



## Summary of West Cumbria Catchment Partnership Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

### Attendees:

17 people attended the meeting:

Becky Powell – National Trust	Melanie Fletcher – Natural England
Caitlin Pearson - West Cumbria Rivers Trust	Michael Robinson – Cumbria County Council
Cath Johnson – Lake District National Park Authority	Natalie Bibby – Environment Agency
Dave Bechelli – Copeland Borough Council	Neil Ash – Environment Agency
David Harpley – Cumbria Wildlife Trust	Neville Elstone – Cumbria Woodlands
Joe Bagnall – National Trust	Paul Telford – Cumbria County Council
John Gorst – United Utilities	Pete Fox – Forestry Commission
Laura Teasdale – Catchment Sensitive Farming	Robert Frewen – CLA
	Vikki Salas - West Cumbria Rivers Trust

### Introduction

The purpose of the meeting is to provide updates on major projects, revisit the Catchment Plan priorities and think about funding opportunities for future projects.

Partners are reminded to continue to update the project pipeline spreadsheet, which can be found at: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15SKBeMte6kpiH\\_v5XimW8QM3NwQfmT-wNIndMFsl4Qk/edit#gid=1172685711](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15SKBeMte6kpiH_v5XimW8QM3NwQfmT-wNIndMFsl4Qk/edit#gid=1172685711)

*See attached slides for details. The main points and any discussions are summarised below.*

### Project updates

#### Cumbria Flood Resilience Innovation Project

Dave Kennedy had been asked to provide an update to the Partnership on the Cumbria Flood Resilience Innovation Project but is very busy working to a tight deadline to prepare the outline business case for the project. Dave has offered to update the Partnership after the end of April. As there is a lot of interest in the project and the potential work at Crummock Water, and the next Catchment Partnership meeting is not until July, it was suggested that Dave is asked to provide an update in a separate online meeting.

**Action: Caitlin to follow up with Dave and organise a web meeting in early May.**

## **Environment Agency Flood and Coastal Risk Management projects West Cumbria – Neil Ash, Environment Agency**

Neil Ash has taken over the position of Flood and Coastal Risk Management Advisor from Dave Kennedy and has been in the role just under 6 months. The top priority Environment Agency FCRM projects within West Cumbria currently are Cockermouth, Braithwaite/Newlands and Allonby.

**Cockermouth** was badly impacted by flooding in October 2021. There was significant damage to riverbanks, including collapse of private walls and undermining of the Environment Agency flood defences. Emergency gravel bags have been put in place to prevent further erosion. The Environment Agency are working towards formal repair of the embankments and some specific protection for at risk properties. Other options to reduce flood risk to the town are being investigated, including raising the flood defences and raising the footbridges at South Street and Waterloo Street. The technical feasibility and cost:benefit ratio of these options is being assessed. The contribution that upstream water storage, natural flood management and Crummock weir could make to reducing flood risk in Cockermouth is also being considered.

**Braithwaite/Newlands** – The Environment Agency began working on options for Braithwaite in 2017 but only had ~£1 mil to spend. Identified options would have cost between £2 and 5 mil. Highways England (now called National Highways) offered to make a significant contribution to the project if a 1 in 100-year standard of protection to the A66 could be achieved as well as reduced risk to properties in the village. Potential options were identified but would have cost ~£7 mil so there was a significant shortfall in available funding and also issues with technical feasibility and aligning Environment Agency and Highways England funding. The project was therefore paused.

National Highways have now offered £100k to the Environment Agency to continue to assess feasibility of options. A start-up meeting between the Environment Agency and National Highways will be held soon.

Newlands Beck is a linked issue as there is flood risk to properties and the A66 when the river breaches its banks. Newlands Beck will be considered as part of the feasibility study, including the potential for river restoration and natural flood management in the wider catchment.

Neville Elstone – Cumbria Woodlands are working with Natural England and the National Trust to improve the planting on Coledale Common. This is only a small scale project but will hopefully improve establishment of woodland and scrub within the Coledale catchment, which should contribute to slowing the flow.

Cath Johnson (Lake District National Park Authority) – The Rights of Way needs to be considered in any proposals, particularly as these are very popular routes. LDNPA were in conversations with the landowner until very recently. There is the potential to consider Farming in Protected Landscapes funding for work in the wider catchment. There is already some work at Little Braithwaite to create a riparian buffer strip being funded through FiPL.

