

9. Links to Partners Management Plans



THE NATIONAL TRUST

Looking after special places forever, for everyone is the core purpose of the National Trust¹. For over 100 years, the National Trust has been conserving coastline, open countryside, historic houses and gardens for the benefit of the nation. The NT is a charity with over 3 million members nationally (325,000 in the North West).

Since its first countryside purchase in the Lake District of Brandlehow, Derwent Water, the NT has gone on to acquire approximately 25% of the Lake District National Park through purchase or donation. This huge upland estate now covers 51,000 hectares and includes around 90 farms (& 21,000 Herdwick sheep which form the Landlords flock) and (with leased land) 22,500 hectares of common land.

The National Trust has a series of management documents which 'map' how the organisation will move forward over both the short term (3 years) and longer term (20 years +) to deliver its aims and objectives at local, regional and national level. In the North West, a key aim is to be recognised as a successful, forward thinking and outwardly focussed region which is well placed to continue to develop 'pioneering projects'.²

Wild Ennerdale is viewed as one such pioneering project and features in the Regional Business Plan³ and the Lake District Vision 2025⁴. One (of four) key objective(s) for the next 3 years is to be "A source of Inspiration" by:

- Raising the profile & influence of the NT in the region through the implementation of the NW Advocacy Strategy & external partnerships
- Making the most of the NT's existing property portfolio by bringing statements of significance to life & optimising learning & access opportunities
- Focusing on customers and the visitor experience at properties

It is also a key project identified in the Lake District Vision 2025 (NT 2005), which seeks to ensure a 'high quality natural and cultural environment', promotes places to find 'inspiration, adventure and tranquillity' and argues for the understanding, celebration and augmentation of dynamic, varied landscapes.

Implementation of the NT Strategic Plan, the 2025 Vision and its framework is through the Property Management Plans which deliver 'on the ground' through property staff, tenant farmers and volunteers. For Ennerdale, this is entirely focused on the partnership working of the main landowners under the vision and objectives of 'Wild Ennerdale'. Property Management Plans are reviewed annually and will be updated as Wild Ennerdale develops.

¹ National Trust Strategic Plan 2004-2007 & Delivery Plan 2004/5

² North West Regional Business Plan 2004-7

³ North West Regional Business Plan 2004-7

⁴ Lake District Vision 2025 – report yet to be published



United Utilities supplies water to customers in West Cumbria, many of whom are supplied from Ennerdale. It also has wider obligations of preservation and management of property under the Water Industry Act 1991. The Act places an obligation on the Company to provide for recreational activities on its land and water resources.

The Regional Policy Document states amongst other things:

- The primary purpose of catchment management is to maintain raw water quality to meet our statutory obligations and operational requirements. Wherever possible, management shall have a positive impact on raw water quality.
- Where catchment land is not owned by United Utilities, efforts shall be made to encourage the adoption of our catchment management policies by third parties.

The Water Industry Act 1991 places obligations on the Company to:

- Further the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the conservation of flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest.
- Have regard to the desirability of protecting and conserving buildings, sites and objects of archaeological, architectural or historic interest.
- Take into account any effect which proposals would have on the beauty or amenity of any rural or urban area or on any flora, fauna, features, buildings, sites or objects.
- Have regard to preserving any freedom of public access to our land; maintaining access for visitors to historical sites and take into account the effects of any proposals upon these interests.

The Wild Ennerdale partnership gives us the opportunity of participation in the development of the policies which affect a major non-owned catchment supplying a significant number of customers, and the fulfilment of the principals of the Water Industry Act on non-owned catchment.



Woodlands managed by the Forestry Commission (FC) make a major contribution to the North West of England with many pioneering projects. Examples include:

- The Whinlatter Forest Park near Keswick, which attracts over 100,000 people each year who come to marvel at the Ospreys, injecting over £2 million into the local economy;
- The 52 km of new footpaths constructed in new community woodlands in the Mersey belt (long enough to connect Liverpool and Manchester!);
- The Forestry Commission is the single largest manager of limestone pavement in England.

The Forestry Commission has responded to the changing needs and wishes of society and nowhere more so than in the North West. The FC was established in 1919 to create a strategic supply of timber for the next war. Today timber is still an important product of woodland management, helping support the local economy, however it has now become a means to an end rather than an end in itself. Provision of outdoor recreation opportunities, nature conservation and regeneration of urban areas are increasingly important. The FC are now working more in partnership with other government bodies, voluntary groups, local communities and private businesses.

Wild Ennerdale is seen as an important pioneering partnership which is at the forefront of land management. Our involvement as a key partner links very well with the Forestry Commissions objectives at National and Regional levels, as detailed in the England Forestry Strategy, North West Regional Forestry Framework and North West England Forest District Strategic Plan. See extracts below:

North West England Forest District Strategic Plan

Mission

To sustainably manage the North West England Forest District estate to maximise public benefit and achieve a balance between social, environmental, and economic objectives.

Objectives

Overall the aim is to achieve a balance between the following objectives, working in partnership where appropriate.

- Biodiversity – Biodiversity and Habitat Action Plans, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Schedule Ancient Monument and general conservation value of estate.
- Landscape – design forests in ways which respond to the individual character of each woodland and its setting.
- Recreation – high quality visitor experience, wide ranging opportunities for the public to enjoy healthy outdoor pursuits in an attractive, sustainable and safe environment.
- Education – high quality environmental education programme for all ages.
- Local economy and jobs – through tourism, timber and other forest operations and other uses of the land.
- Community – involve local communities, businesses and farmers.
- Heritage – safeguard archaeological and heritage interest.

The Wild Ennerdale Stewardship plan will replace the Forest Design Plans for Ennerdale, Broadmoor, Heckbarley and Crag as the primary management document.