



**Meeting of the Lake District National Park Partnership  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 at 09:30-15:00 – Rheged, Penrith**

***SUMMARY NOTES/MINUTES***

<b>Partner Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Apologies received</b>
Celia Caulcott	Independent Chair	
Fran Richardson	ACT	Lorriane Smyth
Peter Frost-Pennington Phil Johnston	Business Task Force	
Michael Barry	Cumberland Council	
Sonia Hutchinson	Cumbria Association of Local Councils	
Robert Frewen	Country Land & Business Association	Harriet Ranson
Carole Barr	Cumbria & Lakes Local Access Forum	
Jennifer Cormack	Cumbria LEP/Cumbria Enterprise	
Gill Haigh	Cumbria Tourism	
Steve Trotter	Cumbria Wildlife Trust	
Andy Brown Carol Holt Ellyse Mather	Environment Agency	
Keith Jones Kevin May Jake Thompson	Forestry Commission/Forestry England	Mark Holroyd
Lorayne Wall Mike Hill	Friends of the Lake District	
Catherine Dewar	Historic England	
Sarah Swindley Keith Ashcroft	Lake District Foundation	
Steve Ratcliffe Hanna Latty Rob Allison Chloe Swift Alice Collier Emma Moody Eleanor Kingston Claire Foster Tim Duckmanton Mairi Lock  Tiffany Hunt Michael Carter	LDNPA           LDNPA Chair LDNPA Member	Gavin Capstick
Veronica Fiorato Adrian Anderson	LDNPP	
Kerry Rennie Helen Kirby	Natural England	
Jez Westgarth	National Trust	

James Airey David Hall	National Farmers Union	
James Archer	RSPB	
Jodie Mills	West Cumbria Rivers Trust	
Judith Derbyshire	Westmorland and Furness Council	Angela Jones
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	
Tim Gale	ZCCP	
Ian Roberts	Sattva (meeting facilitator)	
Jody Ferguson	Cumbria Nature Partnership	

### 1. Welcome + housekeeping (Chair)

The Chair welcomed Partners to the meeting at Rheged, noting the extraordinary nature of the facilitated session focused solely on strategic themes for the next LDNPP Management Plan. The Chair thanked Partners for the 100% attendance (Partners and Observer organisations) and recognised the time, effort and resource stakeholders have committed to this process. The Chair reminded Partners the session was a great opportunity to consider how the Partnership can deliver better together through the next plan, and Ian Roberts (who many Partners will remember from the Ways of Working session in July 2022) would be guiding the conversation as facilitator. Partners were seated in 6 x groups of approx. 8 people.

### 2. Session 1 Our forward look to the National Park in 2051

Following some introductory overview from Ian, Celia and Veronica (see slides Presentation1) the first exercise invited Partners to picture the Park in 2051, its 100th anniversary. Partners considered the following questions:

- *How do you envisage the National Park in 2051?*
- *What will we see **more of**, **less of**, **completely new** in the National Park?*

See collated output in **Appendix 1** below, and **raw output document** from post it notes collected and transcribed following the meeting (available from Partnership Team on request).

### 3. Session 2 Priority issues for the next Management Plan

Following a presentation from the Partnership Manager (see slides Plan Evidence) of the current trends within the National Park, and a reminder of what Partners have already requested for the next Plan, the session explored the key strategic priorities for the next five years. The aim was to ensure the new Management Plan reflects opportunities, addresses challenges, and positions the Park for sustainable development.

The following questions were covered in group discussion, and feedback to the wider audience with Ian facilitating the discussion and drawing out key points.

- *What are the key opportunities for the National Park over the next five years?*
- *What are the main threats facing the National Park over the next five years?*
- *What key issues must be prioritised in the next Management Plan?*

### **Lunch Break**

#### **4. Session 3 Delivering our Plan**

This session explored how the Partnership could strengthen its governance, mechanisms and ways of working/behaviours for the delivery of the priorities in the Management Plan. The following aspects were considered, with group discussion and feedback:

- *What do you see as the Partnership?*
- *What are the strengths and limitations of our current delivery mechanisms?*
- *How can the Partnership enhance its delivery arrangements?*
- *What behaviours and ways of working are consistent with the Partnership to align with future plan/vision, and what is a barrier to this?*
- *What shifts would you recommend to align the Partnership with the future*

As a final exercise Ian invited Partners to say in one word how they were feeling following the session, which produced a broad range of ideas (from 'positive' to 'apprehensive').

#### **5. Next steps**

The Chair thanked all Participants for an incredibly useful meeting, with full Partner attendance, and thanked Ian for his role in facilitating the session.

Partners agreed the following next steps:

- Share agreed outputs from this meeting (*see Appendix 1 summary below*), also LDNPA Members' propositions
- Partners noted that other conversations also are taking place e.g. on funding the Lake District on 4 Feb, to feed into the plan development process/evidence
- Work to propose a structure for the next Plan in late Jan and Feb – with dedicated 'Sprint' weeks of work from LDNPA officers in Feb
- The intention is to bring this work/first plan draft back to the Partnership in April (either at 1 April meeting or an extraordinary one, tbc)

#### **Next meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> April (Braithwaite institute)**

The Chair also advised that **Janet Hughes** (Defra Programme Director for the Future Farming and Countryside Programme) intends to join a future Partnership meeting, details tbc.

