

# RUSLAND HORIZONS

Working a Lakeland Landscape

## Landscape Conservation Action Plan

### Part One

September 2015



### Acknowledgements

This Landscape Conservation Action Plan has been compiled by Marian Jones, Rusland Horizons LP Scheme Development Officer, with support from The Rusland Valley & Fells Landscape Partnership (RVFLP) Steering Group and Project Management Group, many of whom are volunteers and whose commitment and enthusiasm for the scheme is its greatest asset.

Representatives of a wider partnership of organisations and individuals have been involved in the working groups and have worked hard to develop the project plans, confirm agreements with landowners, prepare contractor briefs and source additional funding.

Volunteers have been out year-round identifying woodland archaeology sites, landscape features, potential trail routes and butterflies and moths. Their work has been enormously helpful in developing project plans.

Over 750 individuals and organisations have come to meetings, events and the Rusland Horizons show stand and continue to provide invaluable feedback, links and opportunities for development.

Our sincere thanks go to Chris Greenwood (Landscape Architect), Eleanor Kingston (LDNPA), Judy Clavey (LDNPA), John Hodgson (LDNPA), Lucy Norris Green and the Cumbria Industrial History Society for the information in Chapter 2. Giles Wingate Saul, Colin Barr, Vanessa Champion, Richard Sanderson, Paul and Fran Townsend used their local knowledge to write section 3.2 about the wonderful community. Much of the information in Chapter 3 is based on research undertaken by Wingspan Consulting and Minerva Heritage for the Rusland Horizons Audience Development and Interpretation Plans. Teresa Morris (Natural England), Bart Donato (Natural England), Peter Fox (Forestry Commission), James Anderson-Bickley (Forestry Commission), Edward Mills, Mark Eccles (LDNPA) and Stephen Ratcliffe (LDNPA) have provided insightful information and feedback to help shape much of the LCAP; they together with Colin Barr, Giles Wingate Saul and Vanessa Champion have corrected spelling mistakes and misinformation.

Our HLF Mentor, Fiona Southern, has been hugely supportive and helpful throughout the development stage, providing advice and guidance to develop our application.

Support has been received from across the Lake District National Park Authority with Members and staff making major contributions to the development of *Rusland Horizons*, its financial management and legal structure. The maps have been produced by the Authority.

The consultants commissioned during the development stage have produced excellent reports that have helped develop our thinking. They and their work are described in section 1.3.2.3.

The LCAP is brought to life by stunning photographs which demonstrate the beauty and diversity of the scheme area throughout the seasons. Thanks go to the following people and organisations for trawling through their collections and sharing their images with us: Teresa Morris, Colin Barr, Nick Thorne, David Kidwell, Vanessa Champion, Edward Mills, LDNPA, Forestry Commission, Val Corbett, R Goodison, Ben Long, John Morris, Pat Morris, Tony Saunders, Kevin Baverstock, Kate Airy, David Dixon, Bart Donato / Natural England, English Heritage, Jamie Green, Heather Smith, Whitewood & Fleming, Clare Dyson, Owen Osmotherly, Graham Watson, W. Robinson, William Rollinson Collection, Rebecca Oaks, C. Headley, Rob Petley-Jones, Sarah McNeil, Colton Parish Council, BHMAT, Michelle Waller, S. Roberts, WRSS.

A host of other people have volunteered time and made important contributions during the development stage; these include Nick Chaloner (Communications Plan), Sue McKinnon (website), Tim Fleming (films), David Kidwell (photography), Claire Dyson (Campaign for National Parks), Gareth Thomas (Woodmatters) and the Mosaic Champions (Full Cycle project).

Front Cover Image Credit: LDNPA, C. Barr, E. Mills, P. Morris, S. Roberts,

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## Contents

Acknowledgements .....	2
Executive Summary .....	7
Using This Document .....	9
<b>1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>11</b>
1.1 The Scheme Area .....	12
1.2 The Landscape Partnership .....	14
1.3 Development of the Scheme .....	15
<b>2 The Landscape, its Heritage and its People .....</b>	<b>24</b>
2.1 Landscape Character .....	25
2.2 Natural Heritage .....	37
2.3 Cultural Heritage .....	45
2.4 Ecosystems Services .....	68
<b>3 The People with a Stake in the Rusland Horizons Landscape .....</b>	<b>73</b>
3.1 Overview .....	73
3.2 Community .....	75
3.3 Economy .....	78
3.4 Land Ownership .....	83
3.5 Access to the Landscape .....	86
3.6 How People Value the Heritage .....	91
3.7 Audience Development .....	92
<b>4 Management of the Landscape.....</b>	<b>94</b>
4.1 International Policy Framework .....	94
4.2 National Policy Framework .....	95
4.3 Regional Policy Framework.....	99
4.4 Local Policy Framework .....	101
4.5 Principle Landscape Management Mechanisms and Initiatives.....	106
4.6 Land Management Skills Provision in Cumbria .....	110
<b>5 Statement of Significance .....</b>	<b>113</b>
5.1 National and International Significance – Key Designations.....	113
5.2 Rusland Horizons Scheme Area Special Qualities.....	118
5.3 Summary of Rusland Horizons’ Special Qualities .....	127
<b>6 Threats and Opportunities.....</b>	<b>132</b>

