

The Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Annual Review

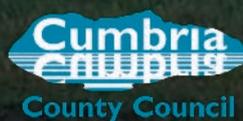
2013-2014



In partnership with:



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



The Solway Coast AONB Partnership herein presents its Annual Review for the year 2013 to 2014 - a year in which we have had many highs, despite the financial austerity measures bestowed upon us, and many of our partners.

To highlight success at a time of cutbacks seems particularly appropriate within my foreword and pride of place goes to the delivery of our largest project to date the £3,400,000 Solway Wetlands Project. This is a large Partnership project primarily funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund through their Landscape Partnership Scheme and its first year is highlighted within the text. Most public bodies are now firmly focused on delivery after years of visioning and we are no exception.

This year also saw the opening of the Hadrian's Cycle Route from Allonby to Maryport. A bespoke off-road route at a cost of £800,000 has been achieved with the cooperation of a range of landowners, funders and stakeholders. It is a multi-use path for walkers, cyclists and the disabled.

Our long serving AONB Manager, Dr Brian Irving, was awarded an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list for his contribution to Nature Conservation and Heritage in Cumbria. A fantastic personal achievement for Brian and shared by his family and friends and an award thoroughly deserved,



Brian and Val at Buckingham Palace

reflecting credit also on the Solway Coast AONB family. Brian left school early and ended up with a Ph.D - which tells its own tale.

Finally, the only way to deliver these days is partnership working allied to serious voluntary sector inputs with less fascination on process and a greater understanding of the private sector potential. Cumbria has made good progress on this front over the last three years though it has not been an easy journey for some. With our tiny core staff on the AONB we had to learn all this long ago. I wish to thank our many partners, volunteers, stakeholders, Cumbria County Council, Carlisle City Council and particularly our host authority Allerdale Borough Council, for their support, enthusiasm and love of the Solway Coast. This enables us not just to survive but to deliver way beyond our paper potential.

William (Bill) Jefferson O.B.E.

Chairman

Solway Coast AONB
Joint Advisory Committee



'Facts and Figures'

from the 'State of the AONB 2013

The Solway Coast AONB was designated in 1964 and is one of the UK's 46 AONBs.

Size: 115km square, 59 km of shoreline

Landscape Character: Estuary and Marsh, including two sub types, intertidal flats and coastal marsh; Coastal Margins including dunes and beaches, coastal mosses and coastal plain; and Lowland including low farmland, rolling lowland and drained mosses.

Area by Land Use: The majority of the AONB, around 55%, is farmland. Raised mires cover a further 10% and the remaining 35% covers areas such as settlements, sand dunes, saltmarshes, rivers and highways.

Types of Agricultural Land Use:

Land Use	Area (Ha)	% agricultural land
Crops/bare fallow	862	13.6
Temporary grass	1095	17.2
Permanent grass	3507	55.2
Rough grazing	786	12.4
Woodland	77	1.2
Other land	32	0.5
Total farmed area	6358	

Habitats: The following Biodiversity 2020 outcome 1a Priority Habitats are present within the AONB:

- Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh
- Coastal Saltmarsh
- Coastal Sand Dunes
- Coastal Vegetated Shingle
- Deciduous Woodland
- Good Quality Semi-improved Grassland (Non-priority Habitat)
- Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
- Lowland Fens
- Lowland Heathland
- Lowland Meadows
- Lowland Raised Bog
- Maritime Cliffs and Slope
- Mudflats
- Traditional Orchards

Species Within the AONB there are 8 Cumbria BAP species: Songthrush, Barn Owl, Brown long-eared Bat, Natterer's Bat, Pipistrelle Bat, Marsh Fritillary, Natterjack Toad and Great-crested Newt (also known as Warty Newt) as well as a number of English priority species; 6 EU Habitats Directive 'Annex II' Species – Common Porpoise, Common Seal, Grey Seal, Otter, Marsh Fritillary, Great-crested Newt; and 7 EU protected species - Brown long-eared Bat, Common porpoise, Natterers Bat, Pipistrelle Bat, Otter, Natterjack Toad and Great-crested Newt.



Special Historic Sites:

The most famous heritage site within the AONB is Hadrian's Wall that terminates at Bowness-on-Solway. Hadrian's Wall Military Zone was designated as a World Heritage site in 1987 and Roman monuments can be found throughout the AONB from Maryport to Beaumont.

