



## Summary of West Cumbria Catchment Partnership Meeting

21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

### Attendees:

13 people attended the meeting:

Caitlin Pearson - West Cumbria Rivers Trust

Dave Bechelli – Copeland Borough Council

Helen Reynard – Cumbria County Council

Ian Griffiths – National Trust

Jack Abernethy – Derwent Owner Association

Jo Ratcliffe – Environment Agency

John Gorst – United Utilities

Laura Ruxton – National Trust

Laura Teasdale – Catchment Sensitive Farming

Natalie Bibby – Environment Agency

Sion Platts-Kilburn – United Utilities

Steven Hebblethwaite – Woodland Trust

Vikki Salas - West Cumbria Rivers Trust

### Introductions and Organisational updates

Vikki welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first in-person West Cumbria Catchment Partnership (WCCP) meeting since January 2020. Vikki suggested that the WCCP meetings alternate between online and in-person meetings, subject to any further Covid restrictions. This was agreed by those present.

Partners were reminded to continue to update the project pipeline spreadsheet, which can be found at: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15SKBeMte6kpiH\\_v5XimW8QM3NWQfmT-wNlndMFsl4Qk/edit#gid=1172685711](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15SKBeMte6kpiH_v5XimW8QM3NWQfmT-wNlndMFsl4Qk/edit#gid=1172685711)

Jo Ratcliffe (Environment Agency) will be leaving her position as Catchment Coordinator for West Cumbria and the Waver/Wampool and moving to the same role in the Eden Catchment. Natalie Bibby will replace Jo. The partners thanked Jo for all her input and welcomed Natalie.

Sion Platts-Kilburn has replaced Chris Downham as United Utilities' wastewater catchment manager for Cumbria, Lancashire and North Manchester. Sion has a large patch to cover but can act as a first point of contact for partners.

The Environment Agency are currently consulting on proposed changes to water resources licenses. Under the proposal, the charges for a license to change an impoundment structure (including removing redundant structures) would increase from ~£1,500 to £9,000. This could have significant negative consequences on the delivery of environmental projects. The proposals would also impact abstraction licenses. Partners are encouraged to respond to the consultation, before the closing date of 10<sup>th</sup> November, to highlight these issues. The consultation is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/water-resources-charge-proposals-from-april-2022>

**Action: Vikki to circulate the West Cumbria Rivers Trust consultation response.**

## Project updates

### Catchment Natural Flood Management projects – Caitlin Pearson, West Cumbria Rivers Trust

The Environment Agency NFM programme, which funded the Cocker, Glenderamackin, Annas and Flimby projects in West Cumbria, officially finished in April 2021. Updates on these projects have been provided at WCCP meetings and working groups over the previous three years. As well as delivering a large number of interventions, this funding provided a Project Officer in each catchment, which has led to the development of a pipeline of potential projects. Having delivery-ready projects resulted in successful bids to the Water Environment Grant (WEG) and Green Recovery Challenge Fund in the Cocker and Glenderamackin catchments and ongoing delivery in partnership with Cumbria County Council in Flimby.

This initial facilitation/project development is often difficult to fund, but invariably leads to bigger and more ambitious project delivery. The attached slides showcase the work that has been delivered this summer in the Cocker and Glenderamackin catchments with funding from WEG and Green Recovery Challenge Fund, including 8 Ha new wetland and 20+ ponds with additional storage capacity. The current funding in these catchments finished in 2022, so securing funding to maintain a Project Officer and delivery in these areas is a priority going forward.

The Environment Agency NFM programme was a research and development project and the projects have produced a number of outputs to summarise the 'lessons learnt'. A range of case study documents are available on the Flood Hub website: <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/nfm/#section-5>. Further case studies are being produced and will be circulated, or partners can request information on specific projects from WCRT.

**Action: Caitlin to circulate 'lessons learnt' summary to partnership.**

Monitoring reports were also produced for a number of interventions. It is extremely difficult to determine the impact of individual features on flood risk in downstream communities, particularly as there has not been a flood greater than ~1 in 6-years since the features have been installed. Results from a small storm show a series of 30 dams in Whinlatter Forest took 5 % off the flood peak and had considerable additional capacity still available for larger events. The monitored water storage features in the Glenderamackin were each capturing 0.2 m<sup>3</sup>/sec of water during the largest observed storms; this equates to 0.3% of the peak discharge in the Glenderamackin per feature. Full monitoring reports have been submitted to DEFRA and are available on request from WCRT.

