



Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape

Executive Committee meeting

**2pm, 31st October 2024
Arnside Educational Institute**

MINUTES

In Attendance

Cllr Brian Meakin, Beetham Parish Council (Chair)
Cllr Helen Chaffey, Westmorland & Furness Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Keith Reed, Silverdale Parish Council
Cllr Sue Tyldesley, Lancaster City Council & The Yealands Parish Council
Sam Stalker, National Trust
Jarrod Sneyd, RSPB
Simon Waller, CLA
Brian Jones, User Group Rep – Ramblers
Julian Oston, Landowner Rep – Dallam Tower Estate
Ann Kitchen, Business Rep – BCCIC
Steve Benner, Landscape Trust
Joan Jackson, NFU Representative

Rachel Whaley, Officer Rep – Westmorland & Furness Council

Lucy Barron, National Landscape Manager
Caroline Howard, Communications & Funding Officer
Tonia Armer, Farming in Protected Landscapes Officer
Calum Booth, National Landscape Officer

Apologies

Cllr Phillippa Williamson, Lancashire County Council
Cllr Kevin Briggs, Warton Parish Council
Cllr Steve Porter, Arnside Parish Council
Liz Cheslett-Davey, Environment Agency
Dan Taylor, National Trust
Lorayne Wall, Friends of the Lake District
David Harpley, Cumbria Wildlife Trust
Jim Turner, Natural England
Claire Green, Natural England

Adam Briggs, NFU Representative
Gemma Wren, Business Rep – Nature's Gems Tours
Bridget Pickthall, User Group Rep – Bridleways Association

Tony Lund, Officer Rep – Lancashire County Council
Richard Camp, Officer Rep – Lancaster City Council
Damian Law, Officer Rep – Westmorland & Furness Council

Dougie Watson, Countryside Officer
Helen Rawlinson, Countryside Officer
Belinda Barclay, Local Nature Reserves Warden
Grace Holland, Growing Station Manager
Richard Park, Farming in Protected Landscape Officer
Isla Young, Service Support

1. Welcome, apologies and introductions

- 1.1. Introductions and apologies given.
- 1.2. Cllr Brian Meakin gave an update of membership – new members include Claire Green for Natural England, Steve Benner for the Landscape Trust and Lorayne Wall for Friends of the Lake District

2. Annual re-endorsement of User Groups, Business and Farming representatives and election of Chair and Vice Chairs

- 2.1. Brian Meakin led the re-endorsement of user group, business and landowner representatives:
 - Brian Jones from the Ramblers Association was re-confirmed as a user group representative.
 - Bridget Pickthall from the Bridleways Association was re-confirmed as a user group representative.
 - Gemma Wren from Nature's Gems was re-confirmed as a local business representative.
 - Ann Kitchen from the BCCIC was re-confirmed as a local business representative.
 - Julian Oston was re-confirmed as a farming/landowner representative.
- 2.2. Lucy Barron stated that Cllr Brian Meakin had agreed to continue to act as Chairperson and there were no other candidates, and Cllr Helen Chaffey had agreed to continue to act as Vice-Chair and there were no other candidates. Cllr Brian Meakin was unanimously re-approved as Chair and Cllr Helen Chaffey was unanimously re-approved as Vice Chair.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 22nd May 2024

- 3.1. Jim Turner had submitted a correction to the minutes – the rare moss *Drepanocladus turgescens* which was found at Gait Barrows NNR had an article written about it in Field Bryology not Field Biology.
- 3.2. With this amendment the minutes were approved; proposed by Ann Kitchen, and seconded by Simon Waller.

4. Matters arising

- 4.1. Lucy Barron updated that the Destination Management Plan for Cumbria has now been published and is available online with sections on responsible and sustainable tourism, and inclusive and accessible tourism. An executive summary and the full document are available to download at: <https://www.cumbriatourism.org/resources/destination-management-plan/>
- 4.2. Lucy Barron provided an update about The England Coastal Path. At the time of the last meeting the preferred route for the Cumbria section in the National Landscape had not been approved. It has now been approved, meaning the whole route within the National Landscape has now been approved. The path will be moving on to the establishment phase soon.