Several feasibility studies and modelling exercises on Newlands Beck have been undertaken including an assessment of NFM opportunities by WaterCo and a river restoration appraisal by AquaUoS. These reports need to be collated and circulated to be considered in the feasibility study going forward.

**Action: Vikki to collate reports and request modelling data and circulate to partners.**

**Action: Newlands working group with wider stakeholders to be re-established as this work progresses.**

**Allonby** – Eight properties flooded in October 2021. The Environment Agency have completed emergency work at the stream's outlet to facilitate water getting out to sea. This has worked well but is a temporary measure. Options for a longer term solution are being investigated and include flow diversions, increasing conveyance and upstream management. West Cumbria Rivers Trust have previously worked with landowners in the catchment to improve water quality so could help in identifying potential NFM opportunities.

There are also several other projects ongoing or in development:

- Keswick – Continuing to look at options for reducing flood risk to Keswick, including upstream water storage and nature based solutions. The bund at Keswick Rugby Club has been highlighted by residents as causing an issue. The feasibility of lowering it to stop flood water backing up behind the embankment is currently being looked at, ensuring it doesn't increase flood risk in other areas.
- Ennerdale and Crummock weirs - United Utilities are decommissioning weirs at Ennerdale Water and Crummock Water as the West Coast supply project now provides drinking water to West Cumbria from Thirlmere. United Utilities' driver is to remove the weirs to restore natural function to the lakes, but there may be potential to use these structures to reduce flood risk to the downstream communities of Egremont and Lorton & Cockermouth. This is being looked at as part of the Cumbria Flood Resilience Innovation Project.

Neville Elstone (Cumbria Woodlands and Regional Flood and Coastal Committee) – Need modelling that specifically asks what the best course of action to reduce downstream flood risk would be to ensure we aren't missing an opportunity to significantly reduce the risk to Cockermouth.

John Gorst (United Utilities) – Modelling carried out so far shows that the removal of the weir would reduce downstream flood risk and presents lots of opportunities to improve the situation. The current weir is a United Utilities asset but United Utilities will not want to continue to own the weir after it stops being used to provide drinking water. The lake is owned by the National Trust. If the weir were to be kept, or a different impounding structure constructed, ownership and the associated costs and liability would need to be carefully considered. Owning an impounding structure requires technical expertise and frequent inspections so it is not appropriate for a community group to take this on.

**Action: Ongoing discussion between United Utilities, Environment Agency and other stakeholders.**

**Action: Organise update from Dave Kennedy on Cumbria Flood Resilience Innovation project, which is considering the future of Crummock weir, to provide more information on the situation to interested partners.**

- Workington and Barepot – Highways work planned to widen a road and rebuild a wall on Hall Brow, Workington. Environment Agency involved to look at the potential for a new wall to have flood risk benefits by diverting surface flows.
- Wigton – 155 properties at risk of flooding in Wigton. There is a catchment flood management plan and a study on potential options will start soon.

Caitlin (WCRT) – At a previous meeting Dave Kennedy noted that the Environment Agency had received the appraisal for Wigton from consultants and that this included recommendations for delivery. Is this available to share with partners and is the next study to build on this work?

**Action: Neil to follow up with Dave Kennedy and share further information about where work in Wigton is up to.**

Vikki – West Cumbria Rivers Trust are keen to work on partnership projects for Wigton as there are NFM opportunities, which could also improve water quality. WCRT are currently working with Wigton Town Council on riparian improvement projects.

Robert Frewen (CLA) – There is still the intention to create an IDB in the Waver/Wampool. The passage of the Environment Bill has now allowed this to move forward. This will be relevant for flood risk in Wigton.

Outside of the meeting, Adam Briggs (NFU) provided an update on the Waver/Wampool water level management board - The legislation to allow new IDB's to be established was within the Environment Bill and they are currently waiting for secondary legislation to go through which is expected by the end of this year/early next year. After that the process of getting a new water level management boards established can begin again. The EA will keep operating the pumps until there is an indication that the community want to move forward with an IDB or otherwise. Depending on the results of the ballot, they will then move forward with IDB formation or look at other options for the pumps if there is insufficient support locally.

- Egremont – Scheme currently being delivered in Egremont. This is led by Chris Evans, who is Neil's equivalent for the Copeland area.
- Modelling work is ongoing at Pow Beck, Whitehaven and for Bootle to look at options for reducing flood risk. The Bootle modelling is also looking at whether gravel management within the village would be beneficial for reducing flood risk. Bootle Parish Council have previously funded gravel removal, but it may be possible for the Environment Agency to take this on if sufficient benefit is evident.

