



Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape

Executive Committee meeting

**2pm, 22nd May 2024
Arnside Educational Institute**

MINUTES

In Attendance

Cllr Brian Meakin (Chair), Beetham Parish Council
Cllr Helen Chaffey, Westmorland & Furness Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Keith Reed, Silverdale Parish Council
Cllr Sue Tyldesley, Lancaster City Council
Liz Cheslett-Davey, Environment Agency
Dan Taylor, National Trust
Jim Turner, Natural England
Jarrod Sneyd, RSPB
David Harpley, Cumbria Wildlife Trust
Simon Waller, CLA
Julian Oston, Landowner Rep – Dallam Tower Estate
Brian Jones, User Group Rep – Ramblers
Ann Kitchen, Business Rep - BCCIC
Adam Briggs, NFU

Tony Lund, Officer Rep – Lancashire County Council
Damian Law, Officer Rep – Westmorland & Furness Council

Lucy Barron, National Landscape Manager
Calum Booth, National Landscape Officer
Dougie Watson, Countryside Officer
Caroline Howard, Communications & Funding Officer
Isla Young, Service Support

Apologies

Cllr Kevin Briggs, Warton Parish Council
Cllr Angela Metcalfe, Yealand Conyers Parish Council
Cllr Steve Porter, Arnside Parish Council
Laura Partington, Friends of the Lake District

Sam Stalker, National Trust
Gemma Wren, Business Rep – Nature’s Gems Tours
Joan Jackson, NFU Representative
Mike Warren, Landscape Trust

Richard Camp, Officer Rep – Lancaster City Council
Rachel Whaley, Officer Rep – Westmorland & Furness Council

Helen Rawlinson, Countryside Officer
Belinda Barclay, Local Nature Reserves Warden
Tonia Armer, Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer
Richard Park, Farming in Protected Landscape Officer
Grace Holland, Growing Station Manager

Not in Attendance

Fiona Allan, Landscape Trust
Sarah Wilson, Natural England
Cllr Phillippa Williamson, Lancashire County Council
Cllr Mike Macklin, Yealand Redmayne Parish Council
Ailsa Gibson, User Group Rep – Bridleways Association

Libby Bateman, Circulation – CLA

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions

1.1. Welcome and introductions were given by Cllr Brian Meakin. Apologies were relayed by Caroline Howard.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 1st November 2023

2.1. Matters arising

At the last meeting nominations were requested for the Bittern Award. This was awarded to Steve Porter for all his efforts to engage the community in Arnside in the wildflower grassland.

We have commissioned new plaques for the award following the rebrand, including a new youth award.

2.2. Table of Actions from the last meeting

Action & Update	Allocated to	Deadline
Organise meeting re: coordination of biological recording - This is being progressed and will be taken forward by the new National Landscape Officer.	Lucy Barron	Mar 24
Circulate copy of the Planning Protocol - This was completed.	Lucy Barron	Nov 23
Follow up on progress on the Destination Management Plan. - This is ongoing.	Lucy Barron	Next Meeting

3. National updates

3.1. Lucy Barron gave an overview of changes/activities at a national scale.

3.1.1. On 23rd November 2023 AONBs across the UK became National Landscapes. The partnership has since implemented this rebrand locally, the new name is being used and the website has been updated with further implementation to come as we update branded materials. Following the rebrand we have seen an uplift in funding from Defra this year, which is a positive sign in terms of long-term funding. Legally the designation remains Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but in anything other than legal documentation we are using 'National Landscape'.

3.1.2. There has been a legislative change following the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act coming into force in 2023 – previously relevant authorities had a statutory duty to 'have regard to' the AONB purpose, but now the duty is to 'seek to further' the purpose of AONBs. This is a significant strengthening of the duty. Defra are due to produce further guidance on what this change means, giving local authorities and others information about how this should be implemented.

3.1.3. The Protected Landscapes Partnership has now been formed at a national level in response to the recommendation by the *National Landscapes Review* (Glover et al, 2019) of a National Landscapes Service. This partnership is formed of National Parks, Natural England, National Trails, National Landscapes and Defra. The Arnsdale & Silverdale National Landscape team hosted a visit for some of their staff a few months ago.

3.1.4. There has been much discussion about green finance and private finance; the National Landscapes Association have commissioned a project exploring the potential of green finance for National Landscapes. This includes new staff to work with National Landscapes for potential projects, linking with corporate social responsibility and other green finance projects.

3.2. Discussion

Ann Kitchen asked when the impact of national legislative changes would be; would it affect previous planning applications, for example. Lucy Barron clarified that it would apply for decisions made from the date of the legislative change.

4. Budget 2023/24 and 2024/25 (report circulated)

4.1. Caroline Howard gave an overview of the 2023/4 and 2024/5 budgets.

4.2. Discussion

Julian Oston asked for clarification on the extension to the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) roles, which have been extended beyond 2024/5 by a period of 18 months (FiPL Officers) and 6 months (Service Support). Lucy Barron stated that this is newly shared and no figures or specifics are available yet but it's a response to the success of the FiPL programme and a recognition that it will take staff time to close off the programme appropriately and the recognition of the importance of farming advice roles within National Landscapes teams.

