

Appendix 1

Fundraising and Conservation Activity of The Tourism and Conservation Partnership within the Copeland area boundaries.

1st October 2006 – 1st March 2007

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Tourism Liaison Activity:

November 2006 Meeting with British Nuclear Group Corporate Responsibility team, where agreement to fund cycleway development was discussed. Also discussed was how BNG could support our work with smaller businesses

January 2007 Meeting with Hadrians Wall Heritage regarding sponsorship by British Nuclear Group of projects along the wall in the Copeland area. Discussion around how to work with local businesses groups.

February 2007 Claire Stott had further discussion with Steve Morgan (Commercial Director BNG) where he further confirmed BNG's desire to work with T&CP.*

*Note: The delay in this project funding is due to co-ordinating BNG staff with a number of 'beneficiary organisations (Hadrians Wall Heritage, Sustrans) in order to define project costs and match funders. Sherrie has been involved in this discussion. We hope to have this resolved soon.

February 2007 Tori Dodd attended 'Romans in Ravenglass' meeting to talk to local business and about coastal projects. A few businesses were interested, and these leads will be followed up, however, coastal projects will have to be added to our project list – this involves (as with HWH and Sustrans) establishing relationships with new conservation organisations.

February 2007 Tori Dodd attended Western Lake District Tourism Partnership AGM and talked to businesses there about our work. WLDTP keen to become more involved, for example including information about T&CP in newsletters.

New Business Members:

- January 2007 New recruit Bankfield House in Millom, committed to an 'opt out' fundraising system, and wants to support a coastline project when

they come on board as projects. In the meantime this business is 'generically' fundraising for the 'Wildlife and Wilderness' Theme.

February 2007 Supported by Bankfield House, Tori Dodd presented at a local rotary night.

Fundraising:

In addition to Honister Slate Mines anticipated £6000 for the Wild Ennerdale project:

- £2500 has been pledged by Lamont Pridmore (Whitehaven) for Ennerdale Juniper planting.
- Generic fundraising of c.£10,000 per annum is ongoing for Red Squirrel conservation. An element of this funding will be supporting local Red Alert groups in the Copeland area, but it is difficult to quantify how much of the total amount.
- Similarly, the Fix the Fells, upland path repair programme has projects within the Copeland Area. Due to changes in the way we are encouraging fundraising for these projects, it is likely that businesses outside the Copeland area will, through generic 'themed' fundraising, support these projects within Copeland. Last year we generated £60,000 for Fix the Fells work, with facilitated a further £120,000 in Heritage Lottery Funding for the project.

In total, we anticipate that approximately **£15,000** (before HLF match funding elements) will be generated for Copeland based projects during 2007. Any agreement reached with BNG for investment in cycleways would be over and above this figure.

A 'conservation day' for Copeland Tourism businesses is being planned, though this is likely to be in the Autumn, as we develop our relationships with conservation bodies. We tend to communicate (and arrange events) with the tourism sector in the 'off' season, when they are more likely to have time to talk to us.

For a full list, and detail of conservation projects we are supporting, or looking to support, in the Copeland area please see Appendix 1

Environmental Training:

An environmental training session is planned for April (date to be confirmed) to be hosted by new recruit Bankfield House. WLDTP keen to be involved and support this work.

Partnership Conservation Projects in Copeland as at 01.03.07

Current Projects

FIX THE FELLS

Beneficiary: National Trust/National Park Authority

Cost: (for 2007 in Copeland) £61,363. All fundraising attracts HLF match funding, effectively tripling its value.

Fundraisers: Multiple Fundraisers

The Partnership has a variety of members who fundraise for the Fix the Fells. Our fundraisers will not be sponsoring any individual paths but will be giving money to the wider Fix the Fells scheme which includes projects within Copeland. This scheme is run jointly between the National Park Authority and the National Trust and works to conserve upland rights of way.

In an area as popular as with walkers as Cumbria this is an enormous task which requires four separate path repair teams, working throughout the year in different parts of Cumbria. One of these teams is the Western Valleys team who undertake upland path repairs in Copeland. Task for the teams include the restoration of degraded paths using (and preserving) traditional skills such as pitching – anchoring stones deep into the path to form a hardwearing surface, which will remain for generations. Repair workers also establish new footpath lines. This involves stopping walkers using side routes that will eventually become a part of an enormous erosion scar. The existing scar is re-landscaped into a new path surface that is once more accessible to walkers.