In summary, the AONB contains:

- 423 Sites and Monument Records (SMR)
- 102 Listed Buildings (4 x grade I, 6 x II*, 92 x II)
- 51 Scheduled Monuments
- 7 Conservation Areas (containing 65 SMR sites, 48 listed buildings, 8 Scheduled Monuments).
- 0 parks & gardens

Public Rights of Way within the AONB:

Access within the AONB

Length of Public Rights of Way	86,418 m
Length of National trails	14,193 m
Open access as % of AONB area	19%
Accessible natural environment	33%
Countryside Stewardship linear access	7224 m

Source: National Framework Data © Natural England copyright 2013
© Crown Copyright and database rights 2013 Ordnance Survey 100022021.

The National Cycle Network Route 72 passes through the AONB (the Hadrian's Wall Cycleway) and part of the Cumbria Cycle Way.

Three long distance footpaths pass through the AONB: The Cumbria Coastal Way, the Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail and the Allerdale Ramble which extends northwards along the shore as far as Grune Point. There are also 11.4km of Easy Access walks.

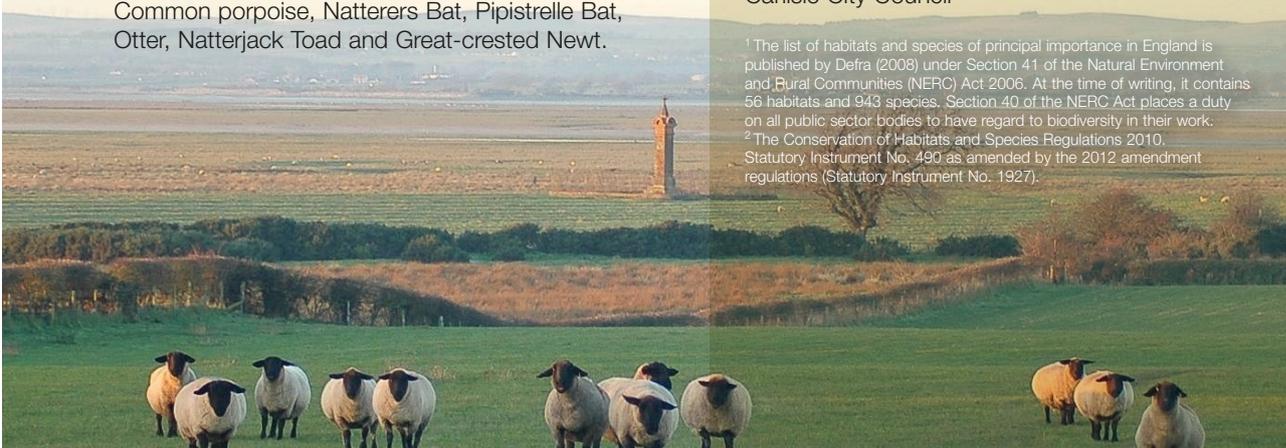
Population: The total population of the AONB is approximately 3220. The population increases significantly over the summer months due to tourists.

Number of Parishes: 13

Planning Authorities:

- Cumbria County Council
- Allerdale Borough Council
- Carlisle City Council

¹ The list of habitats and species of principal importance in England is published by Defra (2008) under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. At the time of writing, it contains 56 habitats and 943 species. Section 40 of the NERC Act places a duty on all public sector bodies to have regard to biodiversity in their work.
² The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Statutory Instrument No. 490 as amended by the 2012 amendment regulations (Statutory Instrument No. 1927).





Strategic Planning and Policy

At the invitation of the relevant local planning authority, the AONB submit specialist comments on the impact of proposed developments in the AONB.

Over the last 12 months a wide range of planning applications have been reviewed with comments and recommendations returned on many schemes including:

- Applications for wind turbines
- Demolishing of agricultural buildings for housing
- Small and large housing developments
- Camp Farm Museum Development, Maryport
- Ground mounted solar panels and tracker panels
- Reroofing and general house extensions and conversions

Overall, 14 Planning Applications were considered for Carlisle City Council, 1 Amended Consultation, 1 Further Information relating to turbines, 1 Appeal Notification to the Secretary of State, 4 Planning Applications for Cumbria County Council and 62 for Allerdale Borough Council.

Consultation

During 2013-2014 the AONB carried out more surveys on behalf of Electricity- North West, for potential locations for undergrounding High and Low Voltage lines for Visual Amenity. This year 4 poles were removed and 230m of cable were undergrounded near Bank Mill Nursery, Beckfoot. This work forms part of a £5.4m five-year project to replace lines being most visually intrusive within the AONBs and National Parks in the North West.

