

## FARMING AND FORESTRY TASK FORCE

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Partnership's Farming and Forestry Task Force met on 4 June 2014. The notes of the meeting are attached to this report.

<b><i>Recommendation that the Partnership:</i></b>	<b><i>a Notes the notes of the Farming and Forestry Task Force on 4 June 2014.</i></b>
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### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In September 2010, the Lake District National Park Partnership's Plan included an action to set up a Farming and Forestry Task Force. Its purpose is for key National Park Partnership partners to work with the farming and forestry industry to:
- maximise the economic, social and environmental sustainability of farming, forestry and woodland management;
  - identify farming and forestry-related opportunities and resolve problems; and
  - inform National Park policy development.
- 2.2 The Task Force met on 4 June 2014. Key issues discussed included:
- Reviewing the Partnership's Plan.
  - How the Task Force works.
- 2.3 The notes of the meeting and a record of attendees are at Annex 1.

Background Papers	None
Author/Post	Andrew Herbert, Head of Environment and Heritage, Lake District National Park Authority
Date Written	13 June 2014



## LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP FARMING AND FORESTRY TASK FORCE

### Notes of the twelfth meeting of the Task Force on 4 June 2014

#### 1. Introduction/welcome

See Annex 1 for list of attendees and apologies.

Steve Ratcliffe, LDNPA, welcomed members to the meeting. Steve welcomed Peter Allen, a new LDNPA member, as an observer to this meeting. Steve welcomed back John Fryer Spedding to the Task Force after a long absence.

#### 2. Notes of meeting on 26 February 2014 and matters arising

The notes of the last meeting were received. Under Item 1, Steve Ratcliffe informed the group that the LDNPA had received no nominations for Chair of the Task Force. Steve proposed that the LDNPA would be willing to continue to Chair the Task Force until June 2015, when the Partnership would review its governance arrangements, including its sub-groups. The Task Force agreed with this proposal.

Under Item 2, Andrew Herbert reported that the action from the last meeting, for a small sub-group to review the Newcastle University report and recommend next steps, had not been done. He advised the group that it was still relevant particularly in relation to the Partnership Plan review and the development of the Partnership's new strategies and actions. The Task Force agreed. Andrew reported that the **final version of the report** was now on the LDNPA website and asked partners to also make it available on their websites.

Under Item 4 Andrew Herbert reported that the Task Force's comments on the case for increasing the moorland rate of the Single Farm Payment were sent to Defra in March. Defra published its decision in April that the moorland rate is increased. The Task Force welcomed Defra's decision.

Also under Item 4 Andrew reported that David Hunter's Defra North West team is planning to run an event, in July, to improve engagement between the LEP and rural stakeholders.

Under Item 5 Andrew Herbert reported that the final report on the RSPB-led Payments for Ecosystem Services project will be completed soon and will be circulated

Under Item 6 Steve Ratcliffe reported that the proposal for an economic working group for the World Heritage bid has been superseded by the "Cultural Destinations" partners group which is developing a strategy for capitalising on the economic opportunities from the World Heritage bid from international visitors.

**Action: Andrew Herbert to arrange for a small sub-group of the Task Force to review the Newcastle University farming report for conclusions and next steps.**

**Action: Andrew Herbert to inform the Task Force of the Defra LEP event.**

**Action: Andrew Herbert to circulate the RSPB-led Payments for Ecosystem Services project final report to the Task Force, when published.**

### **3. Reviewing the Partnership's Plan: The Management Plan for the National Park**

Andrew Herbert reminded the group of the Partnership's decision to produce a single management plan for the Lake District as both a National Park and a World Heritage Site.

Andrew drew the Task Force's attention to the draft Special Qualities for the Lake District. These were an integration of the National Park's Special Qualities and the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage status. There was one question on Special Quality 4 questioning the evidence for the assertion that the Lake District has the largest concentration of common land in Western Europe. Andrew agreed to check the evidence for this.

