

10. Links to Key External Organisations Policies

The Wild Ennerdale area sits within the Lake District National Park and the Borough of Copeland. As such, it is important that the vision of Wild Ennerdale is not seen to exist in isolation, but incorporates the statutory responsibilities of other relevant organisations. Examples of key organisations and their policies are listed below.

Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA)

Management Plan¹ – published April 2004 (5 year plan)

The Environment Act of 1995 requires National Park Authorities to prepare and publish National Park Management Plans and to review them every 5 years. The Management Plan sets out the guiding principles, vision, long-term aims and policies for managing the National Park, based on its special qualities. A number of policies within the plan compliment 'Wild Ennerdale', those most closely linked are highlighted below:

- Landscape (L)
L6 – Protect and enhance the qualities of tranquillity, wildness and remoteness
L7 - Encourage gradual landscape change when appropriate but promote changes that strengthen landscape character of particular areas.
- Nature Conservation (NC)
NC3 – Promote sustainable and holistic management of semi-natural habitats by applying management principles on a large scale, across catchments and whole fells
NC12 – Support and promote the development of areas of the National Park where natural processes are allowed to predominate.
NC15 – Carry out research and monitoring of habitats and species to inform land management and make decisions which are based on up-to-date and sound information
- Farming (F)
F1 – Support the evolution of sustainable farming practices, which encompass profitability, environmental objectives and social benefits.
- Historic Environment (HE)
HE1 – Maintain up-to-date information on the Lake District's historic environment. Investigate and record archaeology, historic landscapes, buildings, features and settlements.
- Access & Recreation (AR)
AR6 - Protect and, where possible, enhance opportunities Park-wide for quiet enjoyment, and retain the character of the quieter areas of the Park.
- Tourism (T)
T9 – Manage and market tourism facilities and activities in ways which relate to the special qualities of the National Park, and take into account the character of the local environment.
- Sustainable Communities (SC)
SC6 - Encourage local people to contribute to community strategies so that they reflect local opinion and help generate integrated public services.

In addition to the Management Plan, the LDNPA also carried out (in partnership with the NT, FC, UU & EN) consultation with local communities on the future management of Ennerdale Water and its immediate surroundings. Specific topics included vehicle access & parking, recreational provision and the lakeshore landscape². Consultation

¹ *Management Plan*. Lake District National Park Authority, 2004

² *Ennerdale Water Consultation Report*. LDNPA, October 2001

was initially done in 2001 and has been under review for the last few years. More recently, the same partners revised the implementation programme to ensure that any planned activity complimented the broader plans for Wild Ennerdale.

Friends of the Lake District (FOLD)

Formed in 1934, the Friends of the Lake District (FOLD) works to protect and enhance the special qualities of the distinctive and inspirational landscapes of the Lake District and Cumbria.

FOLD is a membership organisation representing the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) throughout Cumbria. It has supporters both in Britain and abroad and works alongside other organisations and local groups to achieve a stronger recognition of the contribution of landscapes to the well-being of the nation and of the need to protect them from the effects of damaging developments. FOLD promotes solutions for the long-term future of the countryside in Cumbria and aims to ensure that any change recognises the value of its natural and built environment. In doing so the organisation seeks to:

- ***Widen the recognition, protection and enhancement of the special qualities of the landscapes of Lake District and Cumbria***
- ***Promote better access for all who wish to enjoy quiet recreation in the countryside***
- ***Widen the recognition of the role landscape plays in sustaining local communities***
- ***Promote greater understanding of the role of landscape in enriching people's live***

Following the outbreak of Foot & Mouth, FOLD produced a 'position paper' on 'Agricultural and Rural Development'.³ The paper suggests that a more holistic approach is necessary for the future of farming, considering agriculture alongside the landscape/environment and character of the area, and the local economy and community benefits. More specifically, the paper suggests a number of practical landscape measures be pursued which include:

- The possibility of rewilding, e.g. through the retreat of farming from some more marginal areas;
- More heather, juniper and enrichment of upland pastures

Over the medium term (2-10 years), FLD also highlights that "there may be opportunities for FOLD to acquire more land, either for rewilding or to show how a large area or valley could be managed for conservation". This would be achieved through partners working towards an agreed management plan and vision for a future landscape, and could bring huge gains in terms of increased knowledge and future policy campaigning.

Natural England (incorporating the Countryside Agency, Rural Development Service & English Nature)

The Countryside Agency (sponsored by DEFRA) is the statutory body working to make the quality of life better for people in the countryside and the quality of the countryside better for everyone.