Paul Telford (Cumbria County Council) – CCC are also involved in trying to alleviate flood risk to Bootle village and have been out to look at the infrastructure within the village, particularly the A595 highway bridge. Properties in Bootle flooded in October 2021, this needs adding to the list on the slide.

**Action: Neil and Paul to liaise over Bootle modelling study.**

The October rainfall event was the third largest in the last 30 years. Honister Pass received 95% of the average total monthly rainfall for October within 48 hours, totalling nearly 400 mm. The event was most significant over the central Lake District fells.

A number of communities were flooded in October 2021 (see slide). The Environment Agency produce S19 reports for flooding that occurs from main rivers. Cumbria County Council prepare the S19 reports for other forms of flooding (ordinary watercourse and surface water). Neil is currently working on an S19 report for Allonby for this event. The Environment Agency are also working on a post-event review for Cockermouth looking at the factors that influenced the flood risk (e.g. levels in Thirlmere Reservoir, rainfall patterns). This report also aims to engage the community and raise awareness of potential climate change impacts. Paul Telford is preparing an S19 report for Bootle.

**Action: Neil and Paul to liaise over S19 reports.**

**Action: Neil to share the Cockermouth post-event review when it is completed.**

### **Cumbria Coastal Community Forest – Neville Elstone, Cumbria Woodlands**

There are currently several different funding options for woodland planting. These need to be linked up so that landowners can be provided with straightforward guidance and signposting to the most appropriate options and support. Cumbria Woodlands has submitted a funding bid to the 'Trees Call to Action Fund' (part of the Nature for Climate Fund) to provide advice to landowners across Cumbria around woodland creation and management and ensure better signposting to the different schemes, funding and support

available. This will be first advice, and not replacing the need for land agents. A decision is expected very soon.

Delivery money has been secured for the Cumbria Coastal Community Forest. There is a budget of £2.6 million for woodland creation and £250k available for staff time, between now and 2025. Community Forests are a national initiative, linked to the 'Levelling Up' and 'Green Recovery' agendas.

Cumbria Woodlands are currently working with Cumbria County Council, who are the accountable body for the Community Woodland, to work out exactly how funding can be allocated and spent. Recruitment for a Project Officer is ongoing. The support provided to landowners will include EIAs, consenting, advice and other activities to facilitate woodland creation. The project has a target of 150 Ha woodland creation within the next 3 years. The financial offer to landowners is as yet undecided, but other community forests have given landowners a lump sum, plus maintenance payments. The offer will be better than EWCO and landowners can also sell the carbon units. Landowners can't get both EWCO and community forest funding.

The boundary area for the Cumbria Coastal Community Forest is currently a buffer zone around areas of economic deprivation along the west coast but this creates a complicated area with a gap between Seascale and Millom. The first phase of the project will be an engagement exercise around defining the boundary. Schemes up to 10 miles outside the boundary can also be included if they provide significant social benefit.

There are opportunities to work with partners through this project. The Community Forest will work closely with the Forestry Commission and Woodlands Trust and can link to ongoing Rivers Trust projects. Planting can be done on public land so there are also opportunities for local authorities to be involved.

Robert Frewen (CLA) offered to help promote the project to landowners via their newsletters.

Neil Ash (Environment Agency) reminded everyone that the Environment Agency staff have Environmental Outcome Days and can help out with planting or other activities.

The Community Forest doesn't have a minimum area, the focus is on social benefit, so in urban areas it should be able to fund individual trees or small blocks. But the delivery targets are based on area so the project will also be looking to plant some larger sites.

## **West Cumbria Rivers Trust project updated – Vikki Salas and Caitlin Pearson, West Cumbria Rivers Trust**

***Cocker and Glendermackin catchment projects*** – Green Recovery Challenge funding and the extensions to the NFM projects finish this month. Lots of great delivery has happened over this winter including a final NFM pond, lots of tree planting, hedge planting & maintenance and a further 156 leaky dams at Whinlatter, making nearly 400 in total. Monitoring of the NFM feature performance continues with support from Lancaster University.

The Water Environment Grant (WEG) funding has been extended until September 2022. Dub Beck river restoration, at the inflow to Loweswater, will be delivered under this extension. WEG underspend has been secured for extra delivery. This will fund some projects in St. John's that United Utilities can't fund as they don't directly meet their objectives but that will enhance habitat. The United Utilities funded St. John's project, is now underway and embankment removal projects are being worked up.