6.1	Climate Change .....	132
6.2	Changes in Land Management .....	134
6.3	Rural Policy Changes.....	138
6.4	Invasive Alien Species, Pests and Diseases .....	140
6.5	Social and Economic Changes .....	143
6.6	Loss of Community Culture and Identity.....	146
6.7	Visitor Pressures.....	146
6.8	Conclusion .....	150
<b>7.</b>	<b>Our Vision for the Landscape.....</b>	<b>151</b>
7.1	Vision .....	151
7.2	Aims.....	151
7.3	Meeting the HLF Outcomes .....	152
<b>8.</b>	<b>Scheme Plan, Management and Funding.....</b>	<b>155</b>
8.1	The Scheme Plan .....	155
8.2	The Landscape Partnership and Delivery of the Scheme .....	166
8.3	Financial Management.....	180
8.4	Match Funding Strategy .....	183
<b>9.</b>	<b>Legacy, Evaluation and Review .....</b>	<b>188</b>
9.1	Legacy .....	188
9.2	Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.....	195
9.3	Adoption and Review .....	197
<b>10.</b>	<b>Summary of Key Information.....</b>	<b>199</b>
10.1	List of Projects .....	199
10.2	Project Outcomes .....	202
10.3	Overall Scheme Timetable .....	203
10.4	Scheme Maps .....	205
10.5	Budget Summary .....	209
10.6	Scheme Development.....	213
<b>11</b>	<b>Sources of Information .....</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>Part 2: Project Plan Summaries</b>		
HS01:	Valley Futures.....	3
HS02:	Coppice Livings .....	5
HS03:	Skills & Swills.....	7

WW01: Coupes & Cords.....	9
WW02: Share Wood.....	11
WW03: Mapping Wild Rusland .....	13
WW04: Magical Meadows .....	16
WW05: Hidden Hedgerows.....	18
WW06: Dreaming of Dormice .....	20
WW07: Wings in the Woods .....	22
WW08: Rusland’s Reds.....	24
HH01: Peeling the Onion .....	26
HH02: Lives in the Landscape.....	28
GT01: The Greenwood Trail .....	30
GT01: Hands on Heritage.....	33

### Part 3: Detailed Project Plans and Supporting Information

1. Project Plans.....	6
2. Woodland Sites.....	216
3. Maps.....	219
4. Timetables .....	235
5. Budgets .....	251
6. Briefs and Agreements .....	268
7. Job Descriptions and Role Profiles .....	339

### Appendices

1. Rusland Horizons Landscape Character Assessment
2. Audience Development Plan
3. Interpretation Plan
4. Report on Surveys (ADIP)
5. Communication Plan
6. Risk Register
7. Evaluation Plan
8. Full Cycle Case Study
9. Report on Market for Coppice Products
10. Deer Management Advisory Paper

## Executive Summary



Figure 1: Rusland Church and Ickenthwaite. © T. Morris

The Rusland Horizons Landscape Partnership Scheme covers a rural and densely wooded area known historically as part of the High Furness Fells in the southern region of the Lake District National Park. In 2010, the local community, Cumbria Woodlands, Natural England, Forestry Commission and Lake District National Park Authority formed the Rusland Valley and Fells Landscape Partnership with a shared vision that:

**‘The Rusland Horizons Scheme encompasses a real living, working landscape. Local people, agencies and visitors will work together to revive traditional skills, and to learn about, enhance and enjoy the heritage, habitats and wildlife of this quiet and very special place.’**

The starting point for the Partnership’s work is this area’s heritage landscape, which underpins all of the projects that will be delivered through the scheme. The area is characterised by extensive semi-natural woodlands and coniferous plantations, wide, open fell, patchworks of pasture, scattered settlements and a network of twisting minor roads. It is a working cultural landscape, shaped by the interaction of people with their environment; local resources have strongly influenced the built environment and the wider landscape, with local slate, limestone and granite creating a distinctive buildings and settlement character. Coppiced over many centuries, the woodlands once supported hundreds of jobs and fuelled a large part of the local economy. This in turn has created a rich industrial archaeology and many historic features that tell the tales of past working lives. The area is one of the most densely wooded in England and is widely recognised for its natural heritage value; it contains Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and numerous County Wildlife Sites. The coppices are a haven for many threatened plant, butterfly, moth, bird and small mammal species. This is the landscape that inspired cultural figures like John Ruskin

and Arthur Ransome. 'The calm scenery refreshes the soul', providing opportunities for quiet contemplation and outdoor recreation, and nourishing the strong, local communities living in the scattered settlements.

