



THE NATIONAL TRUST

for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty

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Date	15 th September 2009

Thank you for taking part in the Hartsop Water Management event on 3rd September at Glenridding Village Hall. We were really pleased how many people from the valley took part, and although the atmosphere was at times challenging, I believe we all came away with a better understanding of the issues. Please find enclosed a summary of the key issues raised.

From the National Trust perspective, we certainly heard loud and clear how water management and landscape change are critical issues, how they affect everyone in the valley and how frustrated people are. This strengthens our belief that we – the organisations and those living and working in the valley – must work together to find sustainable solutions to the problems.

Next meeting

As agreed at the meeting on 3rd September, the National Trust and the other organisations are holding a further smaller meeting on 17th September. This meeting is to communicate the agency decisions, made after considering the views presented at the initial meeting, about the specific breakouts where the most urgent decisions are required.

As this meeting is to discuss specific sites where solutions need to be found quickly, we would like to have just those directly involved at the meeting – the agencies, National Trust tenants, and a representative from the Parish Council and the Hartsop Society, plus Ian Metcalfe, from Sykeside, who will be hosting the meeting. By limiting the number of people at the meeting we can ensure a detailed discussion of the specific issues and challenges on site.

However, after the meeting, we will of course provide feedback to all concerned via the address list gathered at the first meeting, on the Patterdale Today website and through the Parish Council.

Agenda for 17th September meeting

- Report back from water meeting 3rd September – what did we learn from the meeting
- Actions since meeting 3rd September – what have we done with that information
- Outline National Trust and partners' decisions on urgent breakouts – including explanation of decision-making process and timetable for action
- Discuss next steps for wider valley solutions

Then what next?

Our planned meeting on the 17th will not and can not be the end of the matter. The 3rd September meeting revealed many other areas of concern and opportunity, as well as a strong desire to be involved in finding solutions. Many people commented on the need for the agencies and community to get together – we agree. We are keen not to lose this momentum and to use the experience and passion of those who were in the room (and others who were unable to be there). How we can do this is part of an on-going discussion, perhaps co-ordinated through the Parish Council.

A useful starting point was put forward at the initial meeting, when someone suggested that we get together to look along the whole valley, mapping out where the issues are, such as gravels, what changes are happening, and how they impact on life and work in the valley. This would help all of us prioritise what needs tackling next. If you would be interested in getting involved in this, please contact Ruth Williams, Lake District Community Links Officer, (015394) 63811 or ruth.williams1@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Thanks again for taking part in the meeting on 3rd September, and I hope we will be able to continue working together to find sustainable water management solutions for the valley.

Yours sincerely

John Darlington
Assistant Director, Operations (North)