Key learning from the programme is outlined in the presentation and partners are encouraged to share these findings with relevant networks, particularly in relation to the developing Environmental Land Management Schemes. Key points are:

- Each NFM feature requires a bespoke design. It is difficult to design features that work optimally for the target flood magnitude and therefore funding needs to be available for adaptive management and ongoing maintenance;
- A large amount of staff time is required to develop features as this requires land owner liaison, designs, consenting, contractor management and co-ordinating interventions across a whole catchment. Advisor time needs to be adequately resourced in ELMS and the cost should not be borne by the landowner;
- Natural Flood Management needs to be understood as part of a resilient catchment. Although some features store a defined amount of additional flood water, many features contribute to slowing, infiltration, evaporation etc. and are more difficult to quantify. Interventions need to be adequately funded for the wide range of benefits they provide.

## **Riverlands – Laura Ruxton, National Trust**

Laura is covering Becky Powell's maternity leave but only works 1.5 days on the Riverlands project. Delivery was slowed or halted due to Covid but is now underway again. Riverlands is currently delivering or developing six major projects, images are shown on the attached presentation.

- Goldrill Beck – This is outside of the WCCP area but is a fantastic example of a river restoration project. The project was completed this summer and the ecosystem is recovering rapidly. Other partners commented that the project had been a great success and congratulated the National Trust on its delivery.
- Barrow Beck embankment removal – Plans are in development to remove an embankment on one side of Barrow Beck, a stream that feeds into Derwentwater, to allow a larger area of inundation in high flows and a more natural system. This will also increase the resilience of the footpath.
- Stonethwaite Beck – Plans are in development to remove sections of embankment along Stonethwaite Beck to create a more natural channel. The river is already beginning to do this so this project will be assisted natural recovery. The project needs to align with the World Heritage Site Universal Outstanding Values, taking into account the habitat, cultural and access needs within the area. The next step is to have Environmental Impact Assessment screening, Heritage Impact Assessment and full planning permission submitted by January, with an aim of delivery next summer.
- Dunthwaite – An NFM approach has been scoped with lots of individual measures across the holding. The list of possible measures provided by the consultant needs to be discussed with the tenant to decide what to take forward.
- Armboth Fell – Phase 1 of the peat restoration was delivered this year in partnership with Cumbria Wildlife Trust and United Utilities. Further funding has been confirmed for continued delivery next year (phase 2).
- Rosthwaite and Seathwaite – A key tenant has withdrawn permission for works within the Seathwaite masterplan. The National Trust considered delivering a scaled down version of the scheme but this did not provide the desired benefits, so the process of creating a valley plan has been restarted. The local community are being consulted to help shape the valley plan. Community drop-in sessions are being planned over the next few months. These events could be held in partnership with other organisation to highlight a range of work that is happening within the area.
- National Trust have submitted a bid to work with Newcastle University to monitor these projects. Newcastle University have already been involved in pre and post monitoring of Goldrill Beck.

## **Cumbria Community Flood Resilience Innovation Programme – Helen Renyard, Cumbria County Council**

**See attached slides for full details.**

The Flood Resilience Innovation programme is a 6-year project (2021 – 2027) to look at innovative methods of increasing the resilience of communities to flood risk. Cumbria was one of 25 projects to receive a share of the funding and has an initial allocation of £6.5 million. A full business case needs to be worked up by February 2022. The project team has been looking at innovative ways of financing natural capital and working out how to monitor any works delivered, as learning from doing is a key aim of the funding.

The Crummock/Lorton area is a focus of the project. Dave Kennedy (Environment Agency) is currently working with United Utilities to model how best to utilise Crummock Water to reduce downstream flood risk and opportunities for additional NFM features around Park Beck, which is likely to be restored. Synchronisation of flood peaks is a concern but currently the modelling suggests the proposed work would reduce downstream flood risk. Ensuring good baseline data and determining how to monitor changes as a result of any work around Crummock Water is the first priority.

A discussion by the partners highlighted that this is a complex project. United Utilities has a requirement to reduce/remove impounding structures due to the SAC designation and because these are expensive assets to maintain. The local community also has an interest in utilising Crummock for flood storage and are progressing with their own modelling and ideas for the area, which were presented to the partnership at the January 2020 meeting.

### **Resilient Glenderamackin: Natural Environment Investment Readiness – Vikki Salas, West Cumbria Rivers Trust**

See attached slides for full details.