These special qualities, however, are under threat. Much of this woodland is now under-managed; important habitats are being fragmented, traditional skills forgotten, and historic landscape features lost. Factors at play include interlinked pressures from rural policy change, shifting social demographics, lack of resources, climate change and a disconnection between people and landscape.

The Landscape Partnership will address these issues by delivering fifteen landscape-scale projects organised around four inter-dependent programmes of work that will achieve the following aims:

**1. Heritage Skills**

Enable people to experience, learn about and become involved in a broad and varied range of heritage skills to manage the landscape and its features and to inspire renewed interest in sustainable woodland produce, from local firewood to swill baskets.

**2. Woodlands and Wildlife**

Work in partnership to restore the unique, wooded landscape of the Rusland Valley and Fells and to involve people in enhancing biodiversity by creating habitat stepping stones and monitoring priority species.

**3. Hidden Heritage**

Improve our understanding of the historic interaction between people and the landscape to inform future planning and enable people to learn about and become involved in conserving our heritage before it disappears.

**4. Out and About**

Provide better, sustainable access and opportunities to explore our natural and cultural heritage, and to inspire a sense of identity, ownership and pride in the special, intimate and quiet qualities of the Rusland Horizons area.

A wider partnership of organisations, including Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Westmorland Red Squirrel Society, Butterfly Conservation, Bill Hogarth Memorial Apprenticeship Trust and the University of Lancaster, will be involved in the delivery of the projects that will achieve these aims.

The Landscape Partnership will deliver these projects in a three year period, between 2016 and 2019, through the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership programme. From the outset, the scheme's legacy has been a key consideration and all of the projects have been planned with their long term sustainability in mind. As such, it is important that the Partnership's work will secure a legacy that enhances both the area's landscape heritage and benefits the local community well beyond the life of the HLF funded scheme.

## Using This Document

This document is the Landscape Conservation Action Plan (LCAP) for the Rusland Horizons Landscape Partnership Scheme. It forms the main part of the Partnership's round two submission to the HLF.

The LCAP is set out in three parts: Part 1 provides the context for the scheme and outlines how it will be delivered; Part 2 contains two-page project summaries for each project; Part 3 contains the detailed project plans.

Part 1 follows a process of exploring the heritage of the area and sets out what the Landscape Partnership plans to do in response to those findings:

- Chapter 1 provides the introduction to the scheme, it describes the scheme area boundaries and the process undertaken to define that boundary; it provides an introduction to the Landscape Partnership and the philosophy underpinning this strong network of organisations and individuals; and it explains the work undertaken to develop the Rusland Horizons scheme.
- Chapter 2 outlines the landscape character of the area, its cultural and natural heritage. It notes the symbiotic relationship of these two types of heritage and how the exploitation of past ecosystems services has strongly influenced the present landscape character and biodiversity.
- Chapter 3 describes the people with a stake in the landscape. It explores the economy and community of the scheme area and how people, both residents and visitors, access and value the local heritage.
- Chapter 4 summarises the most relevant management strategies and the principle landscape management mechanisms in place to manage the landscape. It includes an assessment of the training provision in place for skills needed to manage the landscape. This chapter, together with the previous two, define the Landscape Partnership's understanding of the scheme area.
- Chapter 5 explores the existing designations which identify how the landscape is officially recognised for its significance. It goes on to develop the findings of the chapters two and three into nine special qualities which together form a statement of significance of the area's heritage.
- Chapter 6 goes on to assess how this heritage is under threat and identifies opportunities that could be taken to protect it.
- Chapter 7 is a statement of the Landscape Partnership's vision and aims which have been developed in response to the condition of the area's heritage and the needs of the local community. The chapter also explains how the vision and aims meet the HLF outcomes for heritage, people and community.

- Chapter 8 provides an overview of the scheme plan and the fifteen projects which it comprises. It demonstrates how the scheme responds to the threats and opportunities identified in Chapter Six and complements the management strategies covered in Chapter Four to protect and enhance the special qualities recognised in Chapter Five. The chapter goes on to describe the Landscape Partnership and delivery of the scheme, including key points from the Partnership's Memorandum of Understanding, the proposed staff team, the strengths, weaknesses and risks to the partnership, and an outline of the Partnership's financial arrangements, including a match funding strategy.
- Chapter 9 covers the broad legacy aspirations for the scheme; the plans and mechanisms that will be put in place to secure them; and how the scheme will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed.
- Chapter 10 presents the key information about the individual projects in the scheme. It includes a reference list of projects, a matrix of projects against the nine HLF outcomes, an overall scheme timetable, maps showing project locations, budget and cash flow summaries, and a review of how the scheme has developed since Round One, including a comparison of costs.
- Chapter 11 provides a bibliography for the LCAP together with hyperlinks to online documents that have significantly shaped the development of the scheme.

