?

The exercise produced a variety of suggestions, which can be found (raw output) in **Annex 1** below. Tim committed to taking this output to discuss with the Climate Action Key Outcome Group to align with existing actions, and also to share with the ZCCP sector group.

The Chair thanked contributors for the updates, and productive discussion exercise, which has taken the work and debate forward. The Partnership will re-visit this vital topic in future meetings.

5. Close & AOB (Chair)

The Chair thanked Partners for a productive session which had covered a lot business, as well as the interesting and positive focus on Climate Action – the ‘deep dive’ format of which is useful for Partnership meetings. He thanked the contributors and asked for any other business:

WHS – (Steve Ratcliffe). The next WHS committee is in Saudi Arabia. To add to the report Steve and team have produced, showcasing WHS activity in the Lake District, Partners were asked to provided any additional activity since December 2021 by next week.

ACTION: Partners to flag anything new since Dec 21 that contributes to the world heritage site (complete)

The Chair highlighted a number of Partnership rep departures, and thanked them for their contributions to the Partnership:

Blainaid Denman (RSPB)

Libby Bateman (CLA)

Keith Ashcroft (EA) – who continues to be involved in the Love Windermere Partnership and a role with the LDF

Lois Mansfield (UoC) - the Chair thanked Lois for her support, discipline and rigour with the data and monitoring aspect of the Partnership Plan

REMINDER: Next Partnership Meeting: **2nd May** (site visit – focus on Nature Recovery theme)

The Chair closed the session and invited Partners to enjoy a buffet lunch in the Mason room.

Annex 1

Climate Action Workshop (at Brockhole LDNPP meeting) Output 08.02.23

What do we need to say to Government increase renewable energy production

- Lobby for support of feed in tariff
- Lobbying on public transport and 'greening of grid'
- Residents in Park can't all afford net-zero
- Finances are very hard, need to tip business cases by using green funding
- Government must coordinate across departments (eg Defra, Department for Climate Change/Energy etc, in order to make things easier
- Farming/ELMS to include support for grant funding for energy
- Information about retrofitting
- Fast charging network rollout
- Trusted energy audits

What can the Partnership do collectively to deliver these ideas?

- Look for ways to facilitate community action to reduce carbon
- How to identify and target people that need support (i.e. insulation)
- Can the Partnership help people identify 'everyday actions good actions'
- Raise awareness continuously of need for optimal energy efficiency
- Lobbying about insulation support
- Can Stagecoach be full members of the Partnership, and bike carrying buses
- Reduce food waste. Easy win!
- How to help communities?
- Find out case studies of communities that have achieved net-zero (Norway)
- Communicate messages clearly eg balancing best outcome
- Messaging
- Share success stories to allow other Partners to implement
- Can communities get together to share ideas and projects, and show how they can implement them
- Encourage more sustainability groups to share examples as to how schemes could be broadened (including permitted development vs planning applications)
- Organisations to work with farmers and land managers to help them with small scale renewables that will benefit their business in return for looking after/securing carbon in soils
- Communication of case studies/stories/myth busting (Partnership website? BTF?)
- Steps to carbon audit
- Skillsets and capacity building
- Identifying offsetting opportunities
- Clarity on where best to put efforts and to use community groups
- Businesses to showcase
- FiPL to assist (ESIF learning)
- Partnership to ask CLEP to increase numbers of installers of renewables and energy efficiency measures
- Eat more deer
- Borrow expertise and advice from National Park and National Trust

- Use/promote MyCumbria card for local shopping and eating. Consider developing a carbon calculator for purchase choices
- Independent advice for business – many are putting off big steps due to lack of knowledge
- '10 easy steps' for LDNPP website. Could cover those for business, residents and visitors
- FiPI to proactively fund carbon reduction measures + communicate demo days 'farmer 2 farmer'
- Consider what can be done to make listed buildings more energy efficient
- Engage with hospitality providers – sustainability already becoming something visitors look for
- Clear guidance on payback times for renewables
- Signposting to useful advice

What can your organisation do to support this?

- Share learning from Grants programme (LDF)
- Support local, sustainable routes to get around your community. Longer journeys more difficult in the Lakes but encourage walking or cycling on local journeys e.g. posting a letter, instead of car (LAF)
- Innovative businesses can offer good case studies to inspire and encourage other businesses and local residents to take actions themselves (BTF)
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust will review communication about net zero (CWT)
- Learn from LDNPA how to transition to an electric vehicle fleet (Natural England)
- Decarbonise estate and fleet (WFC – new council)
- Provide entry level advice on carbon footprinting and starting on an action plan (LDNPA)
- Carry on remote working as much as possible and continue training councils on renewables issues
- Installation of solar panels and batteries, and possible air source heat pump (FLD)
- Follow up with CLEP to see if they can help increase the number of electric charging points

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
ICAP	ICAP is a leading markets operator and provider of post trade risk mitigation and information services
LCA	Landscape Character Assessment
LDNPA	Lake District National Park Authority
LEP	Local Enterprise Partnership
Mbps	Megabits per second
NCA	National Character Area
NE	Natural England
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
NFM	Natural Flood Management
NFU	National Farmers Union
NT	National Trust
PES	Payment for Ecosystems
RESG	Rural Economic Sub Group (LEP)
SCaMP	Sustainable Catchment Management Programme
SEP	Superfast Extension Programme
SLMT	Sustainable Land Management Tool
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
VESG	Visitor Economy Sub Group (LEP)