During 2007 the teams will be focussing on three major path repair initiatives within the Copeland District. These will be on routes at Black Sail Pass, Lingmell Gill and from Great Moss to Broad End.

RED SQUIRREL CONSERVATION

Beneficiary: Save Our Squirrels

Cost: ongoing costs

Theme: Wildlife & Wilderness

Fundraisers: Multiple fundraisers

The Red Squirrel is our only native British Squirrel. Sadly, it is estimated that unless positive action is taken now this vulnerable species could become extinct from mainland England in as little as fifteen years. In the North West, the red squirrel is already absent from most of Lancashire and is also threatened in Cumbria and Merseyside. The main cause of this decline is competition with the American grey squirrel, which was introduced to Britain in 1876. The grey squirrel is larger than the red and better able to survive harsh weather and periods of food shortage. It also breeds more successfully and quickly out-competes its red cousin for food.

Donations are forwarded to the Save Our Squirrels project, remain in Cumbria, and are helping to provide:

- work with public and private landowners to implement red squirrel conservation regimes in 6 designated red squirrel reserves and their 5km buffer zones in Cumbria and North Yorkshire.
- support networks of volunteers and contractors in grey squirrel control in these reserves and their 5km buffer zones.
- training sessions on red squirrel monitoring to build up a network of volunteers and contractors to carry out population surveys in reserves.
- produce new signs and interpretation panels for reserves.
- the distribution of 'Welcome to Red Squirrel Country' signs to tourism related local businesses.
- a programme of education for schools and develop web based teacher materials.
- money to establish a champion school near to some of the reserves
- walks and talks for the wider community.
- the attendance of rangers at shows and fairs to engage the general public
- a new website.
- press, TV, radio and media hits to raise the profile of the red squirrel

WILD ENNERDALE JUNIPER PLANTING

Beneficiary: Wild Ennerdale (Forestry Commission)

Cost: £ Trees cost £0.30 each plus £0.11 per tree to plant.

Theme: Wildlife & Wilderness, Sustainability

Fundraiser: Lamont Pridmore

As part of the Wild Ennerdale scheme, the Forestry Commission plan to plant will approximately 5000 Juniper trees. The juniper that they are planting is our native Common Juniper, *Juniperus communis* ssp. *communis*. The young trees are grown by the RSPB team at Haweswater. Juniper berries are collected from Mardale in October each year. They are then stratified in damp sharp sand for 18 months to break their dormancy. They are then scattered in peat free compost in the spring. As they grow into seedlings they are pricked out into pots and finally planted in the following February/March as 5 to 10cm high seedlings.

New and Potential Projects

ARROWTHWAITE

Beneficiary: Woodland Trust

Cost: £3,471

Theme: Wildlife & Wilderness

Arrowthwaite Wood, owned by Copeland Borough Council, is situated a kilometre south of Whitehaven Harbour between the Kells housing estate and Preston

Street. The wood is on a steep eastern facing slope and is an intrinsic feature in the landscape, highly visible from the town and surrounding area.

The north east of the wood is open scrub and heather and provides fine views over Whitehaven and the harbour. The wood was planted by many local schoolchildren it is oblong in shape. The major tree species are Corsican pine, larch, beech, Scots pine, oak, Norway maple, sycamore, some Norway spruce and silver birch. Ground flora consists mostly of shade-loving species such as male fern and bramble. However, in more open areas celandine, bluebells, wood sage and bilberry can also be found.

Several entrances, three to the west, one to the south, one to the north and two from the east give access to the wood. There are a number of public footpaths, including the main tarmac and Whitehaven brick path route that runs from the middle of the western boundary down through the woodland heading north and into the town centre. There are a number of benches located through the wood. The wood is in an urban location and is heavily used by local people for recreation and as a through route into the town.

The Woodland Trust need funding to tackle a Japanese Knotweed invasion as well as to carry out general maintenance work at the site.

CHRIST CLIFFE DUCK FIELD RESERVE SPONSORSHIP

Beneficiary: Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Cost: £575

Theme: Wildlife & Wilderness

Christ Cliffe Duck Field is part of a small basin mire half of which is wooded and half of which displays typical mire vegetation. Cranberry, bog asphodel, sundew, cross-leaved heath and sphagnum moss are all here despite the tiny size of the site. The willows are thought to have been planted and used for basket making in the 19th century.