Part 2 provides project plan summaries for readers who want to know about each of the projects but who do not need to go through the full project plans.

Part 3 provides the full project plans together with individual project timelines, budgets and maps of proposed physical works. These detailed plans will continue to develop will be reviewed and updated annually. At the time of writing, a sufficient number of landowner agreements are in place to enable the first year of work to commence. The Partnership will continue to work with landowners to involve more people in the scheme.

The LCAP is supported by appendices which provide the full assessments and plans that were commissioned during the Development Stage (excluding the confidential Butterfly Surveys Reports).

The Second Round application also includes a number of supporting documents. They are available to members of the Landscape Partnership upon request:

1. Memorandum of Understanding (key sections quoted in Section 8.2.3)
2. Budget Spreadsheet including expenditure, income and Cash flow (key sections included in Chapter 10)
3. Income and Spend Forecast Post Completion
4. Scheme Management Structure (included in Section 8.2.5)
5. Selection of Images
6. Evaluation Reporting Spreadsheet
7. 1:50,000 Digital Map of the Scheme Area Boundary
8. Project Timelines (included in Part 3: Timelines)

## 1 Introduction



*Figure 2: A Rusland Barn. © N. Thorne, Bodian Photography*

Known historically as part of the High Furness Fells, the Rusland Horizons scheme area is bounded by Lake Windermere to the east, Coniston Water to the west, the rivers Crake and Leven to the south and the watershed of the low fells before the dramatic backdrop of the high Central Lakes fells to the north.

It is a living landscape, shaped by the interaction of people with their environment. Coppiced over many centuries, the extensive woodlands of the area once supported hundreds of jobs and fuelled a large part of the local economy from charcoal to bobbins, gun-powder to tanning. This in turn has created a wealth of historic features that tell the tales of past working lives in the woods.

This expanse of ancient semi-natural woodlands is of national, in some cases international importance for its natural heritage value. The coppiced sites are a haven for many threatened plant, butterfly, moth, bird and small mammal species.

Much of this woodland is now under-managed: important habitats are being lost and traditional skills forgotten. These changes threaten to uncouple people from place as its defining management, but a deep love of the area and a special interest in its restoration and protection has brought about Rusland Horizons, one of the first community-led Landscape Partnership schemes to be funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

## 1.1 The Scheme Area

Water defines much of the boundary of the Rusland Horizons scheme area. The lakes Windermere and Coniston provide the east and west limits. The rivers Crake and Leven flow along the southern boundary and the watershed marks the northern extent of the area. These natural obstacles mean that the area has long been recognised as distinct from the surrounding landscape and it is a cultural as well as natural boundary. Thomas West described the area, in 1805, as part of High Furness, citing precedence back to the Domesday Book. Figure 3 shows a map of the scheme area.

The defined area for the scheme was first proposed in 2010 by the communities who live here and which have a strong sense of belonging to this special area. From this beginning, a study was made of areas identified in existing landscape character assessments. These were overlain and the boundary revised to reflect both how local residents identify with their area and the landscape character as defined in the *Landscape Character Assessment with Guidelines for the Lake District National Park*<sup>1</sup>.

In 2014, during the development stage, the northern boundary was reviewed once again as it differs only slightly from the landscape character boundaries. A proposal to extend the boundary was put forward, but the community representatives on the Landscape Partnership Steering Group upheld the view that the watershed clearly delineates the northern boundary. It is defined geographically by contours and by a strong community reference, described locally as 'going over the top to Hawkshead'. Also during this stage the Steering Group confirmed that the southern boundary includes the village communities which flank both banks of the rivers Crake and Leven.

FROM Ulverston, by Penny-bridge, lies the road to High Furness, or Furness Fells, the Apennines of Lancashire: amongst these are some fertile valleys, which support an excellent breed of cattle; lakes and rivers, abounding with fish and fowl; mountains pregnant with various minerals, to excite the industry of man; and fleecy flocks, that browse on their verdant sides.

High Furness is separated from Low Furness by the river Crake, Thurston water, and the manor of Coniston: on the north it is separated from Westmorland by Langdale tarn and Elterwater: it has Windermere on the east, and the river Leven on the south. Furness fells in Doomsday are included under the general name of Hougun. After the Conquest the barons of Kendal claimed part of them, with all the fisheries, and free chace, through all High Furness.

