



**Meeting of the Lake District National Park Partnership
Thursday 10th November 2022 at 13.30 – 16.30 – LDNPA, Kendal**

MINUTES

Partner Name	Organisation	Apologies received
Stephen Henwood	Independent Chair	
Fran Richardson	ACT	Lorraine Smyth
Graham Kennedy Markus Campbell- Savours	Allerdale Borough Council	
Kevin Sayers	United Utilities	
Eric Barker	Copeland Borough Council	
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	Environment Agency	
Ali Ross	Eden DC	Les Clark
Keith Jones Kevin May	Forestry Commission / Forestry England	
	Historic England	Marie Smallwood
Sarah Swindley	Lake District Foundation	
Richard Leafe Hanna Latty Gavin Capstick Steve Ratcliffe Tim Duckmanton Tiffany Hunt	LDNPA	
Adrian Anderson Veronica Fiorato	LDNPP	
James Airey	National Farmers Union	David Hall
Chris Kaighin	Natural England	
Jez Westgarth	National Trust	
Blanaid Denman	RSPB	David Morris
Mike Turner	Business Task Force	Maria Whitehead
	Cumbria County Council	Chloe Tringham
Andrew Jarvis Dan Hudson	SLDC	
Lois Mansfield	University of Cumbria	
Laura Partington	Friends of the Lake District	

Stuart Clayton		
Observers/Speakers	Organisation	Apologies received
	WCRT	Jodie Mills
Simon Johnson	Fresh Water Biological Association	
Michael Carter	LDNPA Member	
Jane Fretwell	LDNPA	

1. Welcome/meeting management/purpose (Chair)

The Chair welcomed Partners to the meeting, noting the benefits of the in person format, and acknowledging the apologies provided. The Chair alluded to the challenging environment that the Partnership and wider society finds itself in. There are ongoing challenges related to extreme weather (most recently too little, then too much water) as well as organisational change across Partners (notably the change in local government). This is also set amongst a national backdrop of ongoing medical (pandemic), political and financial crises.

However, the focus of the Partnership must be what can be achieved locally and collaboratively, identifying 'what can I do?' within the framework of the Partnership Plan. Such progress will form the balance of the focus and updates at today's meeting.

Veronica Fiorato (Partnership Manager) confirmed actions from the previous meeting (13th July) were complete, or formed part of the 'Ways of Working' ongoing programme of work (see below for further update).

DECISION: Approval of notes from July 13th Partnership meeting.

2. Partnership Business Items (session 1)

- a. Update from Plan Coordination Group meeting - 15 September 2022 – Michael Carter (verbal – see also KOG reports for information)

Michael gave an overview of progress in the five Key Outcome Groups (KOGs), which have now got into a rhythm of meeting and delivery. He noted the Plan Coordination Group has now been organised quarterly in order to precede each Partnership meeting, and includes standardised RAG highlight reporting from each group (this will also lend itself to consistency when producing the annual report on the Plan progress).

Partnership Press has also recently been themed to align with a KOG in each edition (STT in summer 22, VCPE Autumn 22 and upcoming FFNC in the winter 23 edition).

The Chair noted PCG and Plan progress and reminded Partners to also keep sight of the high level plan linkages, including between the Plan and the LDNPA Authority (for which the Plan is a statutory document).

- b. Post-Rheged road map and progress update (paper) – Veronica Fiorato
 - See also associated paper and slide

Veronica provided an update on the 15 key actions identified from the Rheged Ways of Working Partnership meeting. There is good progress on a number of actions (PCG reporting to Partnership, Chair recruitment, MOU refresh, liaison with new LAs and induction refresh). There are a number of actions where activity is dependent on

preceding activity or involves engagement with Partners and Key Outcome Groups. Veronica highlighted this is an ongoing process, particularly developing better connections between KOGs, an communication strategy (including induction materials) and an emphasis on WHS attributes in KOG groups. It has also been identified that there is work to better engage Partner exec teams and Veronica will be developing a plan for this.