5. National Landscape Partnership team work programme - presentation and update

- 5.1. Lucy Barron gave an update on the team's activities including:
 - The Habitat & Access volunteer activities – this has included 24 sessions, facilitating 1250+ volunteer hours, including:
 - putting up the new polytunnel at The Growing Station,
 - installing a new rainwater capture structure at Warton Crag,
 - undertaking habitat management works at LNRs,
 - joining partners on the slag heaps for a collaborative litter pick,
 - scything and grassland management,
 - undertaking access network improvements,
 - maintaining the butterfly transect routes,
 - supporting the National Trust at The Lots orchid count.
 - There have been 6 litter picks so far this year, facilitating 90 volunteer hours
 - 4 new volunteers have been inducted
 - 5000+ plug plants have been grown at the Growing Station this year, used in various projects around the area
- 5.2. Caroline Howard gave an overview of the Stations of Welcome project with the Coppice Co-op, which brought an Asian women's group from Accrington to Silverdale by train for green woodworking sessions.
- 5.3. Tonia Armer gave an update on the Farming in Protected Landscape programme projects. An update was circulated and a summary of projects was shared. Funded projects are listed on the National Landscape website under the Farming in Protected Landscapes pages: <https://www.arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk/what-we-do/advice/farming-in-protected-landscapes/funded-projects/>

6. Budget Mid-Year Report (report circulated)

- 6.1. Caroline Howard gave a budget overview (report circulated).

7. Planning work programme update (report circulated)

- 7.1. Calum Booth gave planning update (report circulated).
- 7.2. Discussion:
 - 7.2.1. Affordable Housing

Julian Oston asked if we have the figures for how many affordable houses have been built following the adoption of the DPD, as developers have stated that the 50% requirement is not viable.

Lucy Barron confirmed that the figures are available in a review report put together by Lancaster City Council and Westmorland & Furness Council. The number of affordable houses that have been delivered is low.

Cllr Helen Chaffey stated that Arnside Parish Council have purchased the land at Briery Bank for 8 units and all houses will be affordable and built to passive standards (highly energy efficient).

This shows there are mechanisms in place which can be used to deliver affordable housing – in this case the purchase was funded through Right to Buy receipts. Arnside Parish Council are working with South Lakes Housing – they are a not-for-profit housing association interested in this type of development.

Julian Oston asked if they will be a combination of rent and shared ownership – Cllr Helen Chaffey confirmed they will be.

7.2.2. Second homes and holiday lets

Brian Jones asked if the area has a large number of houses used for holiday lets (including AirBnBs) and second homes.

Cllr Helen Chaffey responded the Arnside Parish Council did a housing needs survey – second homes and holiday lets were approx. 15%. Silverdale Parish Council have investigated this and Cllr Keith Reed felt that Silverdale had similar figures – a maximum of 19%, but it is likely below this.

Brian Jones asked if there were anything in the DPD relating to second homes and holiday lets. There is a policy in the DPD to restrict new builds and conversions for visitor accommodation but nothing further about holiday lets or second homes. Lucy Barron confirmed that there are policies within both local authorities' Local Plans.

7.2.3. Cllr Keith Reed shared that there is a meeting in the Gaskell Hall on the 7th November from the Lune Valley Housing Trust.

7.2.4. Cllr Keith Reed stated that Silverdale Parish Council have raised concerns about the Silverhelme Scout Camp mast while acknowledging the need for improved mobile phone signal in Silverdale. It's unclear if the current emergency services mast will be removed as part of these works; this would be sensible as the emergency services tower will need replacing soon anyway. The parish council questioned the height of the mast and were assured it needs to be this height.

8. Brief updates from partners

Simon Waller – CLA

Nothing to report

Ann Kitchen – BCCIC

Caroline Howard is now Chairing the CIC, and a volunteer has expressed an interest in the Secretary role.