CLINTS QUARRY RESERVE SPONSORSHIP

Beneficiary: Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Cost: £575

Theme: Wildlife & Wilderness

Clints Quarry is a very dramatic reserve. It takes the shape of a hollow with vertical cliff faces created through the quarrying of limestone. Its plant life; its geology; and its industrial archaeology are of particular note: the old spoil heaps are suffused with flowers including oxeye daisies and orchids; careful inspection of the quarry walls will reveal coral fossils. The quarry is open and accessible to the public and lies within two miles of Egremont. Businesses can undertake to

contribute toward the annual maintenance costs of the reserve, enabling Cumbria Wildlife Trust to carry out regular care and development of the site, often with the assistance of volunteers.

CROW PARK

Beneficiary: Woodland Trust

Cost: £2,466

Theme: Wildlife & Wilderness

Crow Park is situated to the east of Whitehaven town centre, just off the Loop Road. The wood was planted in the shape of a rabbit, with the Whitehaven Loop Road to the east. In the south of Crow Park is a deeply incised valley of an unnamed gill, which runs northeast-southwest.

The north of the wood, known locally as White Park (cpt1 3.3ha), is aligned north south across the west-facing slope and provides fine views across to the port of Whitehaven. White Park is 480 metres long and on average 30 metres wide and only a small southern section is wooded and the rest is patches of younger woodland with open spaces predominantly with dense grass and scrub.

The majority of the trees are mature broadleaves such as Oak and sycamore. Buzzards are known to nest in the wood.

Rhododendron was formerly planted as part of the parkland landscape but has recently been cleared. A small area of bamboo exists to the south of the wood.

Access to the wood can be gained direct from the Loop Road and from the southerly entrance off Park Drive; there are also several entrances from the west and Castle Park. There is quite a varied network of surfaced and unsurfaced routes through the wood on approximately 2000m of public and permissive footpath. There are a number of benches located through the wood. The wood is in an urban location and is heavily used by local people for recreation and as a through route into the town.

The Woodland Trust require funding for clearing drains that are affected by leaf fall and for continued rhododendron control.

ENNERDALE LAKESHORE REVETMENT

Beneficiary: Wild Ennerdale (Forestry Commission)

Cost: £500-£2000, depending on how many sections get removed

Theme: Access, Wildlife & Wilderness, Sustainability

The Forestry Commission hope to pilot the removal of the concrete revetment around the lakeshore by taking away small sections at a time. The lakeshore is an SSSI and the revetment stops the natural processes of development in this

area, meaning that the SSSI has current unfavourable status. It is also interfering with the lakeshore access and public right of way as it stops floodwaters from receding, meaning that the path is often impassable.

ESKDALE WOODFUEL PROJECT

Beneficiary: Wild Ennerdale (Forestry Commission)

Cost: £80 -90,000.

Theme: Wildlife & Wilderness, Sustainability

In Eskdale The Forestry Commission is working with a community group, Eskdale Open, to pilot the replacement of oil fired central heating systems with modern woodfuel heating. Not only is woodfuel 'carbon neutral' but the project is also likely to create forestry jobs for local people thinning the local forests to produce woodfuel, and to manage the forest under 'Continuous Cover' to produce natural regeneration, a more ecologically sound management method. Planning consents are expected to be forthcoming mid October 2006.

The first pilot site has been installed at St Bega's School and is to be opened this Friday. Two other sites, Wasdale YHA and a small residential group of houses in Miterdale are well down the planning process and will be seeking funding very soon.

ESKMEAL DUNES RESERVE SPONSORSHIP

Beneficiary: Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Cost: £575

Theme: Wildlife & Wilderness

Eskmeals Dunes Nature Reserve is part of the Drigg Coast Special Area of Conservation, which is recognised as being one of the best areas in the UK for sand dune habitats. Underlying the greater part of this reserve is shingle, brought to the coast by ice during the last glaciation. Over time, wave action rounded the stones and piled them into long parallel ridges which eventually formed a barrier. This forced the River Esk to make a sharp bend north before it could flow into the Irish Sea. About 5,000 years ago, shell sand started to build up on top of the shingle forming dunes.

