

**Arnside & Silverdale
National Landscape Partnership**

Executive Committee Meeting

**2pm, 6th November 2025
Arnside Educational Institute, Joyce Nicholson Hall**



**Arnside &
Silverdale
National
Landscape**

AGENDA

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions
2. Election of new Chair and second Vice-Chair – Introduction
 - a. Explanation of the process
 - b. Presentations from candidates
 - c. Questions to candidates
3. Election of new Chair and second Vice-Chair – Voting process
4. Break and networking
5. Election of new Chair and second Vice-Chair – Result
6. Annual reindorsement of User Groups, Business and Farming representatives
7. Minutes of meeting held on 21st May 2025
8. Matters arising
9. National Landscape team work programme update (short presentation)
10. Budget mid-year report (report to be circulated)
11. Update on draft Management Plan consultation (verbal update)
12. Brief updates from partners
13. Bittern Award 2025
14. Any other business
15. Dates for diaries and dates of future meetings

Refreshments provided

4.30pm latest finish



Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape

2pm, 21st May 2025
Arnside Educational Institute

MINUTES

In Attendance

Cllr Helen Chaffey, Westmorland & Furness Council

Cllr Steve Porter, Arnside Parish Council

Cllr Peter Greifenberg, Beetham Parish Council

Jarrold Sneyd, RSPB

Dan Taylor, National Trust

Steve Benner, Landscape Trust

Jim Turner, Natural England

Lorayne Wall, Friends of the Lake District

Julian Oston, Dallam Tower Estate – Landowner Rep

Ann Kitchen, BCCIC – Business Rep

Brian Jones, Ramblers – User Group Rep

Rachel Whaley, Westmorland and Furness Council – Officer Rep

Diane Neville, Lancaster City Council – Officer Rep

Stephanie Peay, Lancaster City Council – LCiC Biodiversity Officer

Lucy Barron, National Landscape Manager

Calum Booth, National Landscape Officer

Dougie Watson, Countryside Officer

Caroline Howard, Funding & Communications Officer (mins)

Apologies

Cllr Sue Tyldesley, Lancaster City Council & Yealands Parish Council

Cllr Keith Reed, Silverdale Parish Council

Claire Green, Natural England

Adam Briggs NFU

Simon Waller, CLA

Gemma Wren, Nature's Gems – Business Rep

Liz Cheslett-Davey, Environment Agency

Joan Jackson, NFU

Bridget Pickthall, Bridleways Association – User Group Rep

Sam Stalker, National Trust

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

Helen Rawlinson, Countryside Officer
Belinda Barclay, Local Nature Reserve Warden
Richard Park, Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer
Tonia Armer, Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer
Isla Young, National Landscape Service Support
Grace Holland, Growing Station Manager
Ciaran Rowett, Nature Recovery Officer

Not In Attendance

Cllr Kevin Briggs, Warton Parish Council
David Harpley, Cumbria Wildlife Trust

16. Welcome, apologies and introductions

- a. Cllr Helen Chaffey welcomed everyone and thanked Brian Meakin for his many years of service as Chair of the National Landscape Executive Committee.
- b. Updates on the committee were shared; there have been several changes. Committee members who have left their roles were thanked, and new members welcomed.

17. Election of new Chair

- a. Lucy Barron proposed that given there has been considerable interest in the position of Chair, the committee delay a decision to allow a fully considered process. Cllr Helen Chaffey has offered to step in to the role temporarily in her capacity as Vice-Chair. People who are interested can then discuss the role with Lucy Barron and a new chair can be appointed at the next meeting. This was unanimously agreed.

18. Minutes of meeting held on 31st October 2024

- a. No amendments.
Steve Benner Proposed, Cllr Steve Porter seconded. All approved.

19. Matters arising

- a. Footpath closure at Waterslack – no recent updates
- b. Nature North information circulated. A meeting was held with Lucy Barron and Calum Booth in attendance to discuss possible future collaboration.
- c. Bittern Award was presented to Lynne Farrell, with Certificates of Recognition also awarded due to the large number of high-quality submissions. The Arnside Eco-Club was given a Certificate of Recognition for the Youth Award, with Warton Eco Gang winning the inaugural Bittern Youth Award.
- d. Water quality – happy to organise a presentation in the future – not yet addressed.
- e. Pollution incident response group – not yet addressed.