### 1 The Antiquities of Furness: Illustrated with Engravings

Thomas West, William Close, 1805

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<sup>1</sup> [Chris Blandford Associates. 2008. Lake District National Park Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines. Online](#)

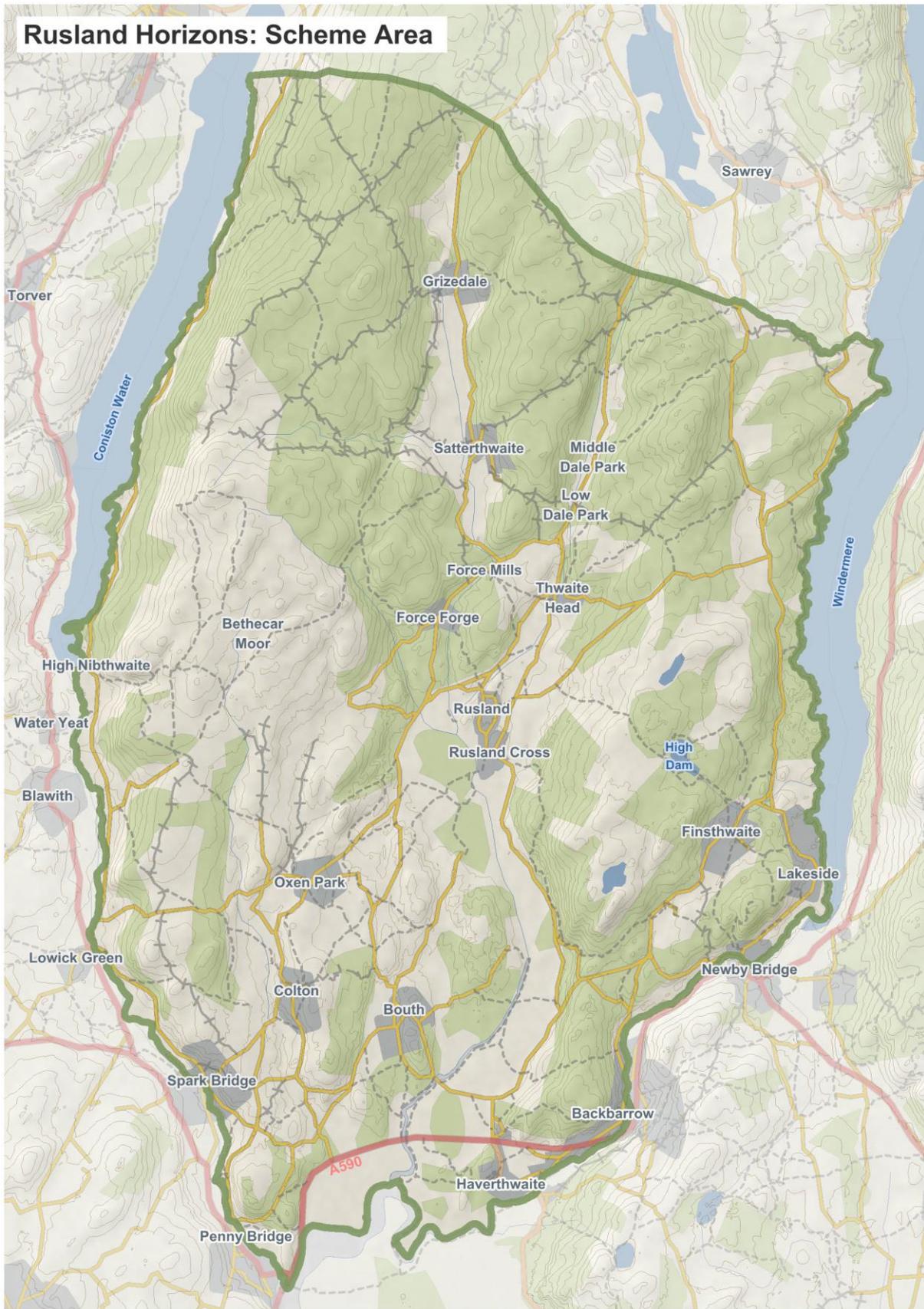


Figure 3: Scheme Area Boundary

## 1.2 The Landscape Partnership

This scheme began with the local community and has been at least five years in the making. In 2010, in response to community demand, Natural England and the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) invited local residents and other stakeholders to a workshop at the Grizedale Centre to gather ideas on priorities to tackle some of the pressing local issues. From that meeting, The Rusland Valley and Fells Landscape Partnership was formed.

The Partnership is underpinned by a deep appreciation of the area, concern over the challenges that it faces and a strong commitment to tackling these threats and restoring and enhancing the unique landscape of this wonderful part of south Lakeland.

In accord with the European Landscape Convention, the Partnership recognises the Rusland Horizons landscape as *'an area as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'* and, as such, believes that the Rusland Horizons landscape *'is a key element of individual and social well-being and that its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone'*. With that in mind, the Partnership's Steering Group is made up of both corporate partners and individual community members, all on an equal footing.