ACTION: call for Partner volunteers to help with communication strategy

Views from Partners (various):

- Is it possible to outline the Plan as a one-pager in simple terms to provide to Partner exec teams?
- Induction materials will be useful for existing members as well as new, as a refresh given periodic changes in Partnership member reps
- Induction to include reasons why Partners are involved and why organisations volunteer
- Possible to include contacts in induction?

The Chair noted that the ideas and discussions from Rheged had clearly been developed into an appropriate package of work which was progressing.

c. Update on the MOU refresh (verbal) - Chair

- The Chair noted that a number of recent working sessions had been undertaken to bring the MOU up to date
- Important to ensure current Plan related governance is detailed
- A draft will be brought to the Feb 2023 meeting for Partner approval

ACTION: Update on draft proposal at Feb 2023 meeting

d. Chair recruitment update (verbal) – Veronica Fiorato

- Group of Partner volunteers has shaped timescales, materials (person spec, advert)
- Hope there will be overlap with existing Chair (steps down in late Spring)
- Previous process took two rounds
- Local knowledge is important and advert will also be in *InCumbria* magazine (December issue)
- Important to publicise across Authority and Partner social media channels
- Post-Christmas closing date, and shortlisting and interviews in January
- Second round of recruitment from January if no-one suitable found in first round

ACTION: Partners to share advert and consider approaches to individuals as applicable

e. WHS Periodic Reporting (paper) – Stephen Ratcliffe

- Partners have already received an email briefing on this piece of work and an associated recommendation paper to this meeting provides more detail of the work
- Steve outlined how the LDNPA is leading on this work (via Mairi Lock – WHS Coordinator), with a recommendation for Partners to delegate completion to the WHS Steering Group
- Most questions are a matter of fact, and Mairi will be in touch with relevant Partners to gather information. Important that we keep to the project deadlines (submission to DCMS in March)
- A sheet was circulated for Partners to indicate their main contact for this piece of work (*if not the main Partnership rep*)

ACTION: a brief update will be provided on progress at the next Partnership meeting.

DECISION: Partners agree that the completion of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire will be delegated to the WHS Steering Group

Break

3. Collaboration Hub: finding a focus for Partnership and community collaboration (Fran Richardson – ACT, Jenny Willis – consultant)

- Also see slides (**ACTION:** distribute to Partners with notes)

This session aimed to refresh Partners' understanding of the opportunity provided by the Esmée Fairbairn-funded Collaboration Hub. Partners were encouraged to:

- Use what is already known (and knowledge in the room) to identify Plan areas where difficult conversations are a barrier to progressing action
- Gather views to indicate where the most potential lies for the Collaboration Hub to support work within and beyond the Partnership
- Set out the next steps for the project

The above set the parameters for this interactive session and builds on an established body of information from the Plan development process. The intention was to look at ways to maximise the impact of Plan delivery through open discussion within and outside the Partnership. The aim is to move towards a consensus on where the focus needs to be for creative engagement (e.g. a Citizen's Panel) on one or two particularly challenging issues.

Partners spent a few minutes discussing what is meant in terms of community (local, regional, national, age/demographics, business etc), before gravitating to a number of 'tricky questions' highlighted on flipcharts around the room. The flipcharts topics were then focused on for further open/interactive discussion in the room (key Partner comments & observations captured under each heading below):

1. Low wage/high house price challenge

- Key to community sustainability
- Retaining families is key to the LDNPP Plan and the economy (labour supply)
- Local occupancy, but requires flexibility
- Talk and work with communities for a long term sustainable plan
- Accommodation in the Lake District still a challenge for average and above average earners

2. What should be the focus of Lake District farmers, foresters & land managers? (food production, carbon storage, nature recovery etc)

