

2017 Landscape Trust Weekend Seminar

Conservation Stories from the Arnside & Silverdale AONB

LECTURES – Sat May 6th **FIELD TRIPS** - May 5th - 7th **EXHIBITION** - Sat 1415-1800 Sun 1100-1700

VENUE for Lectures and Exhibition - Arnside Educational Institute, Church Hill, Arnside LA5 0DF. The lecture hall in this well located, community run, venue can accommodate 100 people and has excellent audio-visual facilities.

FORMAT – this seminar forms part of a series of annual educational events organised by the Landscape Trust, a charity with 1000 members who support the work of the Arnside & Silverdale AONB. Previous seminars, held at the Arnside EI, have studied the Kent Estuary (June 2012), Ecology (May 2013), Landscape History (May 2014), Rocks and Soils (May 2015) and Mapping & Photography (May 2016). The format of the event includes short lectures, several field trips and an exhibition, a combination that has proved extremely popular with previous attendees.

PLAN – The weekend will bring together a group of distinguished speakers to deliver short educational talks on the history and practice of conservation in the AONB and nearby. The field trip leaders will then use some of the wonderful local sites to explore these topics further and to show you the best of the area's landscapes, geology, flora, fauna and history.

WHO IS THIS SEMINAR FOR? The content will not be too technical and is aimed at anyone keen to learn more about the history, ecology, geology and conservation of the finest reserves in the AONB. The four key sites are nationally important and will feature in both the lectures and field trips. Beginners and experts are equally welcome.

FREE EXHIBITION ICONIC LANDSCAPES OF THE AONB – Open Saturday 2.15pm – 6 pm and Sunday 11am – 5 pm.

Expect to see stunning landscape photos with interesting educational displays about Gait Barrows, Arnside Knott, Leighton Moss and Trowbarrow quarry and other important sites. Local bodies involved in conservation, such as the AONB, Landscape Trust, National Trust, Natural England, RSPB, Barnes Trust and Cumbria Wildlife Trust will also provide displays about their work.

Organiser/Chair – Peter Standing, Fell End, Storth, LA7 7LJ Telephone 015395 63112 peterstanding@btinternet.com

Lecture Programme

| Time | LECTURES | SATURDAY MAY 6 TH 2017 MORNING | 9.30AM - 1PM |
|------|---|---|------------------|
| 0900 | Doors open for registration | | |
| 0930 | Introduction | | Peter Standing |
| 0935 | Conservation - from National Parks to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty | | Ian Brodie |
| 1005 | Geoconservation | | Cynthia Burek |
| 1035 | Natural England – Gait Barrows, Hawes Water and nearby sites | | Rob Petley-Jones |
| 1105 | <i>Coffee (downstairs)</i> | | |
| 1135 | The National Trust in Arnside & Silverdale; Conservation Grazing; Trees | | Bill Grayson |
| 1205 | The Story of Leighton Moss and the RSPB | | John Wilson |
| 1235 | Conservation of manmade features from Kilns to Country Houses | | Peter Standing |
| 1300 | Lunch Break | | |

Field Trips - These will complement the lecture programme with experiential small group learning.

| FRIDAY MAY 5 th to SUNDAY 7 th | | | FIELD TRIPS | Places | Leader |
|--|----------|-------------|---------------|--------|--|
| CFT1 | FRIDAY | 1400 - 1700 | Gait Barrows | 30 | Rob Petley-Jones, Cynthia Burek & Peter Standing |
| CFT2 | SATURDAY | 1415 - 1700 | Arnside Knott | 30 | Craig McCoy (NT warden) and Bill Grayson |
| CFT3 | SUNDAY | 0900 - 1200 | Leighton Moss | 30 | Jarrold Sneyd and RSPB team |
| CFT4 | SUNDAY | 1330 - 1600 | Trowbarrow | 30 | Brian Jones, Peter Standing and others |



Ian Brodie was formerly director of the Friends of the Lake District and a tutor on the Lake District Studies masters course at Lancaster University. His work for the Lake District World Heritage Site bid led to the book *Thirlmere and the Emergence of the landscape conservation movement* (2012). Other publications include *Why National Parks?* (2013), *Norman Nicholson's Nature* (2015) and with his wife Krysia *Cumbria Coastal Way* (2002). His current voluntary work is largely for the Open Spaces Society, Ramblers, the National Trust and for Natural England at Gait Barrows. He and Krysia, monitor a few plant and dragonfly populations around Morecambe Bay. They live in Natland.

