



**Meeting of the Lake District National Park Partnership
 Wednesday, 5 October 2016 at 9.30 a.m.
 at the Low Wood Bay Hotel, Windermere, LA23 1LP**

DRAFT MINUTES

Name	Organisation	Apologies received
Lord Clark, Chairman		
Steve Ratcliffe Liam McAleese Liz Davey Eric Barker Fleur Gilchrist	LDNPA Secretariat	
Mike McKinley Richard Leafe Kerry Powell	LDNPA	
Haydn Spedding	Cumbria Tourism	Eric Robson Ian Stephens
Mike Innerdale David Thornton	National Trust	
David Hall	National Farmers Union	
Helen Kirkby	Natural England	Simon Humphries
Karen Johnson Doug Coyle	Cumbria County Council	
Andrea Hines	Allerdale Borough Council	Bill Jefferson
	Copeland Borough Council	Keith Hitchen Sarah Mitchell
Jonathan Brook David Sykes	South Lakeland District Council	
Anne Powell Graham Jackson-Pitt	Cumbria Wildlife Trust	
	Cumbria LEP	
Dorothy Fairbairn Mark Southern	Country Land & Business Association	
	ACT	Lorraine Smyth
Jez Westgarth Louise Merritt	Environment Agency	
	FLD	Douglas Chalmers
Kevin May	Forestry Commission	Keith Jones
Cllr John Thompson Matthew Neal	Eden District Council	Gordon Nicolson
	Historic England	Karl Creaser
Leslie Johnson	CALC	Samantha Bagshaw
Gill Houston	Nurture Lakeland	
Kevin Sayers	United Utilities	John Hilton
Carole Barr	Local Access Forum	
Bill Kenmir Anna Cucknell	RSPB	Cheryl Nicholson
Nigel Wilkinson	Business Task Force	
Sandra Booth	University of Cumbria	

Observers		
Jim Ratcliffe	Environment Agency	Item 5
Andrew Coleman	National Trust	Item 6
Roger Sweeting	Freshwater Biological Association (FBA)	
Bill Coupe	Freshwater Biological Association (FBA)	
Andrew Herbert	LDNPA	Item 6
Jo Spencer	Eden Rivers Trust	
Jodie Mills	West Cumbria Rivers Trust	
Observers - apologies		
Alistair Maltby	The Rivers Trust	

Welcome, introduction and apologies

Lord Clark welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies to be noted in the minutes (see pages 1 and 2). This Partnership session focussed on:

- Cumbria Floods Partnership,
- winter readiness
- pilot communities
- Defra’s new 25 year Environment Plan with workshop session
- Sustainable Land Management Tool
- Developing a new Farming Task Force and
- The Partnership’s approach post-Brexit on UK agricultural and rural development policy

5. Cumbria Floods Partnership – Environment Agency

Jim Ratcliffe, Eden Catchment Director at EA provided an update on the pilot aspects of the Cumbria Floods Partnership (CFP), particularly in Glenridding, preparation for winter readiness linked to infrastructure and funding available. CFP’s plan contains over 100 actions, forming an integrated management plan for Cumbria not just in terms of flood management but other catchment planning. Pilot areas include Braithwaite, Patterdale including Glenridding, Staveley, Kent and Leven with community involvement and buy in on flooding and their future ability to reduce flood risks. In Glenridding there were significant community initiatives long before the CFP was ever conceived or a Partnership. CFP’s work ties in with community initiatives, task groups, maintenance programmes, upstream management, flood defences for properties and resilience grants. The overall aim is to reduce flood risk to the communities, increase flood resilience and share our learning with others.

The Pioneer project supports connecting people with their environment, providing data and tools, with a joined up and integrated approach to delivery, together with a general willingness and agreement to make progress.

Defra’s new 25 Year Environment Plan

Jez Westgarth reported on the framework for Defra’s new 25 year Environment Plan and the Cumbria Catchment Pioneer project. The Partnership’s AGM on 4 October 2016 noted the need for collaboration, how we work as Partners rather than what we do as individual organisations, developing a common view at strategic level both for the Partnership and our respective organisations. The heart of the plan is to ensure that in 25 years’ time our country will be the healthiest and most beautiful place to live, work, bring up a family. That is an important shift focussing on the environment in a way that benefits communities and social welfare.

The six pillars of Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan framework are:

- Providing data and tools
- Connecting people with the environment
- Delivering locally
- Delivering globally
- Incentivising and financing improvements and
- Designing an effective regulatory framework

The four aims of the Pioneer are:

1. Test new tools and methods as part of applying a natural capital approach in practice; eg how we value those assets and use them with 16.4 million visitors per annum
2. Demonstrate a joined-up, integrated approach to delivery;
3. Pioneer and 'scale-up' the use of new funding opportunities; eg visitor giving and
4. Grow our understanding of 'what works', sharing lessons and best practice.

Cumbria will form the catchment part of the Pioneer project and three other projects will focus on landscape, urban and marine in different locations in England. The Pioneer approach has gained traction in Cumbria, with four priorities forming objectives under the 25 year Environment Plan:

1. Connecting people with their environment
2. Providing data and tools
3. Incentivising and financing improvements and
4. Integration of delivery

David Sykes supported the Pioneer project, suggesting linking this to DCMS and CLG with links to cultural and heritage landscape. Jez Westgarth agreed noting this has been pointed out to Defra. Roger Sweeting and Lord Clark noted that knowledge has real power but it is often difficult to capture that information so that lessons learned from the past can be used as the key to the future. Jez Westgarth and Bill Coupe advised that Defra have set up a new environmental analysis unit, with a Data Manager, Sophie Oliver, to support the importance of data management and ensuring it is available by bringing in local academic and independent information. Michelle Donoghue from the Environment Agency is involved with this.