The broad sweep of the estuary is a valuable feeding area for a range of birds at all times of year. Wading birds such as curlew and oystercatcher can be seen probing the mud for aquatic snails, shellfish and worms, whilst the more stately grey heron stands motionless in the shallows waiting to 'harpoon' small fish with its spear-like bill. A flash of sapphire blue signals the rapid flight of a kingfisher. These brilliantly coloured birds drop from the air to snatch small fish from the water. In the winter, other birds such as wigeon and goldeneye arrive from further north to feed. Businesses can undertake to contribute toward the annual

maintenance costs of the reserve, enabling Cumbria Wildlife Trust to carry out regular care and development of the site, often with the assistance of volunteers.

GIGGLE ALLEY

Beneficiary: Forestry Commission

Cost:

Rhododendron Control - £5750

Japanese garden - bridges and pagoda - £3450

Japanense Garden Seating - £2300

Annual shrub planting, maintenance and weeding - £6900

Improved access paths - £2300

Improve ramped access from Smithy Brow Lane - £1150

Restore water to garden ponds - £11,500

Theme: Culture & Community

Giggle Alley is a small woodland adjacent to and part of the village of Eskdale Green. For the past 7 years the Forestry Commission, in partnership with Eskdale Open (a community based group) have been working hard to restore the Japanese garden in order to benefit both local people and the environment. The garden is open every day and is free to enter. Unmarked paths lead the visitor up flights of steps and cobbled routes through the garden to a viewpoint. A permanent exhibition and drop in unmanned visitor centre is open during the daytime at the back of St Bega's church.

HADRIAN'S CYCLEWAY

Beneficiary: SUSTRANS

Cost: To calculate cost you need to take the width and multiply by cost per m², then by path length, e.g. if cost per m² is £25 and path is 3m wide then each linear m of path will cost £75, so 1000m path to this spec would be £75k.

Larger Fundraisers (corporate level) can be offered individual stretched of the cycles way to sponsor. Otherwise, smaller businesses raise money for cost per metre. Sustrans complete projects according to priority and also according to where and when full funding becomes available.

Theme: Sustainability

Hadrian's Cycleway (National Cycle Route 72) runs mainly on country lanes and quiet roads, interspersed with sections of traffic-free path. It takes cyclists past magnificent coastal views, breathtaking countryside and through areas rich in Roman heritage. The development of cycleways such as Hadrian's is helping to attract greater numbers of cycle tourists and cycle tourism operators into Cumbria. The Route, including sections that extend along the Copeland Coast, is under continuing development with a variety of future improvements and minor changes. The development of Cycleways is a key aspect of creating a sustainable Cumbria: an important part of encouraging visitors out of their cars is

providing easy and safe routes to use their bikes.

HARRAS MOOR

Beneficiary: Woodland Trust

Cost: £851.

Theme: Wildlife & Wilderness

Harras Moor, is young woodland on a west sloping site above the town of Whitehaven and is fronted on the western boundary by the A595 Loop Road South, on the northern boundary by Park View and on the eastern and southern boundary by houses and an un-named road leading to 'The Highlands' housing estate. The areas surrounding Harras Moor were developed for housing before 1991. To the west the site overlooks the northern tip of White Park, the old town, the once industrious port of Whitehaven and beyond to the Irish Sea..

Though isolated by the main road and residential areas the woodland forms part of an important group of sites managed by The Woodland Trust throughout Whitehaven. Combined, these woodlands assist in improving the aesthetics of the town and secure areas of woodland and open ground for landscape, habitat and recreation.

The main central area of the site, planted in 1991, consists of mixed broadleaves including oak, alder, rowan, ash, sycamore and hawthorn; this area forms the core of the woodland and will, in time, become high forest. The remaining areas of woodland, planted during 1994, consist primarily of shrubby species including hazel, goat willow, hawthorn, blackthorn and minor shrub species forming a graded edge. An area of mown grassland running east west has been retained to improve landscaping but also to ensure that views over the town and harbour are retained where possible.

Management and pedestrian access may be gained from the road to the east of the wood; pedestrian access also exists from the A595. The path, quite well used, is steep and can become muddy and slippery in wet weather. The Woodland Trust plan to carry out essential coppicing work in 2007.

HAWKESWOOD

Beneficiary: Woodland Trust

Cost: £975

Theme: Wildlife & Wilderness

Hawkeswood is located in the village of Low Moresby, near Whitehaven, Cumbria. The Trust's property lies to the south east of the road, to the west of the

village, next to Millgrove House. The wood lies almost wholly to the west of small river which runs south-north, which has evidence of a mill-race and weir..