- Importance of myth busting around controversial topics (e.g. grazing numbers, or what 'forestry' means etc)
- Better understanding needed across different perspectives
- Land management is a theme that cuts across a number of Plan key outcomes
- Natural capital 'cross-over' with jobs, economy and landscape
- 'Productive' does not just mean food production

- Need to move away from binary positions, to blended solutions and integrated land management
 - Raise the profile of demonstrator sites such as 'Wild Ennerdale'
3. *World Heritage Site – implications for Nature Recovery and net benefit of inscription*
- Should be an internal Partnership topic, not a citizen panel
 - Culture and nature debate continues but is not either/or – nature is part of culture: Partnership needs to hold this line
 - Need to show examples of benefit and celebrate these
 - Show that it is not a 'blocker'
4. *How many tourists are enough?*
- Linked closely to Lake District for Everyone challenge
 - Partnership is not a gatekeeper to Lake District
 - Is the question itself creating a perception of a problem?
 - Not really practical, or desirable, for Partners to try and control this
 - On what basis could it be decided 'who to exclude'?
 - Is it that infrastructure is deficient, and therefore will lead to a natural balance
5. *Who is 'everyone' (in the context of Lake District for Everyone)*
- Community is a contested word, can mean many things
 - Local communities can be forgotten when focusing on visitors, and their view is really important
 - Challenging discussions and a controversial topic
 - Benefits of 'everyone' being lost in negative reporting around impact of visitors (particularly during the pandemic and new audiences)
6. *What does Net-Zero look like?*
- Helps drive the resolution of some of the other key challenges in Lake District
 - Impacts on land management
 - Affordable, sustainable travel
 - Urgent action needed – undeniable
 - There isn't a clear shared agenda at this stage, even across Partners (beyond that agreed in the Plan)

Partners were given sticky 'dots' to determine which topics they considered most important for a future 'big conversation'. Those were 2, 5 & 6 above. Fran thanked Partners for engaging in a different type of session and advised this was the start of a conversation, and the comments would be written up with the various sensitivities taken into account, and the impact on Plan delivery considered. If anyone has any further thoughts Fran welcomes further interaction with Partners.

ACTION: Fran to develop proposal for further activity and bring back to the Partnership.

The Chair noted that it was clear Partners agreed about much, but it was important to recognise and respect different views to agree a way forward on challenging topics.

4. Partnership Business Items (Session 2)

- a. Partnership meeting plan for 2023-4 (see paper) – Veronica Fiorato

Veronica outlined the proposed dates for upcoming Partnership meetings in 2023 and early 2024. There is an aspiration to make the most of meeting time to get through Partnership business and decisions but also to include updates from Partners, all whilst trying to keep meeting paperwork as succinct as possible.

The Partnership will continue to try to vary times and locations of meetings, including site meetings and networking events. There will be a clear read across to the activity of the Plan Coordination Group as well as 'deep dives' on specific topics aligned to the Key Outcome Groups.

DECISION: Paper recommendations and future dates approved by the Partnership. Meeting dates identified in the paper to be sent to Partners as Outlook invitations.

- b. Climate Action KOG update (verbal) – Richard Leaf

Richard gave an update on the rebasing of the Carbon Budget, based on a model working with Small World Consulting (SWC) which includes all National Parks and seven AONBs. The new model is more sophisticated and has greater levels of granularity.

Good progress has been made with the Climate Action KOG in obtaining carbon information from Partners (Richard highlighted a table showing Partner responses). The LAF and BTF (as meeting forums) are currently exempted from the process, having no identifiable emissions of their own.

ACTION: References to the Partnership's 'net zero target of 2037' should be 'net zero ambition of 2037' to align with Plan wording

ACTION: Richard to enquire when/if SWC report can be shared with Partners

- c. LD4E KOG update (verbal) – Sarah Swindley

Sarah gave a brief update on the meetings the Lake District for Everyone (LDfE) KOG has undertaken, including a detailed Partner (& KOG member) survey on the topic. The findings will be useful for the group to further develop the actions and interventions the group plans on behalf of the Partnership in this space. Sarah thanked Partners for their comprehensive and candid responses to the survey, and the Partnership Team for helping to pull the report together from the extensive Survey Monkey responses.