## Appendix 1: Workshop Output summarised by Ian Roberts



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# LDNPP Strategy Workshop - 22nd January 2025

## Meeting Report

### Introduction

This report summarises discussions at the meeting of the Lake District National Park Partnership strategy workshop held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025. The purpose of the workshop was to unite Partners in shaping a bold and inspiring ambition for the Lake District National Park's future, identifying strategic priorities for the next five years, and strengthening our ability to deliver meaningful, lasting impacts.

### 1. Our forward look to the National Park in 2051

The workshop began with exploration of Partner's views of the National Park in 2051, its 100th anniversary. Comments made in response to the question 'What will we see more of, less of, completely new in the National Park?' are presented below.

#### **2051 Vision for the National Park**

By 2051, the National Park will be a thriving, resilient, and balanced place where nature, people, and the economy work together harmoniously. Trees will be planted in the right locations, habitats restored, and species reintroduced to create a biodiverse and climate-resilient landscape.

Farming will be nature-friendly, financially sustainable, and climate-smart, contributing to food security, healthier soils, and water storage while preserving cultural traditions. Communities will be vibrant and balanced, with more young people living and working here, supported by affordable housing, education, and sustainable jobs.

Infrastructure will meet the needs of locals and visitors alike, with better transport options, renewable energy, and connectivity like 5G. Historic buildings will be preserved and adapted for modern use, blending the old and the new.

Visitors and locals will enjoy the health and well-being benefits of connecting with nature in an accessible and welcoming environment. Strong leadership and innovative funding will ensure this vision is sustainable, celebrating the park's unique character while adapting to the challenges of climate change. The National Park will be a place of beauty, inspiration, and opportunity for generations to come.

### **Detailed aspects of vision**

### *Nature Recovery and Resilience*

- Increased tree planting in the right locations, restored habitats, and reintroduction of species.
- Climate-resilient landscapes capable of adapting to extremes.
- Improved biodiversity, water quality, and ecosystem health.

### *Economy*

- Maximising the value of the landscape by leveraging land use and the Lake District brand.
- A diverse economy supporting sustainable, nature-friendly activities, including high-quality food production.
- Streamlined bureaucracy to enhance efficiency and opportunities.
- Retention of young people and skills to ensure a thriving working-age population.
- Farming is resilient, nature-friendly, and climate-adaptive, contributing to food security, soil health, and water storage.
- Everyone understands and values the park, fostering support from both locals and visitors.
- The national park is appreciated for its balance of local livelihoods, tourism, and sustainable practices.

### *Farming and Land Management*

- Support for farmers to manage transitions toward more nature-friendly and financially sustainable farming practices.
- Maintenance of cultural heritage, soil health, water storage, and food quality.
- Climate-resilient farming integrated with nature recovery and sustainable land use.
- Emphasis on nature-friendly agriculture that nurtures ecosystems while securing food production.

### *Sustainable Infrastructure*

- Investment in 5G connectivity, water, energy, and transport systems to support sustainable communities and visitors.
- Integrated and sustainable transport options that include active travel and alternative energy sources.
- Balanced communities with robust infrastructure for locals, businesses, and tourists.
- Historic buildings maintained and adapted for modern use while preserving cultural heritage.

### *Community and People*

- Diverse and balanced populations with more young people in working-age demographics.
- Thriving communities that balance the needs of locals, tourists, and businesses.
- Accessible opportunities for education, collaboration, and innovation across the park.
- Affordable housing to support sustainable community growth.
- Visitor diversity, ensuring accessibility for all regardless of mobility, financial status, or travel needs.
- Strong connections between urban and rural areas for shared appreciation of the national park.

### *Health, Wellbeing, and Enjoyment*

- Promotion of health and well-being through connection with nature and thriving communities.

- Support for productive and sustainable agriculture, tourism, and transport systems.
- Affordable housing and skills development to create a balanced demographic and workforce.
- Everyone experiences and values the national park as a unique, healthy, and inspiring environment.

*Governance and Leadership*

- Strong, collaborative, and inspiring leadership ensuring inclusivity and support for innovative practices.
- New funding models to sustain the park's long-term vision.
- Proactive governance that balances cultural heritage, environmental priorities, and economic sustainability.

## 2. Priority issues for the next Management Plan

The second session explored the Partnerships recommendations for priorities to be included in the next Management Plan. The 'long-list' of suggested proposition is presented below.

### **Recommended 'propositions' for inclusion in the next Management Plan**

#### *1. Integrated Transport Strategy*

- Develop a cohesive transport strategy to reduce travel impact around the Lake District National Park.
- Transition to low-carbon transport systems to support the economy and promote sustainability.
- Foster integrated, sustainable transport networks, including a sustainable bus service for every valley.
- Expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure and hydrogen-proof the transport network.
- Review existing car park provisions and implement valley-specific action plans for areas like Hawkshead, Langdale, Ullswater, Wasdale, and Buttermere/Borrowdale.
- Prioritise reducing private car usage in favour of alternative transport options.