Formal comments were submitted, or workshops attended, on a variety of strategic planning and policy documents and consultations including:

- Irish Sea Conservation Zones
- National Grid – North West Coast

Connections (Stakeholder Reference Group Meetings and Consultation on its initial proposals for connecting new energy generation projects in Cumbria and for a published Strategic Options Report on the preferred routes of the National Grid line from Moorclose Nuclear Power Station in 2020)

- Cumbria County Council – Consultation on the content of the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Plan
- Consultation on Allerdale Local Plan – Core Strategy June 2012
- Cumbria County Council – Site Plans for Hadrian's Cycleway, which opened on 21st October 2013.
- The Assistant AONB Manager of the AONB Unit, is a member of the Grants panel for Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust, allocating funding towards projects throughout Cumbria
- Consultation on the Proposals for Coastal Access between Allonby and Maryport (Natural England), England Coast Path which opened on 11th April 2014
- Consultation with Natural England, Cumbria County Council and Allerdale Borough Council on wind turbine and vertical structure development in Allerdale.
- Consultation with Natural England in the process of obtaining Higher Level Stewardship for Allerdale owned Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other land parcels. This was achieved in February 2013.

A range of input was submitted to the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty to assist in national responses to a range of legislative and government policy documents. Also there was agreement that the JAC should assist the respective Local Authorities in developing a careful approach towards any future development proposals within and immediately adjacent to the AONB.

Partnerships

Working Together

Local Partnerships

The Solway Coast AONB works alongside a wide variety of organisations, community groups, local landowners and volunteers advising on policy and undertaking activity that furthers the interest of the AONB and without whom the delivery of the Management Plan could not take place.

Partnerships include: the Solway Coast AONB Joint Advisory Committee, a partnership of public, private and other organisations, which acts as a forum to advise and guide activity on a range of issues in the AONB and is important in monitoring, implementing, reviewing and producing the AONB Management Plans; the Solway Firth Partnership; Marine Conservation Society; Local Access Forums; Hadrian's Wall Trust; Cumbria Tourism; Western Lake District Tourism Partnership; Friends of the Lake District; Cumbria Cycle Coordination Group; Sustrans; Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust; Action with Communities in Cumbria; Cumbria Voluntary Service; Scottish Natural Heritage; Cumbria County Council Cumulative Vertical Structures in Cumbria Study; Cumbria Access Forum; Local Enterprise Partnership; Heritage Skills Initiative; Coastal Learning Network; University of Cumbria; University of York; Countryside Volunteer Network; Coastnet; Pisces; North West Coastal Forum; Silloth Tourism and Action Group; Amphibian and Reptile Conservation; Dumfries and Galloway District Council; Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust; United Utilities; National Grid; Electricity North West; Age Concern; the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Project (HLF funded), comprising the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Environment Agency, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Natural England, the Western Lake District, The Diocese of Carlisle, and Tullie House Museum.



Over the past 12 months the AONB has maintained and developed links with the following local partnerships and initiatives:

- Irish Sea Conservation Zones Project
- Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme (SWLPS)
- Lakes College
- West House Trust
- Cumbria Probation Trust
- West Cumbria Archaeological Society
- Solway Firth Partnership and Members
- Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership
- Hadrian's Cycle Way
- Coastal Access Forum and Coastal Access between Allonby and Whitehaven; as part of Natural England's Proposal for the England Coastal Path.
- Scottish Natural Heritage Sule Wath Cross-border Project
- Hadrian's Wall Trust, Interpretation Framework
- Ecosal Atlantis, The UK Salt Network: Ecotourism in the Atlantic Salt-marshes.
- UCLAN, West Lakes Research Centre for World Wetlands Day Conference
- North West Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)





Regionally

The Solway Coast AONB has attended 2 meetings held by the Northern Group of AONBs, one in Arnside and Silverdale AONB and the other in Howardian Hills AONB.

The AONB has been represented at meetings including the Historic Seascape Character for the Irish Sea (NE), Coastal Planning for the Marine and Access Bill (Defra), Scottish Government Rural Affairs and Environment Committee, Undergrounding for Visual Amenity, North West Coast Connections, the National Grid's consultation on initial proposals for connecting new energy generation projects in Cumbria.

National Partnerships

The AONB team has regularly participated in a number of events organised through the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) to share skills and training opportunities with our colleagues from other AONBs. These include National AONB meetings for Lead Officers and Chairmen, Management Skills Development and National Communications. During July the NAAONB with Dedham Vale, Norfolk Coast, Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Partnerships and the Broads Authority hosted the Landscapes for Life – Conference 2013. The theme was water. Management of water is one of the most important challenges that the global economy will face over the next decade. The conference considered the part that the UK's Protected Landscape Family has in ensuring that our water systems are well managed and our environment is safeguarded for future generations.