A partnership of West Cumbria Rivers Trust, the Rivers Trust and Triodos bank have secured funding from DEFRA's Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund to work up a project in the Glenderamackin & St. John's catchment to be 'investment ready'. The funding officially begins in February 2022 and runs for 15 months. The funding does not cover any delivery but covers staff time to develop the project and set up a 'special purpose vehicle' to allow private investment in environmental projects.

The proposed model is for private investors to provide upfront funding for works that produce environmental benefit such as reducing flood risk or carbon sequestration. Beneficiaries then 'buy' these environmental 'services' over a number of years to pay back the investors. The project is looking to raise £8million of investment from a blend of private, public and charitable funding. This model allows ongoing maintenance and compensation/hosting payments to farmers which will allow scaling up and spatial targeting of features.

Partnership input will be key to the success of the project. Partners were asked what the best approach would be to engage with this project as it could result in a large number of working groups. Sion Platts-Kilburn (United Utilities) previously worked on the Wyre NFM project, which was the first project to utilise this funding mechanism. Sion suggested that initially one working group for the project was established then sub-groups could form only if/when required. The Wyre project had a large number of working groups (e.g. modelling, legal, financial etc.) but as lessons have been learnt from the Wyre and a 'lift and shift' procedure has been agreed, the Glenderamackin project might not need the same level of input from partners.

There was some concern expressed by partners that the buyers would end up being the same organisations who already pay for environmental works (e.g. Environment Agency, United Utilities, RFCC) but with added interest payments. The project aims to attract new buyers, such as flood insurance companies, national businesses offsetting carbon emissions and local businesses, but the project team appreciate that getting these buyers on board will be a major challenge for the project.

### **Woodland for Water project – Caitlin Pearson, West Cumbria Rivers Trust**

See attached slides for full details.

Woodlands for Water is a new project developed by a partnership of the Rivers Trust, Woodland Trust, Beaver Trust and National Trust (collectively known as the 'Riverscapes partnership'). The aim of the project is to accelerate the uptake of the new England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO). Eight local trusts are 'pathfinder areas' and have received funding for Project Officer time to facilitate landowners applying to the EWCO and registering woodlands for carbon income. The national team will provide training, communications support, a clear carbon offer for landowners, specialist advice and, crucially, a mechanism for communicating to DEFRA any feedback on the scheme.

West Cumbria Rivers Trust have funding equivalent to two days per week Project Officer time to support landowners in the Derwent catchment to apply for the EWCO. Support could include helping landowners

with the application form, consenting, tree procurements or contractor management. Liaising between different organisations involved in tree planting is also a key requirement of the project and will be essential to the successful promotion of EWCO. Initially there is a Cumbria meeting with key partners in early November.

The project was officially launched on 25<sup>th</sup> September but this was to a national audience. We need to target local land owners and land agents to make them aware of the scheme and the support available. National tree week (27<sup>th</sup> November to 5<sup>th</sup> December) would be a good time to do this. Partners suggested various ways to publicise the project:

- Attend Mitchell's auction mart;
- Farmer Network mail outs;
- Use facilitated groups and existing events;
- Focus on land agents;
- Hold site visits to newly planted woodlands and encourage landowners to share their experiences.

An application has been submitted for creation of a 'Cumbria Coastal Community Forest'. The application was put together by Cumbria Woodlands and the National Trust, on behalf of Barrow, Copeland and Allerdale Borough Council. The members present were not sure what opportunities this would bring for delivery but it is understood that the Woodlands for Water project cannot take place in Community Forest areas and that the Community Forest offer is likely to be more favourable for landowners. The two schemes will need to liaise going forward.

Jack Abernethy queried how this scheme fits with the 'Queen's Green Canopy'. The River Corridors Group have already approached some landowners asking them to be involved with the Queens Green Canopy. The Queen's Green Canopy can fund trees but does not pay for infrastructure, maintenance or hosting payments. Therefore, the EWCO is more suitable for larger planting schemes or for increasing the area of woodland beyond what the landowner would voluntarily plant. Tree planting funded by other mechanisms can be registered as part of the Queens Green Canopy.

## Funding opportunities

**Farming in Protected Landscapes** - This new funding opportunity was presented by Cath Johnson at the July WCCP meeting. It will provide funding for farmers in National Parks and AONBs for projects that support nature recovery, mitigate climate change impacts, enhance engagement of people with the landscape or support cultural heritage and the sense of place.