The wood forms a small but significant feature within Low Moresby. This small ancient woodland has in the past has been partly replanted with beech, Norway spruce, Scots pine and European larch and sycamore. The pasture areas vary according to the light levels and soil wetness and includes bramble and bracken with willowherb, pink campion and cow parsley making a lesser contribution. Male fern, dog's mercury, pink purslane, bluebell, wood sorrel, ramsons , wood sedge and herb Robert are also to be found. There is an area of Japanese knotweed which has been treated in the past but is still regenerating.

Access to the wood can be gained direct from the public highway through the village, where there is roadside parking for up to two cars. From the road there is a short pleasant walk through the wood on approximately 500m of permissive footpath. The Woodland Trust are carrying out a program of rhododendron control in 2007.

LOW GILLERTHWAITE HYDRO SCHEME

Beneficiary: Wild Ennerdale (Forestry Commission)

Cost: £92,000

Theme: Sustainability

The Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre in Ennerdale plan to replace their existing fossil fuel usage with hydro, solar and woodfuel. The Ennerdale YHA already has a hydro scheme and a similar scheme for the Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre has gained planning permission and an extraction license from the Environment Agency.

By replacing the use of fossil fuels, the Centre will become more environmentally sustainable. In addition, the hydro scheme will benefit the valley by removing the noise of a diesel generator, thus increasing the sense of Wildness, peace and tranquility and reducing the number of fuel delivery vehicles. Both of these goals link to the key objectives of the broader Wild Ennerdale project.

LOW WOOD

Beneficiary: Woodland Trust

Cost: £415

Theme: Wildlife & Wilderness

Low Wood lies on the steep western slope of the Duddon Valley in the south-west of the Lake District National Park, in the Parish of Ulpha. The Duddon Valley Woodlands (of which Low Wood is part) are one of the largest series of woodlands in the Lake District National Park. This large complex of woodland is

designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and exhibits a wide range of differing woodland communities and species. At Low Wood the woodland soils are mainly free draining and acid with some poorly drained patches. Different woodland communities are associated with these soil conditions, the most widespread being upland oak-birch woodland on the lower slopes of Low Wood. Sycamore has also colonised and is naturalised in the lower slopes and generally in the wider landscape. The understorey consists predominantly of hazel with the rare holly and rowan. The higher slope was previously conifer and has now been replanted with oak, ash, alder, hazel, rowan and holly. Ferns are abundant in the field layer, including royal fern an uncommon species. Additionally, other prominent species are bluebell, common violet, wood sorrel, wild daffodil and grasses. Wood ant colonies occur frequently throughout the woodland.

Previously the whole wood was oak-coppice woodland, managed to provide wood for the local bobbin mills and charcoal for a forge and blast furnace at Duddon Bridge. The last time any coppice was worked in Low Wood is estimated at around 1950. Charcoal pitsteads can be found throughout the woodland and there are the remains of a drystone building deep in the wood probably once used by coppice workers.

Many of the small streams that run down the wood provide drinking water to the houses in the valley bottom. Collecting tanks and pipes can be seen in the woodland to facilitate this.

Access to Low Wood is by two entrances off the minor road from Ulpha post office to Seathwaite. However the woodland is very steep and rocky with no formal paths and is used little by the general public. The Woodland Trust need a small amount of funding for general woodland maintenance in 2007.

MIDGEY GILL

Beneficiary: Woodland Trust

Cost: £1,048

Theme: Wildlife & Wilderness

Midgey Gill is situated to the east of Whitehaven town centre, just off the Loop Road South. The wood is on a steep slope and is an intrinsic feature in the landscape, highly visible from the town.

Midgey Gill is a small semi-natural ancient oak woodland which has been planted/colonised by Scots pine and sycamore with some larch. The understorey includes holly, elder, rowan and hawthorn plus recently cleared rhododendron.

There are several areas, particularly along the north western boundary, where large amounts of garden rubbish has been dumped and the consequent

colonisation of the margins of the wood by exotic plants, particularly Montbretia, has occurred.

Access to the wood can be gained direct from the Loop Road South and from the southerly entrance opposite Castle Close, where there is limited roadside parking. There is a short pleasant walk through the wood on approximately 350m of permissive footpath and a circular route can be completed on the adjacent public footpath along the southern boundary. The wood is in an urban location and is heavily used by local people for recreation and as a through route into the town. The Woodland Trust are continuing general woodland care and maintenance at the site during 2007.