### **Steering Group Members**

- Colin Barr - Local resident, Chairman of Colton Parish Council and Member of LDNPA
- Giles Wingate-Saul - Local resident and Chairman of Rusland Valley Community Trust
- Vanessa Champion - Local resident and member of Colton Parish Council
- Adam Crowe - Local resident and environmental consultant
- Carole Dickinson - Local resident, farmer and campsite owner
- Benjamin Dobson - Local resident and Chairman of Bethacar Moor Commoners' Association
- Danielle Metcalfe - Local resident and horse trainer
- Mike Thwaites - Local resident and builder (master mason)
- Edward Mills – Woodland manager, chartered forester and conservationist
- Robert Henson – Local resident and historian
- Richard Sanderson – Local residents and Chair of the Leven Valley History Society
- Lake District National Park Authority (Accountable Body)
- Natural England
- Forestry Commission
- Cumbria Woodlands

Rusland Horizons is a community-led scheme. As the Accountable Body, the LDNPA will be responsible for all legal, employment and financial matters, but will have full

regard to decisions of the Steering Group and the Project Management Group. There is more information about how the Landscape Partnership is managed in Section 8.2.

## **1.3 Development of the Scheme**

### ***1.3.1 Round One Application***

Following the initial workshop, the Landscape Partnership worked with stakeholders to develop the scheme. In February 2011, it submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Landscape Partnership programme.

The development of that programme was challenging. The proposals had the support of the local community, but it was difficult to channel people's aspirations into a formal application that included a range of partners' objectives and took account of other external factors. Unfortunately, the bid was unsuccessful, the Partnership, however, received constructive feedback and encouragement from the HLF to re-submit. In retrospect, The Partnership recognised where the previous bid showed weakness, but it could also see its strengths and decided that it wanted to build on those.

Taking a good deal longer to prepare, the second bid was more focused and took on board HLF feedback on the first bid. The partnership worked closely with partners to re-design the programme and carefully to outline how it planned to provide opportunities for people in the area and beyond to learn about the heritage, to become actively engaged through volunteering and apprenticeships across a range of activities, to acquire practical, saleable skills and better to understand, explore and enjoy the landscape. This revised bid outlined how it would build on the involvement of people and provide the expertise needed to tackle the practical issues that currently put the sustainability of the landscape at risk.

The new bid was written by Shirley Muir Associates, and submitted in May 2013 with a view to delivering the scheme between 2016 – 2019. The LDNPA agreed to be the Accountable Body for the next round.

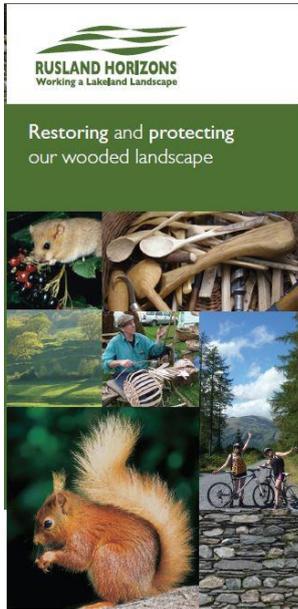
### ***1.3.2 Round Two Application***

The HLF approved the application and early in 2014 gave permission for the Landscape Partnership to start the round two, Development Stage. A Development Officer was employed to prepare this LCAP, on behalf of and with close support from the community representatives and organisational staff involved in the partnership. The content of this application is based on research and consultation undertaken during the development phase.

#### ***1.3.2.1 Communications***

During this stage, the Landscape Partnership has made use of local newsletters to share information about the scheme and gather feedback from local residents. The website, [www.ruslandhorizons.org](http://www.ruslandhorizons.org) was kept updated, by a local volunteer, with progress

reports, key documents and links to films. Volunteers also regularly updated a popular Facebook page for over 100 followers.



Using additional funding from the LDNPA's Community Fund, the Landscape Partnership commissioned local film-makers Whitewood and Fleming to produce an introductory film about the scheme (available to view at <https://vimeo.com/114823463>). This film was shown at talks and events during the development stage and by the Oxen Park Cinema Club before their listed screenings. It will prove a useful tool for later evaluation of the impact of the scheme.

The HLF development stage grant, together with funding from the Rawdon Smith Trust allowed the publication of leaflets about the scheme that were distributed to all households within the scheme area and BBC Radio Cumbria ran two pieces about the scheme on their Breakfast Show.

Figure 5: Leaflet about the Scheme

### 1.3.2.2 Consultation and Engagement

Given the preparation that had gone into the round one stage, the Landscape Partnership's project aims were fairly well established, but further consideration was needed on how projects would be delivered and who would be involved. Consultation during the development stage began at the Rusland Show, an annual community event in the heart of the scheme area.

The Landscape Partnership commissioned Shirley Muir Associates, Wingspan Consulting and Minerva Heritage to continue the consultation process through autumn 2015. Wingspan and Minerva Heritage consultants met with heritage and tourism businesses, third sector organisations, parish councils, schools and other individuals and organisations involved in activities relevant to the scheme. They held workshops with the Landscape Partnership's Steering Group and Mind In Furness, carried out face-to-face surveys of visitors to local attractions, and undertook an internet-based survey promoted to local residents but open to all. Their results were incorporated into the Audience Development and Interpretation Plans (ADIP) described below.

