



THE NATIONAL TRUST

Hartsop Water Management Consultation Event – Notes Glenridding Village Hall, 3rd September 2009

The National Trust organised a meeting to bring together the agencies and those living and working in the valley to discuss water management. The aim was to: discuss the challenges presented by water management and to develop ways to proactively manage water in partnership with local communities and key agencies.

More than 80 people took part in the meeting, including representatives from the National Trust, Lake District National Park Authority, Environment Agency and Natural England. The turnout from the valley was large – at least 60 people – and their obvious passion showed what an important issue this is.

The atmosphere was highly charged at times, but the meeting produced a useful set of issues and challenges, and was the start of finding solutions together.

The National Trust had prepared a presentation to set the scene on water management and policies. However, the majority of people at the meeting felt it was not appropriate at this time. This presentation is available on the Patterdale Today website (<http://www.patterdaletoday.btik.com/>) or directly from the National Trust.

Specific sites identified where there are water issues (from ‘post-its’):

- Flooding at St Patrick’s Church and Churchyard, and across the A592 at Church corner
- Flooding of the A592 at Cowbridge – which comes from the flooding of the “Home” field
- Bank below the A592 down to the lake, south of Hartsop adjacent to the Waterends wildflower meadow
- Beck walls need restoring and beck dredging from Hartsop and Brothers Water down to the lake
- Dredging needed of the beck in Glenridding village
- Build up of gravel under the bridge at Glenridding
- Build up of gravel in the lake mouth
- All along Cauldale Brotherswater to the lake mouth needs looking at
- Deepdale Beck may breach – tributary to Goldrill Beck

Key issues from those living and working in the valley:

- Urgency – water management is an urgent issue that needs to be dealt with now. The general feeling was that there has been too much delay, and there needs to be more decisions and action.
- Problems throughout the valley – it is not just at Hartsop that water management is an issue, but at other sites across the valley.
- Drainage system is breaking down – the beck walls are crumbling, the becks are filling with gravel, the water can’t get away and is breaking out across farmland.



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- Loss of farm land – the best grazing land is being flooded.
- Farming system is vulnerable – the ratio of meadow to fell is barely viable as it is, with loss of meadows farms won't be viable anymore.
- Loss of heritage – the valley is a manmade landscape, created by generations of farmers, why isn't this being protected?
- Landscape change – mire and reeds are spreading changing the way the valley looks, and if farms can't survive the fells won't be grazed and the landscape will change there too.
- Impact on tourism – if the landscape changes from green velvet fields to brown marsh, people won't come to the valley.
- Impact on individual and collective livelihoods – farming and tourism are the mainstay of the economy for individuals, families and the whole community, if they are both affected, what is the future for people in the valley?
- Solutions from the community – fix the beck walls and selective dredging.
- Why won't the agencies do this? – is it money, is it policy?
- Impacts of repair – will there be negative impacts on others downstream?
- What about private landowners? – how is the National Trust working with its neighbours and what responsibilities does it have?
- Complicated situation – it is difficult to work with so many agencies, who give out such complicated advice.
- We need to know the priorities and timescales of the agencies.
- Who's views take priority – the valley or the agencies?
- Who knows best? – different understanding of what is happening with climate change and how the becks behave in flood.
- We all need to work together in the valley to get by – mutual support is so important.

Ideas for what happens next:

- Environmental Impact Assessment of the whole valley – looking at where the problems are and what the impacts of dredging might be.
- A second smaller meeting in 14 days with decision from agencies on key breakout in the valley.

Agreed actions:

(1) The National Trust to circulate notes from the meeting, and on receiving the notes, the community and agencies to say which issues they would like to get involved in.

(2) The agencies and local community to use the issues discussed in the meeting, to begin to think how these can be prioritised and resolved.

(3) The agencies to meet with members of the community in 14 days to give a decision on the specific beck breach at Hartsop and others, and to explain how these decisions were reached.