Funding can only be allocated within a financial year so currently applications can only be made for works up to March 2022. West Cumbria Rivers Trust have submitted an application for development of further catchment restoration projects and INNS management within the Cocker catchment, with a view to applying for delivery funding in 2022.

**The Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund** will open for applications between December 2021 and January 2022 for new groups to start in April 2022. The funding is for facilitators to host groups of farmers to share best practice and link together for bigger and better outcomes for the environment.

**Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) environmental grant opportunities** - Steve Hardy presented this funding opportunity to the partnership in July 2021. The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority have funding to support local communities and improve socio-economic conditions, including enhancing employment opportunities and increasing attractiveness of the areas around the sites.

Steve has reiterated that they are keen to receive applications from the WCCP. The applications must demonstrate that the project will benefit communities within which the NDA works. Within the WCCP area the funding could be awarded to projects in Whitehaven, Seascale, Keekle, Ehen catchment, Irt catchment and Calderbridge area, but would not be applicable to the Derwent, Cocker or Waver/Wampool.

**Environmental Land Management Schemes Landscape Recovery Pilots** - ‘Landscape Recovery’ is part of the new ELMS structure, covering bespoke agreements for long-term, large scale ecosystem recovery projects. DEFRA are looking to fund 10 pilot projects between 2022 and 2024, with bids for the first round of projects reportedly opening in autumn. These projects will be developed through 2022 and, when ready, will be awarded long-term funding agreements.

Applications can be made by landowners, organisations or collaborative groups. To be eligible, projects need to cover 500 – 5,000 connected hectares focussed on the themes of:

1. Recovering and restoring England’s threatened native species: birds and insects.
2. Restoring England’s streams and rivers: improving water quality, biodiversity and adapting to climate change.

This is potentially a good opportunity to fund landscape scale works and the partnership needs to share ideas on who is planning to apply. John Gorst said United Utilities were considering applying with neighbouring land owners in Haweswater but had some concerns about whether it was advantageous to be at the forefront of a new scheme or whether it would be better to join the landscape recovery scheme when more details were confirmed.

**Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF)** - Partners can submit projects to the Environment Agency that contributes to the 25-year plan objective of ‘clean and plentiful water’, improve WFD outcomes or create or enhance water dependent habitats. If any partners have a project proposal, they should contact Natalie Bibby for the project mandate form. The funding is allocated on an annual basis and cannot be guaranteed but an advanced programme of potential projects is helpful.

## Gap analysis

For the funding opportunities outlined above, and other funding mechanisms, the Partnership needs to have projects ready to deliver so that applications can be submitted rapidly and funders have confidence that the project is deliverable. For more ambitious and larger scale projects, collaboration between partners will be needed for successful applications and delivery.

The final part of the meeting revisited the Catchment Plan prioritisation map in order to identify gaps in the Catchment Partnerships delivery and what actions or projects could be developed to address these. Feedback from this discussion will be used to update the project pipeline and initiate discussions on working up collaborative projects.

The Catchment Plan prioritisation map uses data on each waterbody to assess whether there is both the need and the opportunity to address: flood risk using natural flood management techniques; water quality issues; modified river habitat and endangered aquatic species. For each of these categories, waterbodies were scored either 0 (no need or no opportunity) or 1 (there is a need and an opportunity) and then summed. The waterbodies with the highest scores therefore present the greatest opportunity to deliver projects to provide multiple benefits. The prioritisation map can be viewed at:

<https://westcumbriacatchmentpartnership.co.uk/catchment-plan/>

The highest priority areas for delivering multiple benefits are: Newlands Valley, Tom Rudd Beck and the Glenderamackin catchment. The high priority areas are Waver & Wampool catchments, Cocker catchment, Broughton Beck, Irt and Bleng catchment, Calder catchment, Borrowdale valleys and Ennerdale.

It was noted from the priority map that the majority of the 'high' and 'highest' priority waterbodies fall within the Lake District high fells and are owned by relatively few, large landowners. Engagement with these landowners and with Natural England and the RPA will be needed over the next few years as environmental stewardship schemes come to an end.

In Borrowdale there is ongoing work through the Riverlands programme. Although the valley is still a priority for the partnership it is not currently considered a 'gap' whilst this work is being delivered. Likewise, there is a lot of ongoing work in Ennerdale, including the Wild Ennerdale Partnership, the Compensatory Measures project and People on the Keekle. Opportunities for project development in the other priority catchments were addressed in turn.