Farming in Protected Landscapes funding has allowed further projects to be developed in the Cocker catchment between January and March. WCRT will be applying for delivery money for these projects. The WCRT work in the Cocker catchment needs to be integrated with the Flood Innovation Resilience project in this area.

At the last meeting we discussed the Investment Readiness project in the Glenderamackin, this has now officially started, and will run for another year. The project aims to raise £8 mil investment to pay landowners for hosting environmental interventions that will provide public benefits, then secure long-

term buyers to pay this off over a number of years. The project will establish a 'Special Purpose Vehicle' – most likely CiC as per Wyre NFM project. Vikki will begin conversations with partners soon.

Neville Elstone has been involved with the Wyre project through the RFCC. The RFCC have contributed to the Wyre project as a learning exercise but they may not contribute to other similar projects. Whilst being supportive of investigating how to secure private investment into environmental delivery, Neville highlighted the need to be cautious that this approach doesn't a) end up paying more for delivery because it needs to pay interest back to investors, and b) local funding doesn't replace national schemes. We should use national schemes such as Countryside Stewardship and EWCO preferentially.

**Irt catchment** – The compensatory measures project between United Utilities, WCRT and the FBA finishes in September this year. WCRT are looking at options to extend the project.

The Irt has been upgraded to have a target of 'High status' under WFD. With funding from Natural Course, an action plan of projects needed to achieve high status is being developed. There is potential that National Trust will be developing a Riverlands project for this valley and WCRT are also looking at potential funding bids to deliver other actions identified in the plan.

**Invasive species management** – Through the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, WCRT secured funding for INNS management, allowing us to take on a part time member of staff. The focus is currently on preparing for the summer season with landowners, volunteer groups, events etc. A Cumbria-wide INNS meeting was held recently where partners discussed coordination of INNS mapping, linked to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, collating of INNS resources (leaflets etc.), a joint biosecurity campaign for INNS week and a Cumbria-wide balsam bashing day in June.

**Woodlands for Water** – Caitlin Pearson reminded partners about the Woodlands for Water project, which was presented at the last meeting. WCRT have funding to cover two days per week staff time to help landowners apply for the England Woodland Creation Offer. This is a relatively new offer from the Forestry Commission providing capital and maintenance costs for planting new native woodlands and a lump sum payment to the landowner to recognise the public benefits delivered. Planting needs to cover a total area of at least 1 Ha but this can be in blocks of 0.1 Ha.

If partners are working with any landowners interested in woodland planting, please make them aware that there is free support available. The Woodlands for Water project only covers the Derwent and Ellen catchments but EWCO is a national scheme and Project Officers working in other catchments (Ehen, Irt, Annas, Keekle, Annas) could provide initial advice. This only applies to areas outside of the Community Forest Areas. WCRT will work closely with Neville's team and refer people to each other depending on location.

Neville Elstone (Cumbria Woodlands) – WCRT have identified inconsistencies in the 'Keeping Rivers Cool' data layer within EWCO, which dictates where farmers are eligible to receive a payment of £1,600/Ha for planting trees to provide shade to watercourses. Neville and Caitlin have raised this with DEFRA, who have said a new updated dataset will be released in June. This should have better coverage for small streams but will not include any rivers over 7 m wide, where the EA do not consider it cost-effective to create shade.

Cath Johnson queried what had happened to the 'Keeping Rivers Cool' project that had previously been run by the Environment Agency and whether there was still any budget available for this.

The Keeping Rivers Cool project ran from 2012-2016. The project used LiDAR data to identify and target areas where increased riparian shade would be beneficial. Maps and guidance documents were produced and riparian planting was funded on target catchments. None of the target catchments were within Cumbria. It is thought that this programme has now been absorbed into other tree planting offers.

**Wild about Walkmill** – This week WCRT received confirmation that a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project at Walkmill Woods, near Whitehaven, had been successful. Initially a 1-year development phase has been funded. This will hopefully lead to a 5-year delivery phase with a budget of £2.3 million.

The project will make physical improvements to the site including enhancing habitats, NFM and improving access. There will be a lot of community engagement and education opportunities. The delivery phase will also include funding for a volunteer coordinator, an apprentice manager and eight apprentices over the course of the project, who will work across the whole West Cumbria patch.

Jodie Mills is leading the project and has engaged with lots of partners but the development year is about building the project and partnerships, so get in touch if there are any ideas.