Andrew then explained the work that the Partnership has done to date to develop its new strategic approaches to the key issues in the Lake District, which would form part of the new Partnership's Plan. The Task Force then had a detailed discussion on five of the key areas of strategy of relevance to farming and forestry: Business support; skills; profitable land businesses; local food and drink; woodland management and establishment.

Andrew agreed to collate the comments of the Task Force and feed them into the development of the strategic approaches.

**Action: Andrew Herbert to collate comments and feed into Partnership Plan review process.**

### **4. How this Task Force works**

Andrew Herbert explained that he had met with Carl Walters and Will Rawling to review how the Task Force was engaging with farmers in the National Park. The conclusion was that the Task Force was working well in influencing the Partnership with good engagement of farming and forestry representatives. But in its current format the Task force was not directly engaging with farmers and foresters in the National Park. Andrew proposed that to start to engage directly with farmers and foresters would need a different approach to the Task Force's formal meetings. He proposed that once or twice a year the Task Force hold a meeting in a different area of the National Park and invite the farmers and foresters in that area. The agenda could be informal and would need to be based on something that would attract attendance. But the agenda should also allow for the Task Force to listen to whatever the local farmers and foresters wanted to talk about. The Task Force agreed with this proposal and discussed this and other opportunities for improving communications with farmers and foresters.

**Action: Andrew Herbert to convene a Task Force local meeting in the autumn.**

#### **Items for information/update:**

### **5. Priority Actions for Farming and Forestry the Lake District National Park Partnership's Plan – report on progress**

Andrew Herbert proposed that because of the time taken for the important discussions in items 3 and 4, he could simply send the Task Force a copy of the

action monitoring report that is being produced for the June Partnership meeting. The Task Force agreed.

**Action: Andrew to circulate Partnership Plan action monitoring report.**

**6. Update on RDPE**

- Environmental Land Management Scheme – Simon Humphries.

Simon briefed the group on the latest information on the new Environmental Land Management Scheme under new Rural Development Programme for England 2015-2020. The Task Force discussed the potential challenges and opportunities that the new scheme offers in the National Park.

- LEADER – Andrew Herbert.

Andrew briefed the Task Force on the development of a new LEADER programme in Cumbria. Andrew encouraged the Task Force to participate in the online consultation at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/businessneeds2014>

- Local Enterprise Partnership – Steve Ratcliffe.

Steve briefed the Task Force on the work of the LEP and how the rural agenda was being promoted with the LEP.

1. Farming and Forestry Productivity Scheme  
No information on this Defra scheme.

**7. Suggested matters for future meetings**

Not discussed.

**8. Dates of next meeting:**

Current scheduled meeting: Wednesday 8 October 2014.

Draft agenda

- (a) Reviewing the Partnership's Plan
- (b) Priority Actions for Farming and Forestry the Lake District National Park Partnership's Plan – report on progress

LDNP Partnership meeting dates in 2014 are: 23 June, 22 September and 1 December 2014.

Lake District Farming and Forestry Task Force: 4 June 2014 (at LDNPA, Murley Moss)

**Attending: (19)**

Julia Aglionby	Foundation for Common Land
Peter Allen	LDNPA
Jane Barker	LDNPA
Jim Bland	LDNPA
Everley Buckley	CLA
Dorothy Fairbairn	CLA
John Fryer Spedding	Mirehouse
Helen Forrester	NFU
Andrew Herbert	LDNPA
Simon Humphries	Natural England
Ian Jack	Lowther Estates
Neil Johnson	National Trust
Wes Johnson	Newton Rigg
Douglas Phillips	National Centre for the Uplands
Edward Mills	Consultant
Steve Ratcliffe	LDNPA
Will Rawling	Cumbria Farmers Network
John Stalker	Environment Agency
Carl Walters	Federation of Cumbria Commoners

**Apologies: (7)**

Matt Bagley	Newton Rigg
Chris Brown	Deepdale Hall
Will Cockbain	NFU
Mark Eccles	LDNPA
Neville Elstone	Cumbria Woodlands
Doug Howieson	Forestry Commission
Keith Jones	Forestry Commission