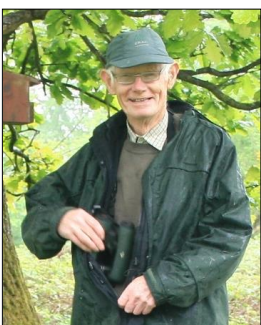
Cynthia Burek is the world's first professor of Geoconservation and is based at the University of Chester. She has published over 100 papers and given hundreds of talks and walks to society at all levels on geoconservation, how geodiversity underpins biodiversity, local geodiversity, soils and has research interests in grike micro-climates and limestone pavements. She is a champion of good science communication. She serves on several national committees to influence public policy on geoconservation, is a director of the GeoMon Geopark (Anglesey), deputy chair of Cheshire RIGS and was on the editorial board of the excellent free electronic magazine Earth Heritage www.earthheritage.org.uk



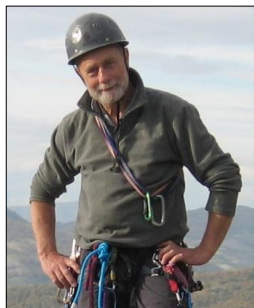
Bill Grayson has a PhD in grazing ecology but left academia to pursue a career combining nature conservation and livestock farming in 1986. He has been grazing nature reserves with cattle and sheep ever since, having managed reserves for the Gloucestershire and Somerset Wildlife Trusts before moving to Bank House Farm at Silverdale as tenants of the National Trust in 1992. Conservation grazing at that time was still in its infancy, and the new tenancy included responsibility for providing livestock to graze many of the Trust's limestone grassland reserves in the area after decades of abandonment. Over 25 years, Bill and Cath Grayson, built up a livestock system that provides specialist conservation grazing management for a number of conservation bodies on some 1100 ha of nature reserve around Morecambe Bay. He is an Honorary Researcher at Lancaster University and teaches grazing and sustainable livestock

systems. From 1999 till 2005 he helped to co-ordinate English Nature's *Grazing Animals Project*, which catalysed the development of conservation grazing initiatives throughout the UK.

Rob Petley-Jones is the Senior Reserves Manager for Natural England in South Cumbria and North Lancashire and has been managing limestone pavement National Nature Reserves in the area since 1992. These include Gait Barrows NNR, Clawthorpe Fell NNR and Great Asby Scar NNR. Although he was born and brought up in SW London, he has always had a passion for wildlife and wilderness and started his career in nature reserve management in 1978 as an RSPB Warden in Suffolk. He regards himself as a keen naturalist but has a preferred predilection for creatures with legs (any number), wings, scales and feathers, although orchids will do if none of these others are about!



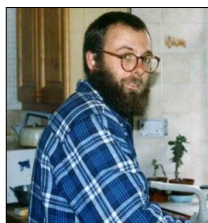
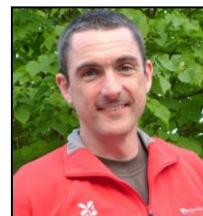
John Wilson BEM has studied wildlife and especially birds all his life. From being a farmer he became the first warden of Leighton Moss RSPB reserve in 1964 and over the next 35 years he saw the reserve extend from 400 acres to over 7000 acres. He considers his major achievement was the construction of the Allen and Eric Morecambe Pools now so rich in bird life. His main study has been on Bearded Tits since they colonised Leighton Moss in 1973 and he has published five papers on his research. His first book *Wildlife of the Arnside/Silverdale Area* was followed by *Birds of Morecambe Bay*. Since retiring he has jointly published three bird watching guides to Bowland, Morecambe Bay and Lakeland. John is president of the Landscape Trust and lives in Warton.



Peter Standing became interested in limestone as a schoolboy caver and studied speleology (and medicine) at the University of Bristol. He has discovered many new caves including the Iranian pothole **Ghar Parau**, the 8th deepest in the world. After retirement he read geography at Lancaster followed by a masters on Cumbrian landscapes. He has researched the geomorphology of local limestone pavements and published geotrail guides to Whitbarrow (2015), Beetham (2016) and Arnside (2017). Professor Ian Whyte inspired his interest in landscape history and the impact of man on local limestones. He has run educational events for the Landscape Trust since 2010 and this is the sixth weekend study seminar he has organised. He is a keen mountaineer and photographer and lives in Storth.

FIELD LEADERS at Conservation Study Weekend - In addition to Rob Petley-Jones, Cynthia Burek, Bill Grayson and Peter Standing other field leaders will include

Craig McCoy read Ecology and Environmental Management at Cardiff followed by a Masters on biodiversity and conservation at the University of Leeds. He worked for conservation organisations in some fascinating parts of the world including Madagascar, Borneo and Namibia before becoming a countryside Ranger for the National Trust 15 years ago. His first post was at the Marine Nature Reserve of Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland. In 2015, following the retirement of Alan Ferguson, he moved to Arnside and Silverdale.



Jarrod Sneyd first explored Leighton Moss at the age of 8, a visit inspired by his grandmother who was an RSPB life fellow. When he was 20 he spent 12 months as a residential volunteer at Leighton Moss (photo) and fell under the spell of John Wilson, later becoming an assistant warden from 1998-2005. After 10 years as RSPB site manager at the Coombes and Churnet Valley reserve in Staffordshire in 2015 he moved back as senior site manager for the Leighton Moss and Morecambe Bay RSPB reserve.