- 4.3. Lucy Barron asked for suggestions from the committee as to options for spending the Removing Barriers (Access) and Capital funding uplifts. The committee are invited to feed in ideas to the National Landscape team.
 - 4.3.1. Simon Waller asked if there was potential for landowners who border the boundaries to propose projects which might benefit the landscape. Lucy Barron suggested that FiPL might be a potential for this.
 - 4.3.2. Trampers were discussed, as well as the creation of circular tramper routes.
 - 4.3.3. Jarrod Sneyd asked about the potential for project management resourcing; specifically for the Warton Mires path if that could be included. Lucy Barron confirmed that some staff associated costs can be capitalised, within Defra's definitions.
 - 4.3.4. Liz Cheslett-Davey will have some discussions about possible projects with Lucy Barron; possible capital or FiPL.
- 4.4. Budget Approval
The Committee approved the proposed 2024-25 budget.
Ann Kitchen proposed
Simon Waller seconded

5. National Landscape team - work programme update (report circulated)

- 5.1. Lucy Barron gave a presentation on the National Landscape team work programme.
 - 5.1.1. Lucy Barron took the opportunity to thank Sue Hunter, who retired in December 2023; the partnership would like to formally thank her for her work in the landscape.
 - 5.1.2. The team are delighted to welcome Calum Booth (National Landscape Officer) and Isla Young (National Landscape Service Support) to the team, and to be up to full capacity.
 - 5.1.3. Discussion
Ann Kitchen asked for a set of recommendations of plants which we would wish to encourage in the National Landscape. Including where to purchase etc. Lucy Barron asked if Cumbria Wildlife Trust or RSPB might have this? Jarrod Sneyd stated that there might be some guidelines. There are IUCN guidelines for conservation translocations (including reintroductions), which are available but are quite strict and focussed on species recovery. Ann Kitchen asked if the estates would be interested in this – Julian Oston stated that Dallam Tower Estate would be interested. In a SSSI it would be necessary to have consent. Jim Turner stated that there are several species which Natural England would be keen to bolster locally. Lucy Barron clarified that at present the team are focusing on common species and non-designated sites but are interested in the utilising the Growing Station project to facilitate the reinforcement of rarer species (following up from the Back on our Map project).
- 5.2. Dougie Watson gave a summary of the volunteer programme, with a focus on the Habitat & Access Management Volunteer Programme.

5.2.1. Ann Kitchen stated that the work at Trowbarrow is having a great effect and the scrub management has resulted in the grassland plants doing well this year.

5.3. Caroline Howard gave an update on the events programme and some projects.

6. Management Plan review update (report circulated)

6.1. Lucy Barron gave an update on progress on the Management Plan review.

This has been delayed by Sue Hunter's retirement and delays in the release of the national Management Plan Review Guidance.

6.1.1. Calum Booth will be leading on the Management Plan review process within the National Landscape team and is getting up to speed rapidly. The project plan timeline has been updated and will the Management Plan Review Sub-Group will be convened shortly.

6.1.2. The Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework has now been published nationally by Defra setting out targets and outcomes to be delivered across all protected landscapes (targets and outcomes are for the geographical areas, *not* protected landscapes bodies) and to be incorporated into all Management Plans.

7. Farming in Protected Landscapes summary of projects (document circulated)

7.1. Lucy Barron gave a brief overview of the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, including a summary of funded projects to date. A list of funded projects can be found on the National Landscape website.

7.1.1. Brian Jones suggested a project on the heritage of the area; building on the previous limestone heritage project. Possibly this could be a project trimming back vegetation growth and conducting repairs. Cllr Brian Meakin asked if there might be a mechanism for doing this. Lucy Barron stated that we'd need to consider capacity but could consider this.

7.1.2. Julian Oston asked about monitoring. The programme is limited in provision of long-term monitoring, as it is a time limited programme, but the team would provide as much follow up as possible. Monitoring for education outputs is required for those projects, and some external evaluation has now been included in a recently funded project.

8. Updates from partners

Westmorland & Furness Council / Arnside Parish Council – Cllr Helen Chaffey

Arnside Parish Council had a parish assembly last week, Caroline Howard gave a presentation on the work of the National Landscape team. There was a lot of feedback from residents about the lack of effectiveness of the 20mph limit including issues on Redhills Road and Black Dyke Road and speeding cyclists. The Parish Council want to encourage sustainable transport and the vast majority of people do cycle safely but there is a minority who don't and Arnside Parish Council will be taking steps. Sustainable Arnside also gave an excellent presentation about their current and planned activities.

Ramblers Association – Brian Jones

The Ramblers Association are waiting for the England Coast Path to be implemented – it might have big potential for attracting visitors and boosting local tourism but does not seem to have gained much notice yet.

Cllr Helen Chaffey raised that Westmorland & Furness Council has funded the design stage of the Arnside to Grange-over-Sands viaduct walkway / cycleway, which is being led by Morecambe Bay Partnership.

