



**Meeting of the Lake District National Park Partnership
Wednesday 5th November 2025 at 10:00-15:00 – Skelsmergh Community Hall**

APPROVED MINUTES

Partner Name	Organisation	Apologies received
Celia Caulcott	Independent Chair	
	ACT	Lorrianne Smyth Fran Richardson
Peter Frost-Pennington	Business Task Force	
Sally Lansbury	Cumberland Council	Michael Barry
Mary Bradley	Cumbria Association of Local Councils	Sonia Hutchinson Rachel Kelly
	Country Land & Business Association	Robert Frewen Harriet Ranson
	Cumbria & Lakes Local Access Forum	Carole Barr
Gill Haigh	Cumbria Tourism	
Steve Trotter	Cumbria Wildlife Trust	
Isobel Brown	Enterprising Cumbria	Jen Cormack
Ellyse Mather	Environment Agency	Carol Holt
Kevin May	Forestry Commission/Forestry England	Keith Jones Mark Holroyd Jake Thompson
Simon Johnson	Fresh Water Biological Association	
Mike Hill	Friends of the Lake District	
Kristof Fatsar Catherine Dewar	Historic England	
Sarah Swindley	Lake District Foundation	Keith Ashcroft
Steve Ratcliffe Gavin Capstick Rob Allison Phil Drane Chloe Swift Alice Collier Hanna Latty Tim Duckmanton Tiffany Hunt Peter Walter	LDNPA LDNPA Member LDNPA Member	
Veronica Fiorato Adrian Anderson	LDNPP	
Kerry Rennie	Natural England	
Jez Westgarth	National Trust	
	National Farmers Union	David Hall

James Archer	RSPB	
Jodie Mills	West Cumbria Rivers Trust	
Judith Derbyshire Hannah Girvan	Westmorland and Furness Council	Angela Jones
Kate Stark	United Utilities	
Helen Manns	University of Cumbria	

Observers	Organisation	Apologies received
	Woodland Trust	Pete Leeson
Jody Ferguson	Local Nature Partnership	

1. Welcome (Chair)

The Chair briefly welcomed attendees to Skelsmergh Community Hall and outlined the agenda

2. Enterprising Cumbria (Isobel Brown, EC) – see slides

Isobel gave an overview of the work of **Enterprising Cumbria** (which became a Partner in 2025), including the 'Going for Growth' strategy and the Strategy Delivery Plans. It was noted that several LDNPP Partners are on the EC growth board, which is positive for the economic elements of the LDNPP Plan.

The strategy is closely linked to the mayoral devolution plans in Cumbria, and also focuses on the skills challenge in the county (Get Cumbria Working/Connect to Work) and how to engage young people. Delivery plans are designed to be cross-cutting and will also consider themes such as net-zero, natural environment and natural capital.

Partners were encouraged to email Isobel directly to explore how they could become more directly involved, and to determine how funds could be connected to employers.

ACTION: Adrian to share Isobel's slides and email address with Partners
(COMPLETE)

3. Devolution Update (Veronica Fiorato, Partnership Manager)

Veronica introduced the item and then handed over to Isobel who had kindly offered to update given her engagement with devolution. Isobel gave an update on the recent consent for the Cumbria Combined Authority (CCA - Mayoral), with a statutory instrument to be laid before Parliament in February/March 2026. Enterprising Cumbria will transfer into the remit of the Mayoral Area via a Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) - TUPE - arrangement). It is currently unknown when candidates for the Mayoralty will emerge.

The National Park is clearly an important part of the county, and the Partnership will want to think how it can influence the plans of the CCA. It will keep a watching brief on developments.

4. Minutes of the previous meetings – 26th September & 21st October (Chair)

Both sets (due to the extraordinary Transport meeting on 21st Oct) were approved by Partners with no amendments.

5. Chair's announcements (Chair)

The Chair thanked Partners for their continued generous engagement on Plan development, whilst continuing to deliver the existing Plan in parallel.