Jez Westgarth asked for the Partnership's views on governance for Pioneer. The Partnership noted that what it intended to achieve has not changed, what changes is the context not what we deliver, which we know already works. Jez Westgarth pointed out that part of the secondment of Liz Davey and Eric Barker to the Partnership team is to ensure that information is shared through integrated delivery and how our organisations work together.

Lord Clark thanked Jez Westgarth for his presentation and the Partnership's contribution to the discussion. A copy of the feedback session on the aims of the Cumbria Pioneer will be sent to Partners.

6. Sustainable Land Management Tool

Andrew Coleman of the National Trust presented an update on the SLMT. There is increased interest and awareness of the role of the upland landscapes and their importance in a range of functions eg food, flood protection, water cycling, a place for nature, carbon storage and recreation. This has highlighted a need to understand what the land can deliver given the depth and complexity of landscape but how this knowledge can be used by planners, policy makers, managers and communities to make more informed decisions about future land use.

Responding to changes taking place in the Lake District including:

- concerns about water quality in many of our rivers and lakes (and the need to develop Catchment Management Plans driven by the Water Framework Directive)
- erosion of soils and loss of sediments from the land
- the poor condition of many of our priority habitats, their isolation and the lack of biodiversity given the size and scale of the Lake District
- the impacts of climate change and recent devastating flood events
- Brexit and what this means for the future of farming and agri environment support and what public goods we want to see provided in the future

Working with Partners at a landscape scale is critical to effect many of the changes presented by these challenges where there is a shared interest in this and other projects such as the WHS inscription process, valley planning, to develop valley scale sustainable management plans. The National Trust is using the SLM mapping tool to test the land function at Esthwaite and Blawith Tarn. The Slow the Flow project is identifying where to plant trees in these two sub catchments in the Hawkshead area. The SLMT is to be rolled out in January 2017 across the major valleys and a further update will be provided in December 2016.

Dorothy Fairbairn asked if priority habitats are well connected eg do they show what is an improved grass field, how the land is used, both landscape scale and field scale? Mike Innerdale said that it was important to use the knowledge of farmers and tenants, to find out what is important to them to form part of the model process. Andrew Coleman explained this knowledge is linked to a series of prompts in the model and this forms part of the test stage to those directly affected in the management process. Jim Ratcliffe enquired if there is any conflict between the different land functions. Andrew Coleman said that further modelling has included winds, good water function with biodiversity. The National Trust has offered to share the information with the Environment Agency, mindful that EA are working on natural flood risk management and the SLMT can be used as a complimentary tool. The SLMT is similar to natural capital accounting but uses different language. The National Trust will be hosting a meeting with Partners to provide a fuller insight into the testing and how the SLMT project can be taken forward.

Lord Clark thanked Andrew Coleman for his presentation.

Developing a new Farming Task Force:

Liam McAleese reported he had contacted several Partners to discuss refreshing the Farming and Forestry Task Force. Feedback indicates that a more effective way of working is required and Viv Lewis and Jenny Willis are working with farming communities to help develop this initiative and to learn from other sub groups eg BTF how they have engaged with the business community. **Action: Partnership to be kept up to date on this.**

Developing the Partnership's approach on a post-Brexit UK agricultural and rural development policy:

Liam McAleese noted that Brexit is a major threat and risk to the Lake District but also an opportunity to do things differently and this is reflected in the Partnership Plan. LDNPA are working with the National Park family to brief Defra providing evidence through the landscape scale management tool and Pioneer projects.

Andrew Herbert referred to the papers produced post-Brexit by a number of organisations including the Tenant Farmers Association, CPRE, NT, NFU and the Natural Capital Committee. Most papers focus on public payments or support for

public benefits eg through Pioneer and the Environment Plan. But the key role cultural, social and economic role of farming was recognised by some.

Liam McAleese asked Partners for their observations, noting what is currently agreed in the Partnership Plan, and wished to take forward. Dorothy Fairbairn asked if the Partnership can continue support in the uplands for hill farming and hill land use management in the future when we are competing against the NHS etc without articulating the benefits of that. Bill Kenmir suggested using initiatives such as UU's SCAMP, RSPB/UU work at Haweswater catchment which managed the carbon footprint. Jez Westgarth said that whilst Partners may not necessarily agree, there is clarity around the geographical support the Pioneer project provided an opportunity to listen to a range of perspectives to inform future debate. David Hall stressed there was a need to agree common and key principles, sharing concerns around upland farming, areas designated for Less Favoured Areas (LFA) and consider the funding needs together not just biodiversity but food and farming. **Action: LDNPA to work with Partners to develop Lake District approach on post-Brexit rural and farming policy.**

7. Closing Remarks

Lord Clark thanked the Partnership for their contribution at the AGM, the previous day, and this meeting, which provided a good opportunity to celebrate the Partnership's first 10 years.

Lord Clark noted the next Partnership meeting on 5 December 2016 to be hosted by UU, with details to follow.