Action: National Landscape team to organise a talk on water quality with Environment Agency.

Action: National Landscape team to follow up on options for pollution incident response group.

20. National Landscape Partnership team - work programme update

a. Dougie Watson and Caroline Howard gave an update on the National Landscape team activities, which have included:

- hedgelaying training (including for a group from Kendal College)
- the Hedgelaying Competition
- the habitat & access volunteer programme activities
- waymarker post restoration
- surfacing upgrades including the new tramper route
- litter picks
- plant surveying
- the Growing Station
- engagement work with Manchester Youth Zone & Dallam School
- the Coppice Co-op Stations of Welcome project
- Walking the Landscape
- Walks for All
- Peregrine Watch
- Friends of Warton Crag

A drystone walling competition will be held at Leighton Hall, being run with Friends of the Lake District on Saturday 24th May.

b. Cllr Steve Porter wished to thank Dougie Watson and the National Landscape volunteers for the work they have done on the verges.

21. Budget 2024/25 and 2025/26 (report circulated)

a. Caroline Howard gave an overview of the 24-5 budget outturn and 25-6 budget proposal explaining additional recent adjustments.
Ann Kitchen proposed. Julian Oston seconded. Approved unanimously.

22. Planning work programme update (report circulated)

- a. Calum Booth gave an overview of planning work; there have been 117 applications in the area since 1st April 2024, with the team submitting 22 material responses, in addition to other consultations. Notable cases discussed (from circulated report).
- b. Ann Kitchen asked for the current situation with the Sandside development. There have been no updates. Rachel Whaley will check and feed back to Lucy Barron.

Action: Rachel Whaley to check on Sandside development progress and inform Lucy Barron.

c. Lorayne Wall asked about the Briery Bank development. Cllr Helen Chaffey gave an update that the site purchase was imminent, and the next step will be the design. The project was initiated by Arnside Parish Council and is being taken forward by South Lakes Housing; there will be two places for Arnside Parish Council on the design board. The aim is for them to be grade A passive house standard, and there will be houses for affordable rent and local occupancy – this is updated from the initial plan for shared ownership.

23. Management Plan review update

- a. Calum Booth gave an update. Evidence gathering, State of the National Landscape report, policy context and policy review processes completed. Nature Recovery Plan is drafted and with various stakeholders for review. The draft plan and actions are now with the Management Plan Review sub-group. Working closely with colleagues at Lancaster and Westmorland & Furness on the planning and place making sections. The public consultation survey had 183 responses, a short report is available, and Calum Booth gave a summary. There is new Defra guidance on Management Plan Reviews due imminently; it will need checking against this. Intended that public consultation on a draft will occur in the autumn.
- b. Tree cover was discussed; Julian Oston proposed that with the terrestrial area of the National Landscape being at least 43% woodland the priority should perhaps be woodland management rather than additional planting – the right tree in the right place.
- c. Visitor behaviour & recreational disturbance was discussed and recognised as an issue affecting both the National Landscape and wider Morecambe Bay. Lucy Barron stated that the next steps will be to identify options for developing a collective approach and within the remit of the National Landscape partnership. Cllr Helen Chaffey stated that Westmorland & Furness is considering various aspects of recreational disturbance mitigation, particularly within the Lake District, where it can be a significant issue.

Jarrold Sneyd stated that areas of accreting saltmarsh are becoming recreational areas, whilst they have great potential for nature – this is particularly at Sandside and Silverdale. This is a larger societal issue for people to learn how to recreationally use these spaces in a responsible way. Jarrold Sneyd would like the National Landscape team to raise this with the National Landscapes Association for addressing at a national level.

Julian Oston has just had the condition report for Unit 7 of the saltmarsh – which is declining – Hazelslack Marsh is positive because of the FiPL funded grazing project, but the saltmarsh at Sandside, which has great potential, is being damaged by recreational disturbance.

There have been vehicles on Morecambe Bay recently, including motorbikes. Calum Booth suggested contacting Joe Moulton at NW-IFCA or Richard Storton at Natural England. There is one byway crossing the sands, it is acknowledged that this might deviate, but it is very unclear how extensive this deviation can be.