The Chair noted the **2024/5 LDNPP Annual Report** will be shared with Partners for any further comments and then published online (without significant promotion due to predominance of Plan work and messaging at the moment – the Plan is the highest priority).

ACTION: Share Annual Report for final comments (COMPLETE).

Break

6. Objective I transport (paper) – (Chair and Steve Ratcliffe, LDNPA)

(see paper)

Steve gave an overview of the recent Partnership vote and process (which was narrowly a simple majority in favour) on amending Objective I in the draft Partnership Plan related to transport (see paper for background and wording). The Partnership has subsequently worked with Partners to ensure this wording change be re-drafted to also align with the targets in the Destination Management Plan (which is also a Partnership effort) and, critically, could be supported by both councils as transport authorities.

Friends of the Lake District were concerned that the new wording was still not 'transformational' enough and that the new plan 'risked going backwards' on this subject. The Chair recognised this as a potential concern but wanted to ensure the Partnership has the time and space to work out what transformational really means for residents, workers and visitors in the park. The proposed wording is still a significant target.

A majority of Partners agreed the revised wording for Objective I was an improvement on that voted on recently. The Partnership will re-visit the topic at future meetings for further discussion.

DECISION: Partners agreed to the inclusion of the revised additional wording to Objective I.

7. Discussing the draft Plan for public consultation (paper) – (Chair)

Partners were reminded of the process that has been undertaken this year, and the timescale of the new Partnership Plan. There will be press and media engagement, a series of public facing 'roadshow' events (more detail TBC) and materials that Partners can use to promote the consultation. The Chair asked if there was any reason why the draft Plan could not go out to public consultation and no dissent was noted. The Chair asked for her personal thanks to be noted to all Partners for helping develop the draft Plan over the last year.

Following a question Veronica gave some more detail on the next steps and timescales (including infographics, printed, consultation web survey, likely 'go live' date (hopefully in November)). Veronica also outlined the various audiences for the draft Plan, with the consultation open to all, but with the Partnership continuing its focus on youth engagement. The consultation survey captures the details and demographics of responders. Further details on how it is proposed that responses to the consultation are analysed and 'weighted' will be shared with Partners at a later stage. Westmorland & Furness Council offered to share learning from the LNRS public consultation.

ACTION: Veronica to follow up with Hannah Girvan and colleagues (COMPLETE)

Partners are encouraged to submit organisational, and personal responses, to the consultation. The Chair clarified that Partners do not have to defend everything in the Plan at this draft stage, but are asked to defend the process that got us to this point.

DECISION: Partners approved the LDNPP Draft Plan to go out to public consultation

ACTION: Partners to be sent details of the consultation including weblinks and resources, to encourage and promote engagement.

8. Action Plan Workshop (part 1) - (Veronica Fiorato, Partnership Manager)

Partners were asked to add any further ideas for actions for each Objective (which had been stuck on sheets around the hall). Veronica noted that the current plan has a near unmanageable 70+ actions and work now would be towards having a more streamlined, honed down set of actions for the new Plan (for the first two years).

This workshop is a quick gap analysis and prioritisation exercise (also see slide for details).

9. Action Plan Workshop (part 2) - (Veronica Fiorato, Partnership Manager)

(note all workshop sheet output has been captured and photographed and is available to Partners on request)

Partners came back together to discuss the two most popular action ideas per Objective. Each facilitator/Partner made a case for their chosen actions for their Objective and then Partners indicated their level of 'gut reaction' support using coloured cards (red against – needs further discussion, amber - maybe, green - for).

Heritage

1. Baseline of data

- Need to know more about cultural landscape
- Field boundaries and barns
- WHS attributes
- Landscape features
- Citizen science projects/volunteering work
- Valley level understanding

- Restoration of heritage assets
- Importance of interconnectedness of actions (especially for landscape recovery)

VOTE: GREEN

2. Skills Audit/heritage/craft register

- Encourage development
- Needs focus (but Partnership can't lead?)
- Resource challenge
- How can Partners add value/move the dial?
- Covered elsewhere?