Brian Jones – Ramblers Association

Network Rail have proposed closure of one of the pedestrian railway crossings at Waterslack. There are two crossings – one is on a road and another has multiple stiles – they wish to close the road crossing. They originally proposed they will keep the historic stiles and put in kissing gates next to them, but in final proposal they have stated they will take the current step stiles and put non-slip surfaces on them. There are accessibility concerns. It is important to preserve the historic infrastructure and ensure broad accessibility. Lucy Barron hasn't seen a recent update (although the National Landscape team submitted an objection to the original proposal) and asked to be forwarded the info.

ACTION: Brian Jones to forward most recent updates to Lucy Barron.

Sam Stalker – National Trust

The National Trust team have had some staffing changes: Joel has moved to new job within the National Trust, and Chris Haines is joining the team as a Ranger. Park End Farm wetland creation had its 10th anniversary this year. A film commissioned at Sandscale Hawes about people and the landscape has been selected to be shown at Kendal Mountain Festival. The film recently had an event with a panel discussion attended by 60 people.

The local National Trust are being audited for their FSC timber certification.

There have been strong volunteer numbers this year.

Cllr Helen Chaffey – Arnside Parish Council (update given on behalf of Steve Porter)

Steve Porter attended a meeting with Westmorland & Furness highways officers at the town hall recently. Steve talked to the network manager about the wildflower verge project, raising that it would be much easier if the parish council had one licence for all the verges they maintain. There were also questions about how this will be funded in the future.

The parish council are currently distributing a Gardening for Wildlife survey for residents (produced with assistance from the National Landscape team).

Cllr Sue Tyldesley – The Yealands Parish Council & Lancaster City Council

The Yealands Parish Council would like to extend thanks to the Habitat & Access volunteer group for the boardwalk.

Lancaster City Council Local Area Energy Plan has been adopted – it is available to download from: <https://arcg.is/LXW1a>

Cllr Keith Reed – Silverdale Parish Council

The parish council has commissioned a Silverdale sustainable transport study, with a survey of residents and other stakeholders. This has been externally funded. They will be publishing a report later in the year looking at improving sustainable transport in the village. Unfortunately, Stage 2 funding around the business planning will see the deadline pass before the report is available, but this is being discussed with the funders to see if it might still be possible to access further funding.

The National Landscape has agreed to fund bikes racks in the village, from the National Landscape's Removing Barriers Access Capital uplift.

Julian Oston – Dallam Tower Estate

Defra's budget has been confirmed, which will hopefully mean funding available for farmers and landowners the National Landscape, as well as the National Landscape partnership activities. Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) uptake in this area is low, but funding is available to support farmers to take advice on how to apply. The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme is considered a measure of success, and it's hoped that this approach will be continued.

Jarrold Sneyd – RSPB

The RSPB has a petition to encourage the Government to continue funding Nature Friendly Farming.

Colleagues have been working on Nature North are looking at landscape scale projects – estuaries, upland farming. They are looking for people to attend an online event on 27th Nov / 12th Nov – farmers, landowners, conservation organisations etc.

Action: Jarrold Sneyd to circulate information on Nature North events.

Steve Benner – Landscape Trust

The Tramper circuit is being well used. The Landscape Trust reserves have seen ash dieback and the reserves volunteers have had to fell trees because of this – there are also some trees on neighbouring properties which are at risk of falling into the reserve. There are lots of pheasants getting into the reserves and they are causing issues. The Trust is leading a small project to get

the village pump installed back in Storth – they are currently looking for a suitable site. Lizzi Collinge the new MP has visited recently.

Rachel Whaley – Westmorland & Furness Council

The new Local Plan work is still underway – the Council have been doing some engagement work. The change of government has slowed this process – this year is being used for continued engagement and the new process will begin in Autumn 2025.