Pete Fox (Forestry Commission) said he is familiar with the site and there is need for coppicing and thinning as the woodland is dense. Forestry Commission can help with management plans and this also provides a good opportunity to educate public and landowners about the need for woodland management.

Neville Elstone – Cumbria Woodlands are working on a number of sites close to Walkmill so it would be good to coordinate these and ensure joined up habitat corridors.

## Gap analysis

*This was discussed in detail at the Catchment Partnership meeting in October 2021, brief updates are provided but this discussion was mainly to focus on where funding bids are needed.*

The Catchment Plan prioritisation map and project pipeline was used to identify gaps in the Catchment Partnership's delivery and to prioritise funding applications. 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. 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.

For many of these areas there are ongoing projects addressing these issues. The Partnership needs to look at the main gaps in delivery and align these with funding opportunities.

- Glenderamackin - Glendermackin Resilience Investment Readiness Fund is being developed but will need complimentary funding to make this successful. The United Utilities funded St. John's project is ongoing in this area.
- Newlands – There are lots of issues, including flooding, modified river channel and severe erosion, lack of wider catchment habitat diversity and minewater pollution, but no significant project at the moment. As discussed by Neil, there may be potential to address some of these issues as part of the Braithwaite/A66 flood mitigation project.
- Tom Rudd Beck – The main issue is agricultural pollution – no projects at the moment.
- Upper Derwent – The Riverlands project is ongoing, focussed on the Upper Derwent. Laura Ruxton presented an update on the project at the last meeting. Armboth Fell restoration phase 2 is ongoing, and work at Stonethwaite and Barrow Beck is in development.
- Cocker – Hopeful of continued FiPL funding for delivery and to maintain a WCRT Project Officer in the catchment. Cumbria Flood Resilience Innovation Project will also cover this catchment. There are lots of potential opportunities including river restoration.

- Broughton Beck – A study undertaken by APEM found that removal of the barriers to fish passage on Brides Beck was not feasible. The risk of high delivery of fine sediment into the River Derwent and migrating erosion, which could de-stabilise local infrastructure, was too high. Although easement (e.g. bypass channel or technical fish passage) may be technically feasible, the high cost, lack of access and risk of the structures collapsing means this is not considered to be appropriate.

Poor water quality and habitat are issues across Brides Beck, Carr Beck and Dovenby Beck. There is potential for delivery of small scale projects through the River Corridors Group or future ELMS but having a farm advisor within the catchment is needed to identify and work up these opportunities.

- Ehen – Wild Ennerdale and the Ehen Compensatory Measures projects are ongoing. Sellafield funded project on Keekle is ongoing but funding is running out soon.
- Irt & Bleng – As discussed above, there is an action plan to achieve ‘high status’ being developed. Further funding is needed to continue delivery after current Compensatory Measures project finishes. There is potential for the National Trust to develop a Riverlands project in this area.
- Calder – Ennerdale, Kinniside and Wasdale Community Interest Corporation have funding from the Farming in Protected Landscapes fund for large scale monitoring of the current state of the Common including vegetation, soils, water quality and species. WCRT have been asked to undertake water quality and fish surveys. Hopefully this information will be used to shape future delivery through ELMS or other funding mechanisms.
- Waver/Wampool waterbodies – A small scale WIEF project has been delivered to create a riparian buffer strip and protect against bank erosion on Wiza Beck. Wigton Town Council also received funding from Cumbria County Council for nature enhancement and have created a pond and area of tree planting. As discussed above, the formation of a Water Level Management Board will influence the approach for this area.

In summary, the main catchments that the partnership is looking to find funding for are: Glendermackin, Newlands, Tom Rudd Beck, Broughton Beck, Irt and Waver/Wampool.

## Funding opportunities

**Farming in Protected Landscapes** - This funding opportunity was presented by Cath Johnson at the July Catchment Partnership meeting. It provides funding for farmers in the Lake District National Park and Solway AONB 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. Farmers can apply directly or organisations can apply to work with farmers.

**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 improving the natural environment. It must benefit communities around the Drigg and Sellafield sites.

Cumbria Woodlands are applying to the NDA for £50k to match fund the revenue element of the Coastal Community Forest.

**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 budgets available this year are smaller than they have been

in previous years. Revenue (staff time and overheads) is limited to 15 % of the total amount, making it difficult to deliver projects without match funding.

### **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. Applications for pilot projects are now open, with a closing date of 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Projects need to cover areas over 500 Ha.