The Solway Coast AONB Partnership has supported and endorsed the NAAONB on a wide range of initiatives undertaken on behalf

of all the 46 AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Some of the important NAAONB activity has included:

- Securing continued central government support and funding
- Fostering a good understanding and support for the AONB Family
- Working to develop national identity for the AONB family
- Working on collaboration and communications as an AONB Family
- Lobbying and influencing Ministers and other senior figures in Government and Opposition parties
- Commenting on national strategies.

One important piece of work was to coordinate the reconfirmation of AONBs as internationally recognized and protected landscapes under the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) Category V classification. Every AONB partnership, including the Solway Coast, provided further evidence to demonstrate that they continue to meet high standards demanded by the IUCN.

A major focus for the NAAONB has been to develop a national identity for the AONB family alongside the individual local approach to awareness raising. This will add strength to the common national objectives, also being developed.

The NAAONB's electronic Basecamp Forum continues to be widely used and is proving invaluable for exploring current issues with other AONB teams to circulate good practice.



Guided Walks, Events & Shows

The Solway Coast AONB has continued to maintain a high public profile by attending a number of events, where people from all ages and backgrounds were able to source information.

These included:

Attending the opening of the Hadrian's Wall Cycleway on 21st October; attending 2 Cumbria Volunteer Service meetings to recruit volunteers; Allonby Ploughing Match to promote the AONB and the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme; attending and organising the World Wetlands Day Conference at West Lakes Science Park; attending the opening of Silloth Green; 6 Ranger given talks to various groups; organising the 11th Annual AONB North Cumberland Style Hedgelaying Competition; attending the North West Coastal Forum Conference in Fleetwood.

The Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme staff also held many events including: a Marsh Fritillary day; a 'Bioblitz'; a landscape photography course, a night time 'Bogsploration', and a Mediaeval Fair at Holme Cultram Abbey.

The public also enjoyed some fascinating Volunteer Coordinator led walks including Bird Watching walks on Grune Point, history walks around Bowness on Solway, Port Carlisle and Allonby, wildlife watching on Campfield Marsh, and many more.



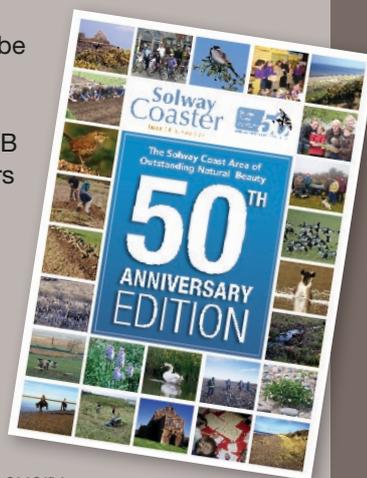
Media Coverage and Publicity

The AONB continues to work closely with national, regional, local press and publications to help promote the AONB on behalf of a wider partnership.

This has resulted in 1 television interview, 2 radio interviews, 2 articles in the Solway Firth Partnership magazine 'Tidelines', 1 article in 'Allerdale Outlook', 85 local press articles, bi-monthly Volunteers Newsletter and the Spring/Summer 'AONB Coaster' magazine. The AONB and Discovery Centre leaflet has also been distributed widely.

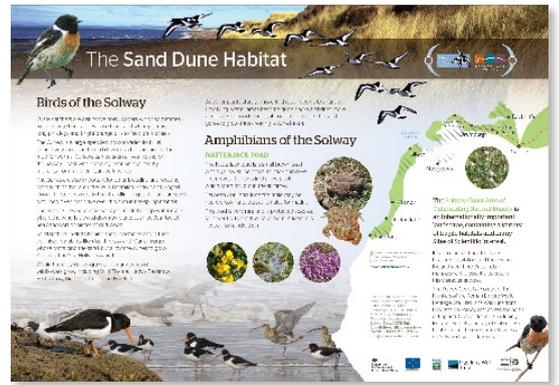
'The Solway Coaster' and Volunteer Newsletter

The Solway Coaster magazine continues to be published and gives an overview of the work undertaken by the AONB unit, partners, volunteers and the community. It highlights the varied achievements of all involved in projects within the AONB and includes an events diary.



The Volunteer Newsletter is produced every two months by Rose Wolfe and Graeme Proud, and promotes news and volunteer events to all Solway Coast Community Volunteers and the wider public via Tourist Information Centres between Workington and Carlisle. All events are also posted on the Solway Coast AONB website.