VOTE: GREEN/AMBER

Water

1. Supporting and resourcing lake restoration and species recovery programmes in priority locations and linked to landscape recovery

- Connectivity and bigger picture
- Wider eco-system approach to nature recovery
- Rivers as well as lakes

VOTE: GREEN/AMBER

2. Mitigating the effects of floods and droughts

- Integrated water management
- Pilot? SMART and achievable
- EA River basin plans guide catchment and interventions and collective value of Partner efforts
- Partnership needs to reflect the ecological emergency in the National Park
- Bold action required
- Monitoring challenge
- What do Partners have the power to do as a Partnership?

VOTE: GREEN/AMBER

Climate

1. Reduce agricultural emissions (greenhouse gases)

- Determine what this means (livestock, machinery, power, fertiliser?)
- Don't want parallel process with Zero Carbon Cumbria
- Needs more refining to be specific to Partnership – not clear what the action is?
- Focus on bigger hitters – transport?

VOTE: AMBER/RED

2. Retrofit buildings/embedded carbon/construction skills

- Cross cutting skills action?
- How to make nature positive?
- Resilience for future
- Is this a priority?
- Where will this sit under devolution?

ACTION: Future conversation needed to clarify questions?

Community and Economy - Diverse and thriving communities, year-round jobs, live and work in beautiful surroundings

1. Social housing need - bring forward housing allocations working with rural housing enabler
 - Case studies highlighting success
 - Supporting cultural scene
 - Focus on families and young people
 - Innovative and regenerative
 - Digital interactions
 - Importance of understandable language – story mapping? – and managing comms with communities (Windermere Gateway?)

VOTE: GREEN/AMBER

2. Strategic Visitor Management Group (SVMG) – education and responsible visiting
 - Enormous challenge, not a small action
 - 2-year plan to ask SVMG to work through practical action
 - Re-brand challenge of Countryside Code
 - Destination Management Plan links
 - Coordinated approach across Partners
 - Preventative measures
 - Media and information challenge – which platforms?
 - Single project on visitor behaviour (SVMG coordinated) then Partner enforcement?
 - Challenge of urban populations – education so far does not seem to have changed some behaviours?

VOTE: RED (task is enormous, greater than just Partnership)

Farming

1. Collaboration/coordination of farm advisers, knowledge exchange and best practical farm advice
 - Develop a better network of farm advisers
 - Identify funding
 - Underpinning action that enables other actions
 - Challenge of land managers being ‘told what to do’ (need to work *with*)
 - Change in farm support payments, Defra and RPA challenge

VOTE: GREEN

2. Develop action plan for connecting consumers with local, sustainable food

- Already in DMP?
- Need something beyond this?

VOTE: AMBER

Partners ran out of time to discuss actions for all of the Objectives, but it was acknowledged that there had been some very useful conversations at this meeting.

ACTION: Discussions (on actions) to continue at a future meeting, following further consideration by the Plan drafting team.

10. AOB

REMINDER: Next Partnership Meeting: tbc (late January/early February 2026) Agenda and papers to follow.

Further dates will be set through 2026 to make sure Partners can continue to develop the Plan. There were also a number of big topics that Partners felt should be covered over the coming months, including but not limited to:

- North West River Catchment Plans (Ellyse Mather to confirm when would be the time to do this)
- Skills and training
- Sustainable Transport
- Societal behavioural issues and how this impacts national parks
- Site visits
- Coastal areas of the National Park (including related road and rail routes)

ACTION: The Chair committed to publishing the Funding Options for Sustainable Transport Report (Task and Finish Group) on the Partnership webpages once the Plan consultation has been launched.

The Chair encouraged Partners to support the public consultation and spread the word across their networks once it goes live, and also to let the Partnership Team know if they would like to help with roadshow events (the emerging timetable will be shared).

The Chair thanked Partners for a productive meeting and workshop sessions.

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