Lucy Barron stated that Natural England are working with the Highways Authorities (i.e. Westmorland & Furness Council and Lancashire County Council) for each stretch of the England Coastal Path. A Northwest Coast Path Partnership is in the process of being set up to manage the establishment and maintenance of the route. The section within Westmorland & Furness in the National Landscape is still awaiting approval, but the section in from Silverdale Cove to River Keer is now approved. Jarrod Sneyd stated that as a landowner it might take a couple of years. Liz Cheslett-Davey stated that Morecambe Bay Partnership are also doing some work on Recreational Disturbance. The Coastal Path will be part of the National Trails network.

NFU – Adam Briggs

The recent Farmer Confidence Survey carried out by NFU has returned that short and mid-term confidence of farmers is at its lowest level since records began in 2010. 86% of respondents expect the phasing out of BPS to have a negative effect on their business and 82% saying wet weather has caused negative impacts, emphasising the vital role of rural payments and the impact of climate change.

Defra have recently released further SFI options which are now available to farmers and land managers.

Dallam Tower Estate - Julian Oston

More herbal leys will be planted on the Dallam Tower Estate this year.

Outline planning permission for a site in Arnside has a voluntary Biodiversity Net Gain contribution, for a site outside the area at Foulshaw, which will include 30-year management. There was a discussion about Biodiversity Net Gain, which Lucy Barron suggested could be a topic for a future meeting.

National Trust – Craig McCoy

Craig is now joined by Joel within the National Landscape, Jamie has moved on Emma has headed off to Yorkshire. This means the team have two new colleagues.

Westmorland & Furness Council - Damian Law

Local Plan review work is beginning; this will be over the summer. This will be an open consultation for anyone in the district outside the Lake District. The DPD will need to be considered as part of this Local Plan review.

Lancaster City Council – Cllr Sue Tyldesley

Lancaster City Council are also reviewing their Local Plan. The DPD will need to be considered as part of this Local Plan review.

Yealand Parish Council – Cllr Sue Tyldesley

Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne Parish Councils have been combined to form a single 'Yealands Parish Council' and the Executive Committee representative will be confirmed in due course. The village orchards project funded through the Landscape Trust / National Landscape grants fund has been a great success.

Silverdale Parish Council – Cllr Keith Reed

The Parish Council have been considering the impacts of the Coast Path and more sustainable travel around the village and wider area including links between Silverdale Village and Silverdale Station. An application to the Community Energy Fund has been submitted for a 'Silverdale Sustainable Transport Study'. Route 51 bus service adaptations have also been proposed.

The Parish Council is considering zero carbon goals and what Silverdale can do to reduce carbon emissions. The Parish Council are aware that there is a lot of work to do. Rossendale renewable energy company has a project looking at groups of houses that could develop their ability to generate renewable energy working together. The Parish Council are looking to justify to Electricity Northwest that the electrical supply needs improvement as there is not currently enough power to provide fast charging for electric vehicles.

There is a planning application under consideration at present to purchase, knock down and redevelop the toilets in the village to provide much-needed improved and more accessible facilities, and a grant has been secured to undertake the works.

The Parish Council are also looking at improvements to footpath networks in the parish.

Natural England – Jim Turner

Natural England have been undertaking ash dieback works near footpaths and roads, walling repairs, the cutting of 4 coppice coops, fencing for woodland birds, dormice and invertebrates. Fencing has been installed near the summerhouse so the woodland edge can be grazed from the Little Hawes Water outflow all the way up to Challan Hall pastures; this will be grazed by cattle and ponies. Volunteers have been working on the limestone pavement and edges, clearing scrub. Underley School came on a visit with the Coppice Coop as part of a FiPL-funded project. There has been an article published in Field Bryology on a rare species at Gait Barrows – *Drepanocladus turgescens* (turgid scorpion moss), which is only found in 2 sites in the UK (both alkaline habitats); there has been survey work undertaken to establish baselines.

The hazel dormouse population in the National Landscape will be supplemented in a few weeks at Gait Barrows; this is anticipated to be the final stage of the reintroduction and is to bolster genetic diversity.

Environment Agency - Liz Cheslett-Davey

The River Kent plan is due, but the areas of interest to be highlighted are outside the National Landscape. The 'Keep River Kent Clean' group work is ongoing; they are interested in supporting the Arnside Sustainability Group. There are several national Citizen Science projects ongoing.

RSPB – Jarrod Sneyd

There has been a breeding wader survey undertaken in the National Landscape funded through FiPL.

Recently undertook a visit which included the area where beech have been thinned at Hawes Water; the new birds eye primroses are looking wonderful.

Evolving Leighton Moss, developing plans for a new visitor centre at Leighton Moss is progressing with a proposal having been put together by architects Lathams. The Leighton Moss RSPB team would like this new visitor centre to be a voice for the National Landscape.

Friends of the Lake District (e-mailed update from Laura Partington)

The Good Lighting Guide, that Friends of the Lake District has produced with the planning authorities across Cumbria and which will be used for the whole of the National Landscape, has been shortlisted for the North West Royal Town Planning Institute awards. We will find out in June if it has won.

9. Any Other Business

None

10. Dates for your diary and dates of future meetings

Next Executive Committee Meeting 31st October 2024, venue TBC.