New Signage and Interpretation Panels

Hadrian's Wall Trust working in partnership with the AONB have produced new signage to promote the AONB, Hadrian's Wall and Hadrian's Wall Country. All the previous AONB boundary signs and information signs have been replaced with new branding and improved information.

At the same time new Hadrian's Cycleway signs were produced with the same partnership. All the new panels have been carefully designed and located along the Cycleway to give information about the Roman history of the area and local history of places along the route.

Solway Coast AONB Annual Conference

The Annual Solway Coast AONB Conference which was held in Beaumont Village Hall, on Friday 7th June 2013.

The theme was 'A New Future for Solway Landscapes'. Duncan Fairburn, Vice Chair and Bill Jefferson, Chair of the JAC, welcomed and introduced the speakers. These included, Alex Sijpesteijn - Solway Wetlands LPS Project Manager, David Talentire - Solway Wetlands LPS Wetlands Officer and Naomi Hewitt - Solway Wetlands LPS Education Officer, talking about the entire project including habitats work on the Solway Wetlands and public engagement on the Solway Wetlands.

Norman Holton - RSPB Senior Sites Manager, Cumbria Coast Reserves, presented the 'Solway Wetland Centre - building for the future', talking about the development of Campfield Barn.

Mark Graham - Grampus Heritage and Training, presented 'Community Archaeology: researching the impact of the Cistercian Monks on the Solway Plain', talking about the various digs at Wolsty and Holme Cultram.

Katie Read - Destination Manager West Cumbria Tourism, presented 'Growing Natural Tourism' talking about the importance of our environment on Tourism.

Following the presentations there were a series of questions and answers, then a buffet lunch followed in glorious sunshine!



Solway Coast Community Volunteer Group

Tasks and events lead by Graeme Proud, the Volunteer Coordinator, have included:

- 8 guided walks, including 1 on RSPB Reserves, ranging from coastal walks, history walks, to bird and wildflower walks
- 33 workday events at Crosscanonby Carr Reserve, continuing the management and improvements on site, including boardwalk repair and rewiring the bridge, cutting and baling the meadow grass, weed control, coppicing, flood damage repairs, clearing the beck and removal of fallen trees.
- 2 volunteer recruitment sessions and slide shows
- 10 beach litter picks in partnership with other volunteers including Silloth School, BTCV and business groups, 5 surveys, including birds and Natterjack toads (some volunteers have undertaken independent toad surveys for the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust
- 4 working days at the historic Saltpans site, removing overgrown vegetation and opening up the site for visitor interpretation.
- 10 events to clear and maintain the Milefortlet 21 pathway
- Christmas social with guest speaker
- 26 tasks on Mawbray and Wolsty Banks SSSI, removing scrub, gorse and invasive weeds, management of the dune infrastructure including boardwalk removal and repair, signage painting, dogs teeth installation, and removal of old fencing and palings.
- Natterjack toad pond liner maintained on Mawbray Banks and work on Grune Point working in partnership with the Amphibian and Reptile Trust
- Annual Hedgelaying Competition, organising, stewarding and marshalling
- Attendance at 2 Northern Group Meetings of AONBs, and meetings with Hadrian's Wall Volunteers and Countryside Volunteers Network

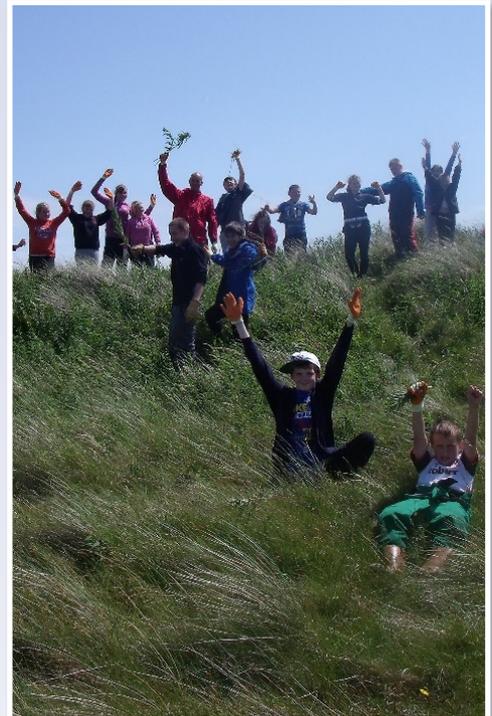


Working with the Community

- 3 workdays strimming and maintaining Beckfoot Burial Ground (old Quaker burial ground)
- 2 days painting the AONB signs around the coastal car parks
- 17 days working on partnership sites with Natural England, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and RSPB Reserves
- Various activities were also carried out with Brampton School, Caldew School and Silloth School, including weed removal and litter picks
- 5 days with Cumbria Probation Trust erecting a fence round Allonby Green

Causewayhead Women's Institute continue to improve and upgrade the garden in front of the Discovery Centre with mulch provided by Allerdale Borough Council.