The Rusland Horizons film was presented at a Christmas event attended by more than 80 local residents. The event enabled the Partnership to discuss project plans in an informal setting.



Figure 6: Landscape Partnership Christmas event at The Yan, Grizedale, 2015 © LDNPA

The recommendations made in the ADIP were presented to a wider partnership of Delivery Partners and key participants at a conference held at YMCA Lakeside in March 2015. The conference focused on gathering feedback to project plans and ensuring that their legacy and sustainability were considered from the outset. A short film about the conference can be viewed here:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlQweUUOAol&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlQweUUOAol&feature=youtu.be)



Figure 7: Detailed discussions at the Rusland Horizons Spring Conference, March 2015. © Whitewood & Fleming.

Detailed project plans were presented to local stakeholders during an afternoon of walks, talks and heritage demonstrations held at Old Hall Farm, Bouth. Over 100 people attended this event and the response to proposals was resoundingly positive. As a result of this event, new relationships with a number of woodland owners were established.

These formal engagement events were augmented by talks and presentations delivered by Steering Group members and the Development Officer to local community groups, parish councils and stakeholder organisations. In total, the Partnership has engaged in over 20 events to 750 participants. Taking into account, the potential for double-counting, this still covers a significant proportion of the scheme area's 1200<sup>2</sup> residents.

### **1.3.2.3 Commissioned Work**

Alongside the consultation process, a wide range of work was commissioned to fill gaps in the Partnership's knowledge. These plans and reports form appendices and supporting documents to the LCAP:

#### **Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)**

Chris Greenwood, Landscape Architect, prepared a draft document with input from the LDNPA and Natural England. The Assessment was augmented with feedback from visitors and residents gathered during the autumn of 2014 by Wingspan Consulting Ltd. Its objectives were to:

- draw on existing studies to provide a technical assessment of the scheme area which enhances our knowledge and understanding of the landscape; why it looks like it does, how it functions, what are the forces for change affecting it and how do we best manage the landscape to conserve and enhance those features which make it different from other areas and give it its unique 'sense of place'.
- tell the story of the Rusland landscape which will help people understand and develop their relationship with the area in which they live, work or visit and develop, and hopefully enhance, their own personal 'sense of place'.

Information from the LCA is incorporated into Chapter 2 of this LCAP. The full document is provided in Appendix One and is available at

[www.ruslandhorizons.org/downloads.html](http://www.ruslandhorizons.org/downloads.html)

#### **Audience Development and Interpretation Plans**

The Audience Development Plan (ADP) was produced by Wingspan Consulting and identifies both the current and potential audiences for the Landscape Partnership scheme. It also describes an 'ambition' to increase the commitment and engagement of existing audiences through more frequent and active involvement, to attract new and wider audiences and to develop more enriching experiences for that audience.

The Interpretation Plan (IP) was produced by Minerva Heritage and explores and recommends ways that the scheme can inform, enthuse, engage and involve those existing and potential audiences.

The ADP and IP were produced as separate documents which are linked, particularly in their reference to current and potential audiences. These linkages were coordinated by Shirley Muir Associates, and the plans were part funded by the Go Lakes<sup>3</sup> small grants

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<sup>2</sup> Based on 2011 census report.

<sup>3</sup> A fund dedicated to: supporting transport projects which encourage visitors to use sustainable passenger transport when travelling to and around the south and central Lake District

fund. The research, surveys and consultation for both documents were carried out in parallel and shared, looking at who lives in and visits the area, what they do, what they value, what they want to learn about and whether they want to be actively involved.

A separate report summarising the findings was also provided. Findings from these reports are reproduced in Chapter 3 and have informed the development of the LCAP and detailed project plans. The full reports are provided in Appendices Two, Three and Four. A summary of the plans is available at [www.ruslandhorizons.org/downloads.html](http://www.ruslandhorizons.org/downloads.html)

### **Evaluation Plan**

An evaluation plan, together with a detailed spreadsheet of scheme outputs, was prepared by Wingspan Consulting. This plan sets out how we will evaluate the scheme – gathering data to demonstrate effectiveness and to enable us to tell the story of the work, and learning lessons for the future. The plan is provided in Appendix Seven.

### **Butterfly Surveys and Habitat Enhancement**



*Figure 8: Volunteers planting primroses; the food plant for the rare Duke of Burgundy butterfly. ©. H. Smith*

The Rusland Horizons Landscape Partnership joined with the Morecambe Bay Nature Improvement Area to commission Butterfly Conservation to carry out surveys and produce reports on the rare butterfly and moth species in the area. The work spanned the Development Phase and involved:

- Researching and compiling records and data relating to high brown fritillary, Duke of Burgundy and netted carpet moth across the scheme area;

- Building up a trained volunteer group to monitor the high brown fritillary at Grizedale Forest, to determine its distribution in Grizedale and in the wider Forest Estate sites;
- Creating volunteer opportunities for surveying Duke of Burgundy butterflies at High Dam and planting out primrose food plants;
- Increasing volunteer opportunities to take part in the netted carpet moth (NCM) survey work run by the NCM action group
- Working with landowners to improve habitat at key sites by planting out butterfly food plants
- Producing two reports on the status and distribution of each of the three species in the scheme area, based on all the data collected, to inform future management for the area and in particular to contribute to the Delivery Phase starting in April 2016.