### **Glenderamackin catchment**

There is currently a lot of work in this area with the ongoing Glenderamackin Catchment Restoration project, Thirlmere Resilience and the new St. John's project. The funding for the Glenderamackin Catchment Restoration project runs out in March 2022. The 'Resilient Glenderamackin' investment readiness project will maintain a WCRT Project Officer in the catchment but funding to continue delivery is needed. A particular gap in this catchment is ongoing invasive species management. The Facilitated Farmer group, led by the Farmer Network, has also secured funding to continue and provides a good starting point for projects aiming to work with farmers and landowners.

#### **Actions:**

- ***Jo Ratcliffe to get an update on the progress of the Gategill minewater remediation project.***
- ***West Cumbria Rivers Trust to identify funding to continue delivery in this catchment.***
- ***Updates on St. John's and Thirlmere Resilience to be provided to the WCCP at the next meeting.***

### **Newlands Beck**

The A66/Braithwaite/Newlands working group was disbanded as there was no viable scheme. There are still a large number of issues in this catchment including the highly modified river channel, flooding, diffuse mine water pollution, footpath closures and severe erosion of agricultural land.

The partners discussed the Lake District National Park test and trials in this catchment. Whilst the series of meetings identified a wide range of actions that could be done to address the objectives of the 25-year Environment Plan, the aim of the test and trial was to trial the process of co-creating an area plan and not to produce a definitive plan for the valley. The resulting area plan for the Newlands Valley was not agreed by all stakeholders but provides a useful tool for further discussions. As far as the partners present were aware the LDNPA are still deciding whether to apply to DEFRA to undertake a phase 2 of the tests and trials.

A large scale river restoration spanning multiple land holdings in the lower catchment could be a suitable project for an ELMS Landscape Recovery Pilot. There may also be scope for a Farming in Protected Landscapes bid for implementing some of the actions identified in the area plan that would enhance biodiversity and/or mitigate climate change.

#### **Actions:**

- ***National Trust to update on any plans to address mine water pollution from Goldscope mine.***
- ***Caitlin to circulate the final report of the Newlands test and trial.***
- ***Lake District National Park Authority to confirm whether they have applied for a phase 2 test and trial in this area.***

- ***Discussion between key stakeholders regarding the possibility of an application to the Landscape Recovery Pilot scheme for the Newlands Valley.***

## **Cocker catchment**

There is currently ongoing work in this catchment through the Cocker Catchment Restoration Project and the Facilitated Farmer Group. The Facilitated Farmer Group has continued funding but the funding for delivery and the WCRT Project Officer, who has good relationships with the landowners and a pipeline of projects in development, finishes in September 2022. WCRT have submitted an application for Farming in Protected Landscapes funding for project development and INNS management.

The Cumbria Flood Resilience Innovative Project (CFRIP) is focussing on Crummock and the Lorton area, looking at management of Crummock Water and getting buyers in for selling ecosystem benefits.

### **Actions:**

- ***CFRIP team to continue development of the project and keep partners updated.***
- ***West Cumbria Rivers Trust to apply for delivery funding.***

## **Waver & Wampool catchments**

The Waver/Wampool management catchment is a priority for the Environment Agency. Over previous years there has been a lot of work done on identifying diffuse pollution hotspots. There is WEIF money available for delivery but this needs to be spent before March 2022. Earlier this year, WCRT recruited for a farm advisor for this catchment but did not hire. This role will be re-advertised in the new year.

The Solway AONB has Farming in Protected Landscapes funding available for farmers within, or in the catchment above, the AONB. Veronica Waller (Farmer Network) has been working with local farmers to develop applications for this funding.

A local action group 'Trees for Wigton' (TWIG) are working with Wigton Town Council to deliver nature improvement projects on Wiza Beck and Speet Gill including tree planting, buffer strips, pond creation and improving access to green space. The Woodlands Trust are supporting the group by providing trees and WCRT have offered advice. The EA has funding available to support the group, if required.

The Wigton flood defence scheme is still in development by the Environment Agency and is likely to include an element of Natural Flood Management.

The NFU are leading on the Water Level Management Board (WLMB) and are currently finding out the level of landowner support for WLMB formation.

### **Actions:**

- ***Partners to advertise WCRT job opportunity for farm advisor role.***
- ***Environment Agency, Woodlands Trust and WCRT to continue working with TWIG and coordinate support/funding.***

## **Broughton Beck**

Broughton Beck is a priority for the River Corridors Group and within United Utilities diffuse wastewater management plan. West Cumbria Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency are currently undertaking feasibility studies for easement of two barriers to fish passage on Brides Beck. If the barriers are eased, this needs to be done in conjunction with improvements in upstream habitat to ensure the new habitat is suitable for salmonids to use.