Tony Riden has worked for the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) as the Countryside Officer for the last 24 years and has been involved in managing Trowbarrow Local Nature Reserve since it was set up in 1997. Born locally in Morecambe, his first job was in teaching but his local knowledge of flora and fauna soon led him to work in nature conservation with Lancashire Wildlife Trust and then a BSc in ecology and environmental science with the Open University. His real passion is bird watching and he is an active member of the Lancaster and District Birdwatching Society.



Jim Turner has been the Local Nature Reserves Warden for Trowbarrow and Warton Crag for two years now. He also works for the Morecambe Bay Conservation Grazing Company. He took a road less travelled on his way into conservation work having studied English Literature and Environmental Philosophy; both provide interesting perspectives on his work. He is an occasional climber and more frequent fell runner.

Roger Cartwright trained as a forester and his book "**Wind on the Hills**" tells the story of this formative period in his life in Britain and Nyasaland (now Malawi). He has been a landscape architect and environmental consultant and devised the original plan for conserving Trowbarrow. He lives in Silverdale.



Brian Jones was a physics lecturer at Lancaster University and has a longstanding interest in local landscape history, including the origins of our quarries, mines, lime kilns, walls, footpaths and roads. He is a trustee of the Dry Stone Walling Association and lives in Carnforth.

Maurice Ellison is a former manager of several local quarries including Sandside, Whitbarrow and Trowbarrow. He has also served as a quarrying expert for Cumbria GeoConservation (formerly known as Cumbria RIGGS).

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| CFT1 | Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve |
| Date and Time | Friday May 5th 2017 START AT 2 PM Finish by 5 pm or earlier |
| Objectives | To learn about the conservation of Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve. To examine some of the fine karren features on the limestone pavements. To see the typical flora for the season. |
| Meeting Point and Parking | Meet at the Natural England private staff car park. To reach this turn off Coldwell Lane 130m east of the junction with the road leading south to Silverdale. There is a barrier at the start of a service track on the south side of the road at SD 4823 7778. Normally this barrier is locked but for the field trip it will be open for a limited number of cars to drive 400m along a mildly rough track to the car park next to the Gait Barrows maintenance building at SD 483 774. NB Do not confuse this staff car park with the better known members' car park opposite Coldwell Parrock. |
| Cyclists | Bicycles can be left at the meeting point. |
| Walkers | The Gait Barrows Purple Trail passes close to the meeting point. |
| Nature of Field Trip | Fairly level walking of up to 2 miles. Surefootedness walking on rough surfaces is required on the limestone pavements. |
| Leaders | Rob Petley-Jones works for Natural England and is in charge of conservation at Gait barrows and Hawes Water. Cynthia Burek is the Professor of Geoconservation at the University of Chester and has a special interest in limestone pavements. Peter Standing is a landscape geographer who has researched the geomorphology of limestone pavements at Gait Barrows and elsewhere. |
| Places & Booking | Maximum of 30 places which must be pre-booked |
| Health and Safety | To attend this field trip you must read the health and safety advice on page 5. |
| Preparation | Boots with good quality soles. In wet conditions some section of the pavements will still be accessible. Walking poles can be very useful in damp conditions. |

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| CFT2 | Arnside Knott |
| Date and Time | Saturday May 6th 2017 START AT 2.15 PM Finish by 5 pm or earlier |
| Objectives | To learn about the conservation of National Trust land on Arnside Knott To examine the environmental stewardship conservation scheme on heath land east of Copriding Wood. To explore woodland management and conservation grazing. To see the typical flora for the season |
| Meeting Point | Arnside Knott National Trust Car Park at the end of Knott Lane at SD 449 773. |
| Route | A circuit of up to 2 miles on established paths with ascents up to 100m. |
| Leaders | Craig McCoy is a National Trust warden with responsibility for Arnside Knott. Bill Grayson is a former National Trust warden and an ecologist with a special interest in grazing. |
| Places & Booking | Maximum of 30 places which must be pre-booked |
| Health and Safety | To attend this field trip you must read the health and safety advice on page 5. |
| Preparation | Bring binoculars, boots and waterproofs. |