³ *Agriculture and Rural Development Position Paper, FoLD 2002*

The Rural Development Service (RDS), also part of DEFRA, is “the largest deliverer of the England Rural Development Programme (ERDP) schemes and a range of other rural services”. RDS works with rural partners and local people to:

- enhance the environment (including the new Environmental Stewardship Scheme)
- improve the conservation of wildlife and biodiversity
- strengthen rural economies and communities.
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English Nature is a Government funded body whose purpose is to promote the conservation of England’s wildlife and natural features and has responsibility for over 4,000 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in England.

The Rural Strategy 2004 announced the Government's plans to set up a single, independent public body – “Natural England”. This 'integrated agency' will cover the agri-environment part of the Rural Development Service, all of English Nature and the access, recreation and landscape remit of the Countryside Agency.

“Natural England” will unite in a single organisation, the responsibility for enhancing biodiversity and our landscapes and nature conservation in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas; promoting access, recreation and public wellbeing and contributing to the way natural resources are managed so they can be enjoyed now and for future generations. Natural England will work in partnership with the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission, who will continue to lead on environmental protection and improvement of soil, air and water, and sustainable forest management respectively.

Natural England will be launched formally by the beginning of 2007. However, from 1st April 2005 the organisations will work together to deliver joint outcomes. This will apply nationally, regionally and locally.

Landscape, Access & Recreation (LAR) is a new division of the agency and incorporates sustainable land management policy and research work carried out by the Land Management Initiative (LMI) scheme.

How the policies of the new integrated agency will compliment Wild Ennerdale has yet to be seen. Current policies however very much support the concept of increasing areas as ‘managed wilderness’⁴, investigating innovative practical solutions to maintaining viable farm businesses while providing economic, environmental & social benefits, and looking at opportunities for new wild land in England through the LMI experiences⁵.

Copeland Borough Council

Situated on the west coast of Cumbria, the Borough of Copeland neighbours the districts of Allerdale, Barrow-in-Furness and South Lakeland, and covers an area of 284 square miles, two thirds of which lies within the Lake District National Park.

With a population of approx. 70,000, the Borough stretches along the coast from just north of Whitehaven to Millom in the south. The majority of the population live within the narrow coastal strip of which Whitehaven is the main settlement. Inland are the remote and sparsely populated valleys of Ennerdale, Wasdale, Eskdale and Dunnerdale.

⁴ *Strategy for Sustainable Land Management in England*. Countryside Agency, June 2001

⁵ *Experiences from the Land Management Initiatives*. Countryside Agency, 2004

A 'Local Plan'⁶ prepared by Copeland Borough Council relates to all of the Borough outside the Lake District National Park, covering the period 2001 – 2016. The Plan sets out the Council's policies and proposals for the future development and use of land, improvements of the physical environment and management of traffic.

The Local Plan refers to Copeland as being "one of the most attractive places to live, work or visit in the North West, with it's outstanding landscapes & wildlife habitats, distinctive character of it's towns & villages and strong sense of community identity". Also recognised however are the long-term economic problems resulting from a declining (& over dependent) manufacturing sector and poor transport infrastructure, with knock on effects such as low incomes/benefit dependency, health problems, poor housing, social stress & struggling communities. Seven out of the fourteen wards in Copeland feature in the top 20% nationally in terms of deprivation indicators. The Local Plan demonstrates how the Council (and partners) plan to tackle economic and social issues and to seek a 'wholesome regeneration of the Borough'.

Although there are no specific links to Ennerdale in the Local Plan (as the remit is for areas of the Borough outside of the Lake District National Park) future management within the valley will affect not just immediate communities, but potentially create a much wider sphere of influence in terms of environmental, social and economic benefits. Copeland Borough Council is a consultee for any planning activities within the National Park which fall within their boundary. Protecting, conserving & enhancing the Boroughs landscape, built environment, heritage, ecological and recreational importance and improving the quality of life for its residents are key aims of the plan which compliment the Wild Ennerdale process.

Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Plan

The Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Plan⁷ was produced in 2004, incorporating feedback from a parish questionnaire and appraisal during 2002 & 2003. Funding for the plan was provided by the Countryside Agency and acknowledges that any plans for the parish must take into account what is required of central government and other organisations. These include: Cumbria County Council, Copeland Borough Council and the Lake District National Park Authority.

The Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish (population approx. 270) comprises 9,066 hectares of rural land entirely within the Lake District National Park. The plan is obviously specific to issues which directly affect the parish such as affordable housing, tourism, services, traffic & transport, policing, environment (recycling facilities, dog fouling, litter etc) and provisions for young people. Looking beyond the village, the plan makes reference to the special qualities of the land covered by the parish boundary:

"Ennerdale & Kinniside is very small in the great scheme of things, but we are the custodians of an unspoilt wilderness and are entitled to be consulted, also listened to, as well as being represented in the larger arena"

"The land comprises of high mountains and fells to lowland meadows which is classed as marginal land, but this decries its wild beauty. With the boundary for the eastern half of the parish being the ridge of mountains known as the Ennerdale horseshoe, its isolation gives it a just claim to be known as the 'Last Wilderness' and

⁶ *Copeland Local Plan 2001-2016*. Copeland Borough Council. Feb 2004

⁷ *Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Plan*. Ennerdale & Kinniside Parish Council 2004

with the caring involvement of the LDNPA, National Trust, Forest Enterprise and United Utilities this is close on being a reality” (*Vic Chilton, Deputy Chairman*)

Rural Regeneration Cumbria

Rural Regeneration Cumbria (RRC) is the first rural regeneration company in the UK, working to rebuild and develop a dynamic rural economy in Cumbria. The North West Regional Development Agency (NWRDA) and Cumbria County Council created RRC in response to structural weaknesses in the rural economy highlighted by the foot and mouth crisis in 2001.

RRC’s objectives include attracting and developing new industries as well as supporting agriculture and tourism, where Cumbria has traditionally been strong. RRC’s ‘Next Steps’ strategy was published in June 2002 and set out the vision to:

“... enable the rebuilding and development of a dynamic rural economy for Cumbria, which is financially, socially and environmentally sustainable.”

A number of aims link to Wild Ennerdale in terms of developing sustainable local economies, improving environmental quality of land and water quality, greater access and enhanced visitor experience for those who visit the countryside and recognising the visual and spiritual qualities of the cultural landscape. As the social and economic opportunities are explored and the ‘cultural landscape’ of Wild Ennerdale changes over time, it will be interesting to see how the strategies of organisations such RRC will incorporate opportunities created through low input land management.

The "Next Steps" strategy was reviewed recently and concluded with revised publication of "New Landscapes" in June 2005.

Land Use Policy Group (LUPG)

The LUPG of the GB statutory conservation, countryside and environment agencies comprises the Countryside Agency, Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature, Environment Agency, Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Scottish Natural Heritage.

The LUPG aims to advise on policy matters of common concern related to agriculture, woodlands and other rural land uses. It seeks to improve understanding of the pros and cons of policy mechanisms related to land use, particularly farming and forestry; to develop a common view of desirable reforms to existing policies; and to promote these views.

In June 2002, a report was produced exploring the potential for developing new landscape scale ‘wildwoods’ in Britain⁸. Emphasis was on the potential to create extensive areas of native woodland which might go some way to form a modern equivalent of the original ‘wildwood’. In addition, the report sought to explore socio-economic and biodiversity benefits, and to stimulate debate on the ‘wildwood’ theme.

Ennerdale was one of three locations chosen as a case study but with the point stressed that ‘Wild Ennerdale’ was not specifically a native woodland restoration project as complete removal of conifer was not an aim, but rather to create

⁸ *New Wildwoods in Britain :The Potential for Developing New Landscape-Scale Native Woodlands*. Land Use Policy Group, June 2002

opportunity for native woodland species to expand and add diversity to the landscape.

In April 2003, a second report was produced by LUPG titled 'New Wildwoods : Removing Barriers to Development and Implementation'.⁹ Wild Ennerdale was again one of the case studies used, this time with focus on what the perceived/actual barriers are to develop wildwoods (e.g. policy constraints) and the need to establish an information network for Wildwoods and Wild Land initiatives generally.

Council for National Parks

The Council for National Parks (CNP) is the charity that works to protect and enhance the National Parks of England and Wales and areas that merit National Park status, and promote understanding and quiet enjoyment of them for the benefit of all. CNP works in partnership with National Park Authorities and the Association of National Park Authorities – the Government's statutory advisers in England and Wales.

In 1997, CNP produced a report 'Wild by Design': to explore the potential for the creation of wilder areas in the National Parks of England and Wales¹⁰. A highly regarded panel appointed by the Countryside Commission reviewed the National Parks of England and Wales. One of the proposals was that:

"A number of experimental schemes on a limited scale should be set up in the National Parks, where farming is withdrawn entirely and the natural succession of vegetation is allowed to take it's course" (Edwards 1991)

Ennerdale was one area identified in the Lake District which would 'particularly benefit from a change to a wilder area'. Key recommendations included creating areas on as large a scale possible, which would be capable of functioning with less intervention. In addition was the need to have a comprehensive long-term monitoring programme in place to assess the outcome of management regimes and adapt them as necessary.

[Linked Maps: A & B](#)

⁹ *New Wildwoods :Removing Barriers to Development and Implementation*. Land Use Policy Group, April 2003

¹⁰ *Wild by Design in the National Parks of England & Wales*. Council for National Parks 1997