The group intends to map the routes that diverse communities use to access and use the Lake District, this research to be potentially funded by the Lake District Foundation. The KOG also wants to understand what training needs Partners may have in this area and what can be offered by relevant organisations (such as Anti-Racist Cumbria).

- d. Response to government direction of travel for conservation laws, ELMS etc. (verbal) – Blanaid Denman

The Chair invited Blanaid to introduce the recent 'Attack on Nature' campaign that has involved a number of Partners (on a national scale) – CWT, NT and RSPB (with FOLD also having written to the government to express concern).

Partners have been very alarmed by government proposals to remove all EU law (on which much nature protection legislation is based – 70% of law within DEFRA has an EU origin), as well as to significantly reduce planning constraints in loosely defined ‘investment zones’ (which might also include parts of National Parks/protected landscapes). These deregulatory concerns, and a rumoured rollback of the ELMs programme, prompted those Partners to collaborate and go public with their concerns.

At this stage (November) there is limited further clarity and the devil will be in the detail. There are also concerns that the government plans to halt nature decline is not ambitious enough and does nothing to reverse damage already done. Surveys show that the public will for nature improvement is there. The unprecedented coming together of these Partners is an attempt to ‘kick up a fuss’ before the legislation is written. The RSPB is also convening a citizen’s assembly to further discuss and look for positive solutions:

ACTION: Circulate link to RSPB’s [‘People’s Plan for Nature’](#) (link) to Partners

Comments from Partners (various):

- Trudy Harrison move to DEFRA is welcomed, and Partners have had mature conversations with the new Secretary of State
- Richard Leafe and Tiffany Hunt are meeting Trudy Harrison on 12th November, and Partnership will be on the agenda. Lord Benyon’s move is a shame as he was a trenchant supporter but he is still in the department
- Richard is also looking ahead to upcoming budgetary statements and the concern of cuts (beyond the de-facto funding reduction that are flat cash settlements in an inflationary environment)
- Partners to keep an eye on any informal review of ELMs
- Partnership consensus that individual Partners can and should lobby expressing their view, but not a collective Partnership response – the Partnership should be largely neutral and Plan focused. A coalition of the willing (sub-set of Partners) has clearly already made its views clear, and will also be useful if the cuts agenda emerges
- Important to see how ELMs evolves, as it is very new compared to BPS (and a slow process). Risk of farmers just going back to production if ELMs not attractive
- Important for FFNC and PCG to have watching brief and oversight of ELMs developments

5. Close & AOB (Chair)

The Chair thanked Partners for strong session which had covered a lot business, and a look at a new approach for working together on challenging topics. He thanked the contributors and ask for any other business:

Chris Kaighin – asked the Partnership to note the declaration of Wild Ennerdale as a National Nature Reserve, which was due on 14th November.

Business Task Force – the Chair noted this was Mike Turner’s last meeting as BTF Chair, with him due to stand down at the next BTF meeting in January. He thanked Mike for his commitment to the Partnership during his tenure, which had covered a tumultuous time for businesses during the pandemic. He also recognised the position of BTF Chair was that of a volunteer, and thanked Mike for his role as a conduit between the Partnership and the Lake District business communities during the development of the Management Plan.

Keith Ashcroft – announced this would be his penultimate LDNPP meeting as he is retiring from the EA. He spoke about the value of the Partnership, and that he was proud he had been able to contribute to the Cumbria River Restoration Project. He felt a future agenda of the Partnership should focus on the Love Windermere Partnership.

The FBA offered its premises for a future Partnership meeting if applicable.

REMINDER: Next Partnership Meeting: **8th February 9.30am**

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)