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| CFT3 | RSPB Leighton Moss and Morecambe Bay Nature Reserve |
| Date and Time | Sunday May 7th 2017 START AT 9 AM Finish by midday |
| Objectives | To learn about the conservation at the Leighton Moss and Morecambe Bay RSPB nature reserve. Topics covered will include the management of reed beds, water levels, resident and migrant birds, nesting, deer, otters, eels and human visitors. |
| Admission Costs | Free to RSPB members and those who have travelled to the reserve by public transport or bike. Otherwise Adults £7, concessions £4.50, children £3.50. |
| Meeting Point | Assemble at The Holt. This is the lecture and meeting room round the back of the RSPB shop. |
| Cyclists and Cars | Bikes may be secured. Cars can use the Leighton Moss Car park. |
| Nature of Field Trip | After a short indoor introduction in the Holt, exploration of the reserve will involve fairly level walking of up to 2 miles. |
| Leader | Jarrod Sneyd senior site manager for Leighton Moss and Morecambe Bay RSPB reserve. |
| Places & Booking | Maximum of 30 places which must be pre-booked |
| Health and Safety | To attend this field trip you must read the health and safety advice on page 5. |
| Preparation | Bring binoculars, boots and waterproofs. |

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| CFT4 | Trowbarrow Quarry |
| Time | Sunday May 7th 2017 START 1.30 pm. Finish by 4 pm |
| Objectives | To learn about the geology of the site, the history of quarrying through to the birth of tarmacadam, the amazing conservation story when the quarry closed, rock climbing and natural history. |
| Meeting Point | Quarryman's Boulder in the centre of Trowbarrow Quarry at SD 4808 7580 |
| Cyclists | Check nearer the time about facilities for securing bicycles. |
| Parking | Limited at laybys on Storrs Lane at SD 4805 7536 and SD 4819 7561. The first offers access via the public footpath and the Karabiner Gate. The second gives a short path heading NNW through woodland to enter the southern margin of the quarry. |
| Public Transport | Lancaster and Barrow trains stop Silverdale, a 15 minute walk from the quarry. |
| Nature of field trip | Fairly level walking of about one mile, mostly on easy ground. There are one or two small areas of rough rocky surfaces where surefootedness is required. |
| Leaders | Tony Riden & Jim Turner (conservation and ecology), Maurice Ellison (quarrying techniques) Brian Jones (history of tarmacadam and the Hoffman Kiln), Peter Standing (geology and climbing) and Roger Cartwright (original conservation plan). |
| Places & Booking | Maximum of 30 places which must be pre-booked |
| Health and Safety | To attend this field trip you must read the health and safety advice on page 5. |
| Preparation | Bring stout footwear and waterproofs. Binoculars and a hand lens may be useful. |

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| HEALTH and SAFETY ASSESSMENT – LANDSCAPE TRUST FIELD TRIPS – May 5th 7th 2017 |
| A risk assessment has been carried out for these events. All outdoor field trips carry very small risks so it is important that you read the notes below and understand and accept these risks. |
| Although none of the walks involved are difficult, a modest level of physical fitness is desirable and participants should be confident walking over ground that can sometimes be uneven or muddy. Bare limestone can be slippery especially when wet and surefootedness is needed . |
| For all AONB walks it is important to be aware of the small risk of Lyme Disease and learn how to search for and safely remove ticks . A leaflet is available from the AONB Arnside Station Office. |
| Neither the Landscape Trust nor its officers, nor those leading events, nor the landowners can accept responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience however caused. |

Costs and Booking for Lectures and Field Trips

Places for the lectures must be booked and there is a charge of £6 for the whole morning.

Landscape Trust members who have booked the morning lectures may attend at least one field trip free.

For non-members who have booked the lectures there is an additional £5 charge for at least one field trip.

Providing there is space, it may be possible to attend more than one field trip without any extra payment.

Completed booking forms and payment can be left at or posted to the AONB office, the Old Station, Arnsdale LA5 0HG (Mark envelope CONSERVATION BOOKING).

Any cheques should be made payable to **The Arnsdale/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust.**

Booking Form Conservation Study Weekend - Arnsdale & Silverdale AONB

May 5th - 7th 2017, Arnsdale Educational Institute, Church Hill, Arnsdale

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| CONSERVATION SEMINAR BOOKING FORM | Booking confirmation and any final briefings will be by e-mail. For those without e-mail, confirmation will be by telephone. |
| Name (s) | |
| Address | |
| Telephone | |
| E-mail | |
| Are you a member of the Landscape Trust? | |
| Lecture Places required | |
| Field Trip Places – do you want to attend the field trips as well as the lectures? | |

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| I enclose payment forLecture Places at £6 per person Field Trip places - free for members; £5 non-members (per weekend not per trip). Since membership of the Landscape only costs £10 per year (or £15 per household) non-members may find it worthwhile to join the trust at the same time as booking. | TOTAL |
| FIELD TRIP PREFERENCES - if you would like to attend more than one field trip, please indicate your first, second and third choices. We will do our best to fit everyone in but occasionally this is not possible. | |
| Please make cheques payable to The Arnsdale/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust Please send or deliver your completed booking form and payment in an envelope marked Conservation Bookings, AONB Office, Old Station Building, Arnsdale, Cumbria LA5 0HG | |