A sub-group met earlier this year to discuss potential work in Broughton Beck and begin to create a sub-catchment action plan. There is WEIF funding allocated for this catchment to spend before March 2022.

WEIF only allows 15 % of the budget to be spent on revenue (e.g. staff time, overheads and mileage) which makes project delivery difficult. Currently resourcing is the major barrier to project delivery in this catchment.

Signal crayfish at the confluence of Broughton Beck with the River Derwent is also an issue for this catchment.

**Actions:**

- **Use existing sub-group to focus on how to resource project delivery.**
- **Vikki to attend Untied Utilities workshop on the diffuse wastewater management plan and identify whether there are any United Utilities priorities that could be addressed by partnership working.**
- **Ensure signal crayfish are considered in sub-catchment plans.**

## **Irt catchment**

The adoption of the high ecological status as the WFD target has moved this catchment from a 'medium' to a 'high' priority in the Catchment Plan as it is now failing to meet the required WFD status. Currently there is a WCRT Project Officer in the catchment through the compensatory measures project, funded by United Utilities, but this project finishes in 2022.

Funding has been allocated via the Natural Course project to create an action plan and deliver actions to move the watercourse to high WFD ecological status by 2024. The funding started this month and runs until 2024. The National Trust are interested in developing a phase 2 Riverlands project for the upper Irt catchment (Wasdale). Ullswater, Kinniside and Wasdale Community Interest Corporation are also starting to work in the area. The Environment Agency and WCRT have been working with Sellafield around their abstraction licenses.

Temperature data collected through the Compensatory measures project this summer showed a stark difference between streams with and without tree cover, with water temperatures rising to 27°C where trees were absent. This data has been taken to Federation of Commoners who are keen to look at riparian planting.

There is potential for a bid to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for this area. The ongoing volunteer events and 'green gym' activities led by WCRT and National Trust would be a good link to the wider communities and ensure a project provided direct social benefits.

**Actions:**

- **WCRT to lead on ensuring coordination of projects within the catchment, establishing a wider working group.**

## **Calder catchment**

Ennerdale, Kinniside and Wasdale Community Interest Corporation have submitted an application for funding from Farming in Protected Landscapes for enhancing the environment of Kinniside common. This is being led by Will Rawlings. The first phase will be a planning phase moving onto delivery in future years.

The Farmer Network and WCRT have discussed applying for funding from a community pot for a programme of farm advice events in this area. These would be group events like the Facilitated Farmer groups to compliment the ongoing CSF advice provided. The RPA facilitated groups are very paper-work heavy and can be restrictive and so running events with community funding would allow a more flexible approach to farm advice provision.

This catchment also contains priority areas for United Utilities as identified in the Diffuse Wastewater Management Plans.

On Newmill Beck there are a number of issues around Sellafield including the highly modified river (culverted sections), erosion of the cycle path and coastal footpath, maintaining a viable natterjack toad population and the stability of the railway bridge. The Environment Agency is in the very early stages of developing a project in this area and would like to get a partners together to find a coordinated approach to addressing these issues. If partners are keen to be involved, please let Natalie Bibby know.

**Actions:**

- ***Vikki to attend Untied Utilities workshop on the Diffuse wastewater management plan and identify whether there are any UU priorities that could be addressed by partnership working.***
- ***Environment Agency to keep partnership updated on Newmill Beck project development and establish a project working group with key stakeholders.***

## **AOB**

Previously the Catchment Partnership hosted a Cumbria-wide meeting on invasive non-native species (INNS) management. This conversation needs to continue to ensure a strategic plan across the county. There is potential INNS funding available through the Environment Agency and United Utilities are currently undertaking a company-wide investigation on INNS.

**Actions:**

- ***Vikki to set up a county-wide INNS group meeting this winter.***

The draft River Basin Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans are now open for consultation until early 2022. The Waver-Wampool is under the remit of SEPA and is further ahead in this process, the consultation on the draft plan closed in June and the final plan should be published in December this year.

- River Basin Management Plans: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/draft-river-basin-management-plans> Closes 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022
- Flood Risk Management Plans: [https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/flood-risk-management-plans-information-page/consult\\_view/](https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/flood-risk-management-plans-information-page/consult_view/) Closes 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

## **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be in early February 2022, with the date TBC. The meeting is likely to be held online with a site visit offered in the same week as the meeting.