Joan Jackson – NFU

Nothing to report

Lorayne Wall – Friends of the Lake District (submitted via e-mail)

Good Lighting Technical Advice note which applies across the National Landscape including the Lancaster District is now available online: <https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/lighting-policy>

Friends of the Lake District have been working on a joint project with Cumbria Wildlife Trust called 'Hedges and Edges' – this is around hedge improvements and survey work.

Friends of the Lake District are also working on establishing a Youth Panel, and a tranquillity mapping project.

9. Management Plan review verbal update and workshop discussion

- 9.1. Lucy Barron and Calum Booth led a workshop looking to gather feedback from the committee to feed into the Management Plan review.
- 9.2. Calum Booth has been working on the State of the National Landscape Report. This is currently in a final working draft stage.
- 9.3. The Nature Recovery Plan is in progress – it now needs targets incorporating relevant to the Defra Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF). The next stage will be expert stakeholder input and then wider review.
- 9.4. The first meeting of the Management Plan Review sub-group was in October with the next meeting is early December.

10. National update

- 10.1. Lucy Barron gave an update on the National Landscape Association. The Chairs and Lead Officers meetings are upcoming – Lucy Barron will attend but unfortunately Cllr Brian Meakin and Cllr Helen Chaffey cannot attend this year. It is important to feedback issues via the association, and information about their activities can be found on their website: <https://national-landscapes.org.uk/>

11. Bittern Award 2024

- 11.1. There are now 3 awards – the original Bittern Award, a youth award and one for the Walks for All group, named after one of the longstanding members who passed away in December – the Colin Milton Walks for All Photography award. Nominations for the Bittern Award and the Youth Award will be open soon - info on how to make nominations will be circulated once it is available.

Action: National Landscape team to circulate/publicise nominations information once available

12. Any Other Business

12.1. Liz Cheslett-Davey sent in some possible collaboration suggestions – potentially looking at water quality (building on the rivers work done via FiPL last year) and a project or campaign around non-mains drainage. The Environment Agency has some materials which could be shared.

The committee felt that both of these topics are of strong local interest, and wondered if a presentation could be given. Cllr Keith Reed shared that the last time a talk on septic tanks was given in Silverdale it was standing room only at the Gaskell Hall.

Action: National Landscape team to contact Liz to discuss further

12.2. Ann Kitchen raised a concern about a local microplastic pollution incident, and raised whether the National Landscape should have a ready response to pollution incidents. In this case a farm track ½km long has had astroturf put on it 2m wide for the length of the track – the astroturf has a plastic ‘dust’ in it, which is being shed into the landscape. This is on Silverdale Moss and has led to plastic sludge down the sides of the track. This was reported to the CIC and RSPB as it adjoins their land. Astroturf is difficult to recycle and is being used by farmers to provide a soft but durable surface for cattle to walk on. Ann reported that research from Holland on cattle grazing in land with microplastics shows that some ends up in milk and meat, and EU legislation is likely to mean heavily microplastic contaminated land will eventually be removed from agricultural use for this reason.

Jarrold Sneyd asked about conservation impacts – Ann Kitchen confirmed that this will impact birds.

Ann Kitchen suggested that we could have a group to deal with pollution incidents.

12.3. Jarrold Sneyd noted that Lizzi Collinge MP has a particular interest in health and wellbeing so it might be worthwhile inviting her to see the results of any projects around green prescribing or other health and wellbeing impacts.

12.4. Cllr Helen Chaffey shared that a Green Wellbeing Day in Arnside as part of Big Green Week (with the Sustainable Arnside Group) is being planned – this will likely be in June 2025.

13. Dates for your diary and dates of future meetings

Executive Committee Meetings 2025:

Wednesday 21st May 2025 – Arnside Educational Institute (tbc)

Thursday 6th November 2025 – Arnside Educational Institute (tbc)

National Landscape events:

Hedgelaying Training – 16th November 2024

Cumbria Dark Skies Festival – Stargazing in National Landscape 22nd November 2024

Hedgelaying Competition – 24th November 2024