There is some concern that DEFRA have said that projects within the farmed environment are not suited to this funding, suggesting they are looking for 'rewilding' style projects. The first round of projects will have the opportunity shape the scheme but could potentially have more difficulties as the pathfinders. This first round of funding focuses specifically on streams and rivers so river restoration projects may have the best chance of success in this round. The application is quite onerous so whether the partnership decide to make an application will depend on resource available to pull this together.

John Gorst said United Utilities will be applying for Haweswater for a 'Wild Ennerdale' style project with extensive grazing. Agri-environment schemes will be maintained on the land. Projects need to demonstrate restoration at scale but John doesn't think they need to be at the extreme end of rewilding. United Utilities have had guidance from DEFRA that applications need to be on contiguous land that is physically joined up. This is difficult for linear features such as rivers as it would need every landowner to be on board to make a complete corridor.

### **Geological Disposal Facility Community Investment Fund**

The Government have an initiative to find a location for a geological disposal facility (GDF) for nuclear waste. For an area to be considered as suitable to host this facility it needs to have community support. Any area that has formed a working group to allow further investigation of the potential for a GDF site is eligible for community investment funding.

There is £1 mil available each year for each of South Copeland, Mid Copeland and Allerdale. This will rise to £2.5 million per year if these areas are taken forward to the next phase of investigations. The facility is unlikely to be built before 2040. Any projects that provide social benefit, economic opportunities or enhance the natural environment are eligible to apply.

Caitlin Pearson (WCRT) has been involved in a bid with Bootle Parish Council who are applying for community investment funding to create a community woodland. The application form for the funding is not too onerous.

In South Copeland and Mid Copeland the whole area is eligible to receive funding, even though only certain localities are within the search area for the GDF. In Allerdale, only the search area is eligible to receive the funding. This covers the Marron, Eller Beck, Lower Derwent, Broughton Beck, Ellen and Black Dub catchments.

## Funding pipeline

Based on the above gap analysis and opportunities, the following funding bids were identified. These are colour coded depending on the stage of the application; green = submitted, purple = in development, orange = idea.

Funding Opportunity	Potential bids
Farming in Protected Landscapes	Cocker catchment nature recovery and NFM delivery including INNS management
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	Cumbria Woodlands – Match funding for Cumbria Coastal Community Forest West Cumbria Rivers Trust – Continuation of People on the Keekle project.
ELMS Landscape Recovery Pilot	Newlands Beck river restoration, Glenderamackin Investment Readiness or Cocker catchment
GDF Mid Copeland	West Cumbria Rivers Trust – Irt floodplain reconnection & Hallsenna SSSI project
GDF South Copeland	
GDF Allerdale	Potential to fund a Project Officer in the Broughton Beck, Ellen or Marron catchments
Water Environment Improvement Fund	Potential source of delivery funding for projects worked up in the Ellen, Waver/Wampool or Tom Rudd Beck

Mel Fletcher - Natural England potentially have delivery money for the Derwent catchment so are supportive of the idea of having a Project Officer to work up opportunities.

## Consultations

The draft River Basin Management Plans are now open for consultation until April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/environment-and-business/draft-river-basin-management-plans>

The draft plans show limited progress since the 2015 plans, and do not appear to take into account the extensive amount of work that went into the initial consultation. The national Rivers Trust have prepared a response and West Cumbria Catchment Partnership will also be providing a response. This will be circulated for comment in April.

The Catchment Pages for each of our catchments is available online. These were written by the Partnership. Partners were asked to look at these and check they were happy as there is an opportunity to edit them before they go live.

[West Cumbria Catchment Partnership \(Derwent\) | Catchment Data Explorer](#)

[West Cumbria Catchment Partnership \(South West Lakes excluding Duddon\) | Catchment Data Explorer](#)

There is also a consultation on the Government's Nature Recovery Green Paper: Protected Sites and Species, which closes on 11<sup>th</sup> May. There will not be a partnership response to this as partners include protected area organisations and different interest groups, but partners are encouraged to respond to it.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/nature-recovery-green-paper/nature-recovery-green-paper/consultation/intro/>

## **Date of Next Meeting**

John Gorst is hosting a Catchment Partnership visit to the Thirlmere Resilience Project on 25<sup>th</sup> May. Please let Caitlin know if you are planning to attend.

The next Catchment Partnership meeting will be in the first week of July with date TBC. It was suggested that this meeting focuses on the role of Catchment Partnerships in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Biodiversity Net Gain and partners agreed that this would be useful.