Jim Turner will check the issue of whether races over SSSIs do require consent.

Lucy Barron noted that clearly this is a wider issue – in terms of the management plan the key phrase is ‘a joined up approach’.

Action: Jim Turner to check whether races over SSSIs require consent.

Action: To ensure there is a principle included in the Management Plan about a joined up approach to address recreational disturbance.

- d. Stephanie Peay stated that Westmorland & Furness Lancaster and Wyre have grouped together to commission Morecambe Bay Partnership to undertake some visitor surveys, primarily in connection to the Morecambe Bay Special Protection Area – growing awareness of the recreational impact on Morecambe Bay, particularly of people with dogs. It is expected that this information will feed into

Local Plan development and proposals for mitigation measures. Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG)s are being considered.

- e. Parking was discussed. Cllr Helen Chaffey stated that Westmorland & Furness are undertaking a parking audit, and they are looking to undertake a project in Arnside.

24. Group discussion: Access for All and Capital Projects

- a. Lucy Barron requested ideas for capital projects to deliver Access for All, Invest to Save and 30by30 outcomes:

- i. **Access for All - £64,310 available**

Suggestions discussed:

- Jarrod Sneyd - Warton Mires access improvements
- Cllr Helen Chaffey – Drop Kerbs
- Cllr Helen Chaffey – footpath improvements to be forwarded (Lucy Barron – landowner permissions and other consideration should be considered)
- Caroline Howard suggested an Access for All survey for the general public to help identify priorities
- Cllr Helen Chaffey stated that there is a petition for safe access for all at Arnside Railway Station – possibly a feasibility study for alternative solutions
- Jarrod Sneyd raised a possible nature prescribing project – mental health and how we engage and connect with nature
- Jarrod Sneyd suggested projects to support people with neurodiversity

- ii. **30by30 & Invest to Save - £118,907 available**

Suggestions discussed:

- Ann Kitchen – Dark Skies Lighting for Farmers
- Caroline Howard raised whether some work on reducing the impact of dogs might be a suitable project e.g. research or ‘suitable for dogs’ routes.

The National Landscape team can offer some support in working up projects with partners for delivery. Meetings with partner organisations to discuss options are welcome.

25. Brief updates from partners

Dan Taylor – National Trust

The National Trust launched new Strategy in January.

Silverdale base now has a full team and will be recruiting for an apprentice ranger.

Access work – recently completed work on Arnside Knott in partnership with National Landscape team, intention to make improvements to The Lots in the future.

Bank House Farm tenancy comes to an end in August, taking time to review next steps – resting the land, grazing on a priority basis and developing a future vision for the farm.

Upcoming Events – Nature Sounds Walk on Arnside Knott, forest Bathing, tours with Nature’s Gems & nature story walks with a storyteller.

Action: Dan Taylor to circulate these to Caroline Howard to list on the National Landscape website.

Jarrold Sneyd – RSPB

Thanks to the National Landscape for funding the new pond dipping platform. Lower hide has just been replaced, funded by major donors and the Lancashire Environmental Fund.

Warton Mires – planning to put a spoil spreading machine on the site to create scrapes and ditches to create a better habitat for lapwings.

An experimental NBC S24 plant community has been transplanted – including milk parsley. Bittern numbers - 11 booming males this season.

RSPB has been working on responding to the planning and infrastructure bill – there is a ‘letter to your MP’ template available.

Developing nature prescribing projects.

Ann Kitchen - Bittern CIC

Fruit and Fungi discovery workshops to be trialled with the schools this year.

Marvellous moths project is happening part funded through Westmorland & Furness Climate and Nature resilience grant

The BCCIC have been working on other projects and will give a more extensive update in autumn.

Diane Neville - Lancaster City Council

Lancaster City Council Local Plan (climate emergency) was adopted on 25th January 2025. Work is underway on a full Local Plan Review, with the first formal stage anticipated being in January 2026, however there will be a “soft start” scoping stage in September 2025.

There is a significant amount of evidence base work being undertaken at present and the call for sites is still currently open. Work is also underway on a Climate and Nature Strategy (CaNS) which should be complete later in the year.

