



Advisory Group Meeting
Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre, Ennerdale
5th – 7th September 2007

Attendees

Antonia Armer – RSPB
Steve Carver – Leeds University
John Darlington – National Trust
Jan Darrell – Friends of the Lake District
Mervyn Edwards – Natural England
Emma Goldberg – Natural England
Katherine Hearn – National Trust
John Handley – Manchester University
John Hodgson – Lake District National Park Authority
Peter Taylor – Consultant / Wildland Network
Simon Webb – Natural England
Jane Wilson – Grazing Animals Project
Mike Farrell – Environment Agency

Wild Ennerdale Partners

Jeremy Barlow – National Trust
Gareth Browning – Forestry Commission
Rachel Oakley – Project Officer
Debbie Rushton – Forestry Commission

Apologies

Edward Holt - UU/Wild Ennerdale
Dave Lowe – Forestry Commission/Wild Ennerdale
Graeme Prest – Forestry Commission/Wild Ennerdale
Andrew Herbert – Lake District National Park

The Advisory Group

The purpose of the Advisory Group is to bring together experts from a range of disciplines to help guide the partners on practical work, technical advice and broad principles in line with the Wild Ennerdale vision¹. The Advisory Group first met in May 2005 at Low Gillerthwaite. That first meeting focussed primarily on what we would like to see happen in the valley, covering many themes such as developing the forest, enhancing riparian habitats, establishing baseline monitoring and introducing extensive grazing by large herbivores.

This second meeting enabled the group to see much of what was discussed at the first meeting being implemented. In doing so, this prompted suggestions, offers of practical help and identification of potential challenges which lie ahead as we continue our aim of moving towards a more integrated landscape with natural processes becoming more dominant.

The Programme

Wed 5th Sept – evening presentation giving background to Wild Ennerdale and update on current activities within the valley.

Thur 6th Sept – Walk (c.10 miles), start & finish point Low Gillerthwaite.
Route: Silver Cove (cattle area) ? Deep Gill ? Great Cove ? Steeple ? Windgap Cove ? Ennerdale Forest ? forest track (valley bottom).

¹ Wild Ennerdale Vision: “to allow the evolution of Ennerdale as a wild valley for the benefit of people, relying more on natural processes to shape its landscape and ecology”

Fri 7th – Discussion session – **see appendix 1**

Appendix 1

Discussion session & action points (italics)– Friday 7th September 07

Follow –up partnership action points (bullet points) from partnership meeting – Friday 12th October 07

1. *Need to continue what we currently do and more to engage farming community. Look at engaging neighbouring farmers over watershed.*
 - Organise a 'liaison group meeting' for early spring '08 to update stakeholders on practical work and broad objectives (based on stewardship plan). Local farmers to be invited.
 - Partners to visit farmers who manage land at head of Ennerdale but live over watershed.
2. *Think through World Heritage Site process to ensure that Wild Ennerdale opportunities are captured fully.*
 - Jeremy Barlow to speak to NT Area Manager & Gareth Browning to speak to FC N W Regional Director with regard to Wild Ennerdale input to the WHS steering group and management plan.
3. *Carry out River Liza and tributaries sedimentation survey.*
 - Gareth Browning has arranged for sediment survey to be undertaken on The River Liza by independent consultant in 2008 (date tbc).
- 4. *Continue to engage visitors and local community. Explore art in Ennerdale, archaeology interpretation, story telling, drama etc.*
 - Ennerdale 'Time & Place' art project ongoing through to July '08, working in partnership with Copeland BC & resident artist. Incorporates Wild Ennerdale into art & design process
 - Wild Ennerdale newsletter (twice yearly), parish newsletter updates (monthly) & Wild Ennerdale website provide updated information
 - Early stages of forming a 'business focus group'. Looking at how Wild Ennerdale brand could support local businesses.
 - Archaeology interpretation leaflet planned for valley using info. from surveys carried out in last couple of years.
5. *Consider more detailed deer monitoring.*
 - Within next 1 – 2 years, establish a baseline monitoring programme for deer with advice from Forest Research & John Handley.
6. *Advisory Group support ongoing investment in spruce control. Continue target of preventing spruce dominating as main priority.*
 - FC team & contractors working in valley at present. 20-25 ha of young spruce felled to waste. Approx. 100 ha still remains to fell. Gareth has requested funding for ongoing work.
7. *Investigate link to national forest research about spruce regen – invite researchers for day meeting to establish links and possible research areas.*
 - See no. 5 – contact to be made with Forest Research.
8. *Investigate how we can capture visitor perceptions and people movements within the valley.*

- Steve Carver sent information & links for on-line visitor surveys (Rachel to follow up). Gareth spoken to other contacts at Leeds Uni. with regard to 'tag mapping' & public perceptions of places. Hope to produce similar interactive mapping system for Wild Ennerdale via website.
9. *Monitor effectiveness of new fell boundary wall and impact of stock encroachment on grazing on Pillar SSSI.*
- Local shepherd contracted to visit valley twice monthly for next 3 years to monitor sheep trespass & effectiveness of boundary wall/fence now it is complete.
 - Partners agreed to review situation in 2010 & consider extending or removing boundary as appropriate.
10. *Continue to monitor impact of extensive grazing by cattle in valley bottom – monitoring to include archaeology*
- Monitoring ongoing via photos, enclosures, tracking collar & checks by farmer. To be applied to new adjacent cattle area in 2008. Monitoring incorporates archaeology sites. A different tracking system will be used for the next herd of cattle to be introduced in valley bottom to keep records separate.
11. *Investigate challenge from Peter Taylor in taking 'iconic step' towards species re-introduction.*
- Partners propose to do this by first understanding what is already present in valley – will look into baseline survey of small mammals and contact Vincent Trust (visited valley couple of years ago to follow up sightings of Pine Marten)