There have been many other opportunities for the wider community to be involved in and there are at present over 160 volunteers on the database. The AONB Partnership expresses its gratitude to the volunteers for giving their own time to help us protect the AONB landscape and wildlife for all to enjoy. Over 2432 volunteer hours have been most generously provided over the last year. Graeme Proud, Volunteer Coordinator, has worked full time with the Community Volunteers during the year.



Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme

Having started in January 2013 with the appointment of staff, the period April 2013 to March 2014 has been a busy one for the Solway Wetlands Partnership.

We were delighted to open the Solway Wetlands Centre at RSPB Campfield Marsh, just west of Bowness-on-Solway. This is a fantastic site with a whole range of wetland habitats, fantastic view of the Solway, an energetic team of staff and volunteers, but until the Project came about, there were no facilities to allow the public to enjoy and discover the wildlife of this important site and the wider Solway. This small visitor centre was sensitively and environmentally converted from a disused barn and boasts an exhibition, learning room, tea and coffee making facilities, toilets and car park, including disabled access. It is open every day and at weekends is staffed by volunteers. Forthcoming work on site includes a wildlife discovery area, two new circular trails, new waymarking and new boardwalks across the bog, allowing more people to access and explore the landscape.

With similar objectives, October 2013 saw the start of work to improve the visitor experience at Holme Cultram Abbey in Abbeytown. This 800 year old UK national monument was the centre of cultural life of the Solway, and the Cistercian monks had a huge impact on the landscape and how people used it. Central to this project is the construction of an exhibition introducing the history of the Abbey and its landscape, as well as the conversion of a row of cottages into an accessible building, with a tea room and toilets. Good progress is being made, and the complex will be complete later in 2014.

Central to the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme is working with farmers to support them in improving their land for wetland wildlife through higher level stewardship schemes, and our Wetlands Officer has carried out a variety of projects across the Solway Plain supporting farmers, carrying out bog restoration projects and



monitoring bird populations. Much work has been carried out this year by the Project Team, Natural England, Butterfly Conservation and local communities improving habitat for the marsh fritillary butterfly, a species that is gradually being reintroduced after going extinct from Cumbria several years ago. We are starting to see these beautiful butterflies around the Finglandrigg area, and there are plans to extend this next year.

Lots of activities have taken place across the Solway Plain aiming to get more people involved in discovering the natural and cultural heritage of the Solway and to encourage them to explore the wider wetland landscapes and places on the Solway.



A programme of events have taken place in many locations, the highlight being Medieval Christmas at Holme Cultram Abbey which was a wonderful event organised by the hard working community of Abbeytown. Our Learning Officer has involved schools in a series of workshops at RSPB Campfield Marsh, Finglandrigg Wood NNR and Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery. Volunteers have carried out

tasks with many partner organisations in the project area, along with our two apprentices. The Hidden Heritage archaeology project has proved to be a very exciting year, with lots to get involved in - archive research, geophysics, fieldwalking and a summer excavation at Wolsty Castle, south of Silloth.



To find out more about the project, visit www.solwaywetlands.org.uk or contact us at info@solwaywetlands.org.uk and 016973 33055.

Naomi Hewitt: Project Manager



The Eleventh Annual North Cumberland Style Hedgelaying Competition and Training Event

Held on Saturday 15th February, at Southerfield House, Southerfield near Abbeytown, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs G Wilson and Sons, the event proved to be popular and spectators gathered to watch the fine skills of the competitors in this traditional craft.

This year the judge, Mr Gordon Wilson, commented that the standard of the competition remains excellent and the trainees produced a very well laid hedge and hedgebank. The competition keeps alive the tradition of the North Cumberland Style of hedgelaying which provides a unique feature of the field boundaries of the Solway Plain landscape.

Today's hedgelayers are as much concerned with conserving our countryside as with making stock proof hedges. We now have a much greater knowledge of wildlife and how, well-managed hedges are essential both to the appearance and the well-being of the countryside.