The reports contain confidential information relating to landowners and the distribution of rare butterfly populations.

### **Report on Markets for Coppice Products in the Rusland Horizon's Area**

The Landscape Partnership recognises that the long term sustainability of any coppice restoration work depends upon landowners accessing markets for coppice products. To this end, Rebecca Oaks, coppice merchant, woodland advisor and Chair and Trustee of the Bill Hogarth Memorial Apprenticeship Trust (BHMAT) undertook a study which evaluates the markets for coppice products in the Rusland Horizon's area including:

- Historical markets
- Present day markets
- Future markets

The report is provided in Appendix Nine and is available at [www.ruslandhorizons.org/downloads.html](http://www.ruslandhorizons.org/downloads.html)

### **Deer Management Advisory Paper**

The Rusland Valley is home to woodland herds of native red deer and roe deer, which often have specific impacts on vulnerable habitat as well agriculture and forestry. It is widely accepted by government agencies, NGOs, and academics that deer are more abundant and widespread now than at any time in the past 1000 years. Because of the lack of natural predators in the UK, the role of human control is necessary and important. The Partnership commissioned The Deer Initiative to provide deer management advice on the scheme as they have been involved in coordinating deer management throughout the North West. The aim of the Advisory Paper is to ensure deer populations are maintained at sustainable levels (in the absence of natural predators) and to ensure the health of the landscape. It is provided in Appendix Ten.

#### 1.3.2.4 Pilot Projects

A number of activities and projects were piloted during the Development Stage to help inform project planning and engage people.

#### Full Cycle

This project was delivered in partnership with Colton Parish Council, LDNPA, and the Campaign for National Parks (CNP) Mosaic Project. HLF and LDNPA Community Grant funding was used to commission Woodmatters to work with disadvantaged young people from the Barrow and Ulverston area to learn about, and carry out coppicing and charcoal making and develop greenwood working skills at Border Moss Woods. A case study about the project is provided in Appendix Eight.



*Figure 9: Mosaic Champions fell a tree with LDNPA Ranger, Andrew Wilkinson. © C. Dyson*

#### Woodfuel event

In previous years, tree felling had been undertaken at High Dam to enhance the habitat for butterflies. This had been done by the LDNPA under the guidance of Butterfly Conservation. The trees had been felled in an area that was inaccessible by vehicle and the timber was therefore not commercially viable. The LDNPA worked with volunteers to bring the timber down to the roadside. Some was sold to English Heritage for use at the Stott Park Bobbin Mill, the rest was given to the volunteers as reimbursement for their time. The event was good fun for all involved but proved prohibitively resource-intensive. Lessons learnt have been incorporated into project plans.



Figure 10: Volunteer woodfuel gathering event at High Dam. © J. Green.

## Archaeology and Landscape Features

A small group of volunteers, led by Vanessa Champion, the Archaeology Working Group Leader, undertook some initial investigations of woodlands in the area to check their suitability for the community archaeology project. They looked at ease of access and wealth of features. Once this work was complete they surveyed the routes of the proposed Greenwood Trails to identify landscape features. A database of features, together with images and GPS tracked grid references was produced and from this, plans for feature conservation will be developed.



Figure 11: Archaeology volunteers carry out some preliminary woodland surveys. © V. Champion

### **1.3.2.5 Project Planning**

During the Development Stage, the Steering Group continued to meet every other month to review progress and provide advice on overarching project aims. From the Steering Group, a smaller Project Management Group (PMG) was formed and met at least monthly to coordinate developments at an operational level.

Members of the Steering Group chaired four Working Groups, which were established to develop the detailed project plans. Each Working Group focused on a different aspect of the Scheme; Heritage Skills, Woodlands and Wildlife, Hidden Heritage – Archaeology, Hidden Heritage – Oral and Mapped History. The groups were comprised of representatives from the community and a wider network of organisations, including those who became Delivery Partners for certain projects. The Greenwood Trail project was developed with a focus group of local residents coordinated by Sara Spicer, Area Ranger for the LDNPA.

Using the information, advice and suggestions generated from the consultations, pilots and research, the projects put forward at round one were refined to arrive at 15 projects across four themes which are set out in detail in Part 3 of the LCAP.

Development of the scheme particularly benefitted from the skills, knowledge and support of this wider partnership of organisations and local people, and the close relationships that they have built up, over many years, with landowners in the area. These links will be crucial to the delivery of the scheme.