Lorayne Wall – Friends of the Lake District

Friends of the Lake District have been responding to the Planning & Infrastructure bill Dark Skies work is ongoing work – Jack Ellerby assisted with a lighting query in Arnside recently.

Planning outreach work planned in the Autumn to help people better understand the planning process.

Work is being undertaken assessing cultural and other forms of capital as well as natural capital for the assessment of sites. Looking for further sites to trial the assessment methodology.

Ongoing work includes a tranquillity project, assessment of second homes and BnBs, hedges and edges work and visitor levy work.

Jim Turner – Natural England

Gait Barrows update – Jim Turner has moved from managing 8 to 5 nature reserves, allowing better focus on Gait Barrows. The team created 3 coppice coops over winter.

Volunteers have been tackling scrub encroaching the marl and woodland edges.

There was some vandalism in the summerhouse over the winter. This is now repaired and no issues since.

Duke of Burgundy are flying but we are now at the end of season, there have been low numbers this year.

Hosted the limestone pavement conference site visit, organised by Carly Stevens of Lancaster University.

There was a top up dormouse reintroduction last year. The survey yesterday saw 15 dormice which is good numbers for May.

Steve Benner - Landscape Trust

Photo exhibition in the Arts Festival in June.

Hosted the national habitat training day for CEH at Coldwell.

Rachel Whaley - Westmorland & Furness Council

Work on the new Local Plan should start in the Autumn when the new regulations come out. Currently published for information purposes only are details of the sites that were put forward during last year's Call for Sites exercise. These have not yet been assessed.

Brian Jones – Ramblers

During May the Ramblers help the Lake District National Park in their ease of use survey, this involves a random selection of the rights of way which are chosen each year and checked for condition.

Might it be useful to do a similar exercise in Arnside & Silverdale?

Cllr Steve Porter – Arnside Parish Council

Cllr Steve Porter is the lead councillor for the verges, he extended thanks for all the hard work that Dougie Watson and the volunteers have put in. At last the verges are showing real improvement: colts foot and the other grasses are reducing, yellow rattle is establishing.

A Wildlife Gardening Survey has been completed and undertaken - 1,000 surveys were sent out and 50 returned – this has helped identify what we can do to help support local people in gardening for wildlife. Thanks to Caroline Howard for the assistance with the survey.

Cllr Helen Chaffey gave an update on behalf of Sustainable Arnside. They are hosting a Big Green Wellbeing Week in Arnside. Starting with an event at the school on the 7th June, which will be a clothes swap organised by Rev. Hannah. On the 14th June there will be a Big Green Wellbeing Day, with activities in the El Hall, WI Hall and Ashmeadow.

26. National update

- a. National Landscapes Association have current news on their website – Lucy Barron encouraged all committee members to check this.
- b. There is a place available at the Annual Conference in July which was booked for Brian Meakin, available to an Exec Member. Please Contact Lucy Barron if you are interested in taking up this place.

27. Any Other Business

None.

28. Dates for your diary and dates of future meetings

- a. 6th November 2025

- b. An extraordinary meeting might be held before then to elect a new chair and discuss the management plan, if necessary.

Table of Actions

Action	Allocated to	Deadline
Organise a talk on water quality with Environment Agency.	National Landscape team	Next Meeting
Follow up on options for pollution incident response group.	National Landscape team	Next meeting
Check whether races over SSSIs require consent.	Jim Turner	Next meeting
To ensure there is a principle included in the Management Plan about a joined-up approach to address recreational disturbance.	Calum Booth	Management Plan publication
Circulate National Trust events to Caroline Howard to list on the National Landscape website.	Dan Taylor	ASAP
<p>Check on Sandside development progress and inform Lucy Barron.</p> <p><i>COMPLETED - The applicant wants to resolve as many issues as possible before a final decision is made on the application, even if the final decision still may end up as a refusal.</i></p> <p><i>There is no time limit on how long an application can stay pending in the system while the applicant is seeking to provide additional or amended information.</i></p> <p><i>Therefore W&F Council cannot currently give a timeline for when the current application will be finally determined.</i></p>	Rachel Whaley	Next Meeting