This event aims to maintain the traditional skills of the North Cumberland style of hedgelaying, maintain the distinctive hedge structure of the Solway Plain, improve biodiversity and move towards species rich hedgerows, train and educate young people in the skills and promote traditional hedge maintenance to a wider community.



The event succeeded in discussion and exchange of ideas, improvement of skills, excellent performance of competitors with a wide age range and promotion of the style of hedgerows in the Solway area.

A training event was also held on the same day with 13 trainees being taught the skills by National Hedgelayer, Jasper Prachek and they produced a very well layed hedge and hedgebank, despite the persistent rainy conditions.

Prizes were presented by Allerdale Councillor Mark Fryer.

Volunteers from the Solway Coast Community Volunteer Group acted as stewards for the day and also in the setting up of the event.

The Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, who organised the competition would like to thank the following funders and sponsors for their generosity to make the event possible:

Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme (part Heritage Lottery Fund),

Rickerby Ltd, WM Plant, Dryden Ward Fencing from Brayton, Aspatria, Cumbrian Newspapers Ltd, Aspatria Farmers Ltd, Mr R Wills and landowner Mr G Wilson.





Undergrounding for Visual Amenity

A £20k project to remove electricity powerlines and restore the coastline near Mawbray on the Solway Coast to its original beauty has been successfully completed.

Electricity North West, the company that manages and owns the region's power network, has permanently removed four electricity poles and replaced 230m of overhead lines with underground cable.

The company, which last year also removed 1km of overhead power lines in the area, worked alongside the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Natural England to successfully replace the powerlines with 240m of underground cable to improve views.

The work forms part of a £5.4m five-year project to replace lines identified as being most visually intrusive within the National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the North West.

Throughout the project the AONB has worked very closely with Electricity North West and are delighted that they were also able to work to ensure the protection of the local Natterjack toads.

Mike Dugdale, programme delivery manager for Electricity North West, said:

“We’re delighted to have removed these overhead powerlines in this beautiful area of Cumbria to help further enhance the area’s natural beauty.

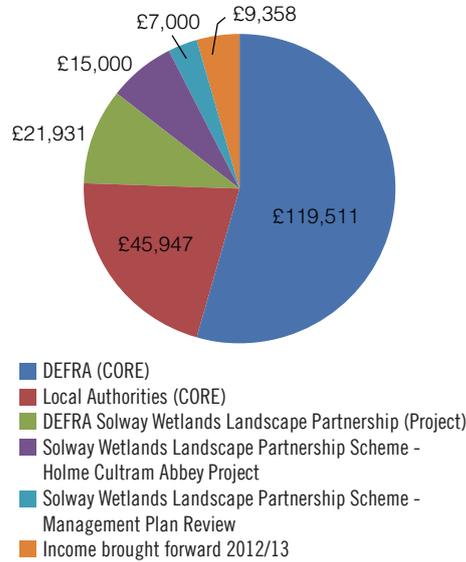
“We understand that powerlines can stand out and we work with AONBs and National Park Authorities to consider schemes that will successfully improve the visual appearance of an area.

“By removing overhead lines and placing it underground we are also providing the local area with a more reliable and efficient supply of electricity as the new cables will not be susceptible to bad weather and strong winds.”



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Solway Coast AONB
Financial Summary
Income 2013-2014



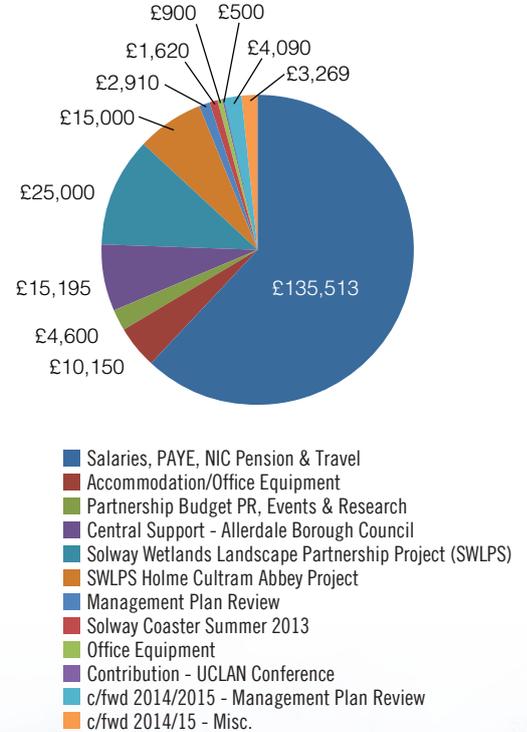
HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP 10 YEAR PROGRAMME FOR ALLERDALE OWNED LAND PARCELS