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#### *2. Sustainable Farming*

- Support economically viable farming and land management practices to promote nature recovery and water management.
- Help farmers transition to sustainable practices while maintaining their role in the landscape.
- Facilitate access to carbon markets to enable sustainable farming initiatives.
- Ensure all Lake District farmers engage with the Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme and collaborate on environmental opportunities through tailored, consistent advice.
- Support farm businesses during transitions while linking green investment markets to nature recovery goals.
- Monitor the farming economy's health and lead in protecting heritage assets with farming communities.

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#### *3. Climate Resilience*

- Enhance resilience to climate change by improving existing buildings, land management, and transport.
- Develop plans for communities at risk of climate change.
- Mitigate climate change impacts on soil and habitats through sustainable land practices.

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#### *4. Water Management*

- Coordinate efforts to improve water quality across the Lake District.
- Share best practices and enhance shared evidence across valleys.
- Improve water retention in landscapes at the right locations, particularly head catchments.
- Measure lake water quality as an indicator of environmental health.
- Set ambitious targets for restoring rivers and lakes, including bathing water and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

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### 5. *Nature Recovery*

- Prioritise nature recovery by targeting areas with the greatest potential, such as Whinlatter, Windermere, Atlantic woodlands, and Ennerdale.
- Prepare periodic conservation reports for the national park.
- Promote productive, resilient landscapes capable of producing energy, wood, water, and carbon storage.
- Protect iconic species (e.g., red squirrels and Herdwick sheep) while focusing on habitat restoration, tree planting, and species improvement.

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### 6. *Balanced Economy*

- Develop a shared economic plan to attract investment and create conditions for sustainable development.
- Enhance local skills for future industries, including affordable housing and farming.
- Create opportunities for people to live and work in the Lake District, supporting local economic growth.

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### 7. *Community Housing*

- Address second homes and holiday lets to improve local housing provision.
- Conduct housing needs assessments and lobby government for support.
- Directly deliver affordable, climate-resilient housing and improve existing housing stock.
- Utilise empty properties for community housing, ensuring supporting infrastructure is in place.

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### 8. *Reuse of Vacant and Redundant Buildings*

- Audit vacant buildings to identify their use, type, and location.
- Develop a strategy for repurposing vacant properties.
- Ensure planning policies, design codes, and neighbourhood plans support reuse efforts.
- Leverage devolution powers to secure resources for redevelopment.

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### 9. *Increasing Diversity*

- Promote diversity among residents and visitors by improving inclusive access to nature while respecting community and place.
- Map opportunities for health benefits through nature-focused projects, particularly in social prescribing and mental health.
- Target areas of deprivation to enhance access to the park.

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### 10. *Lobbying and Policy Development*

- Influence devolution deals to secure additional resources for the park's strategic priorities.
- Advocate for a circular economy, health, educational equity, and public service integration.

- Streamline planning approvals to enhance villages, public realms, and heritage areas using the historic environment for community betterment.
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## Delivering our Plan

The afternoon session explored how the Partnership can strengthen its governance and mechanisms for the delivery of the priorities in the Management Plan. Comments made in response to the question 'How can the Partnership enhance its delivery arrangements?' are listed below.

### **Descriptors of Future Ways of Working**

#### **A High-Challenge/High-Support Culture**

- Build an environment of high support through active listening, respect, and ensuring all voices are heard.
- Foster a culture of transparency and clarity by being honest about the level of change partners are willing to accept, including constraints and non-negotiables.
- Encourage understanding and empathy by acknowledging and valuing others' perspectives and motivations.
- Balance this with high challenge, promoting open and authentic communication while maintaining clear accountability for outcomes.

#### **Delivery Focus**

- Focus on what the partnership can uniquely deliver in specific contexts (e.g., the uniqueness of the Lakes region).
- Identify and prioritise three unique issues where the partnership can make the most significant difference.
- Show commitment by offering and sharing resources among partners to achieve.
- Clearly define how actions will be delivered, ensuring ownership, accountability, and responsibility.
- Balance the need for quick action with the recognition that some projects (e.g., farming and land management) require multigenerational work.

#### **Agile Delivery**

- Adopt a dynamic, rolling plan that allows for both short-term responsiveness and long-term planning.
- Operate with agility and flexibility to adapt to dynamic issues and the evolving environment.
- Use systematic thinking to align efforts and address complex challenges.
- Shift from the workstream model to delivery methods that prevent division and silos, ensuring collaboration and unified efforts.

#### **Enhanced Communication**

- Share data and information openly and effectively.
- Ensure communication links between thinkers and doers, fostering alignment and understanding.
- Work towards shared definitions of key terms like "sustainability" and "nature recovery" to ensure clarity and alignment.

**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