INCOME **EXPENDITURE**

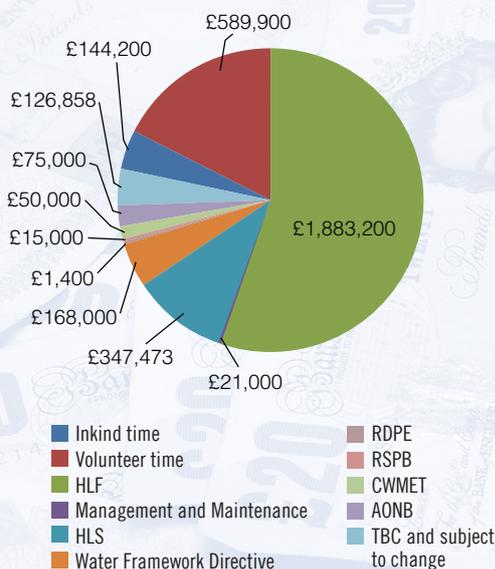
£11,176 £2,750

BALANCE C/FWD INTO 2014/15: £8,426

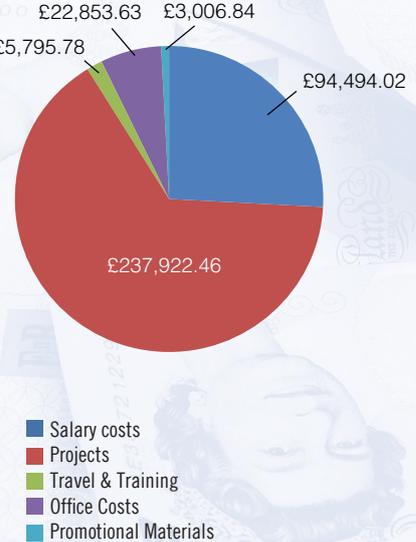
Solway Coast AONB
Financial Summary
Expenditure 2013-2014



Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme
Committed Income
Oct 2012 - Mar 2016



Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme
Expenditure
Apr 2013 - Mar 2014



JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

APRIL 2013 - MARCH 2014

JAC

STATUTORY BODIES (2)

Steve Lund/Simon Humphries	Natural England
Steve Garner	Environment Agency

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTED MEMBERS (5)

* (subject to local government elections)

Cllr. Duncan Fairbairn	Cumbria County Council
Cllr. Val Tarbitt/Cllr. Tony Markley	Cumbria County Council
Cllr. Peter Kendall	Allerdale Borough Council
Cllr. Bill Bacon	Allerdale Borough Council
Cllr. Les Tickner	Carlisle City Council

PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION (4) LEAD GROUPS

Mike Bacon	West One
John Molyneux	West Two
Cllr. Vaughan Hodgson	East One
Phil Rowland	East Two

TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATION (2)

Cllr. Bill Jefferson	Silloth Town Council
No representative	Maryport Town Council

COMMUNITY (4)

Sue Gallagher	Port Carlisle Community Group
Barry Maxwell	Lakes Area of Ramblers
Hellen Aitken	ACTION with Communities in Cumbria
No representative	Bowness on Solway Community Group

LOCAL LAND OWNERSHIP & MANAGEMENT ISSUES (4)

No representative	Country Land & Business Association
Jack Ellerby	Friends of the Lake District
Jane Lasky	Senhouse Roman Museum
Norman Holton	RSPB

TOURISM & COMMUNITY SECTOR (2)

Richard Greenwood / Katie Read	Cumbria Tourism
Jim Worsnop	Solway Coast Community Volunteer Group





50th ANNIVERSARY 1964 - 2014

Produced by:

Solway Coast AONB Partnership
Liddell Street
Silloth on Solway
Cumbria CA7 4DD
Tel: 016973 33055
Fax: 016973 33013

www.solwaycoastaonb.org.uk



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Photographs by: Brian Irving (HELM images), Rose Wolfe, Graeme Proud, Charlie Hedley, copyright Countryside Agency, FWAG, Land Use Consultants, Naomi Hewitt, David Tallentire, West Cumbria Archaeological Society, Electricity-North West, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Danny Moores, Natural England, Nikki Wingfield, Sustrans.

Solway Coast AONB Partnership is a member of the National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB). The Association is an independent organisation acting on behalf of AONBs and their partners to promote, conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the 46 areas designated as AONBs in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. The NAAONB is funded by Natural England, the Countryside Council for Wales and partner membership subscriptions.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the contents of this publication are correct at the time of printing