

South Cumbria Catchment Partnership

Terms of Reference

This document is for the guidance of current or potential partners. It has no formal legal status.

1. Purpose:

The South Cumbria Catchment Partnership, Becks to Bay, will work together at a catchment scale to develop and deliver a strategic direction, share knowledge and advocate the work of all partners. It will work closely with a range of partners, businesses and communities to conserve and enhance the catchments of South Cumbria.

The South Cumbria Catchment Partnership operates under the Catchment Based Approach Initiative (CaBA). The objectives for the Catchment Based Approach are:

- i) To deliver positive and sustained outcomes for the water environment by promoting a better understanding of the environment at a local level.
- ii) To encourage local collaboration and more transparent decision-making when both planning and delivering activities to improve the water environment.

As catchment hosts, appointed by DEFRA, South Cumbria Rivers Trust (SCRT) will co-ordinate the partnership, engaging with partners and communities for the benefit of catchments across South Cumbria.

2. South Cumbria Catchment Area

The partnership will operate across the five catchments of South Cumbria: Bela, Kent, Leven, Crake & Duddon

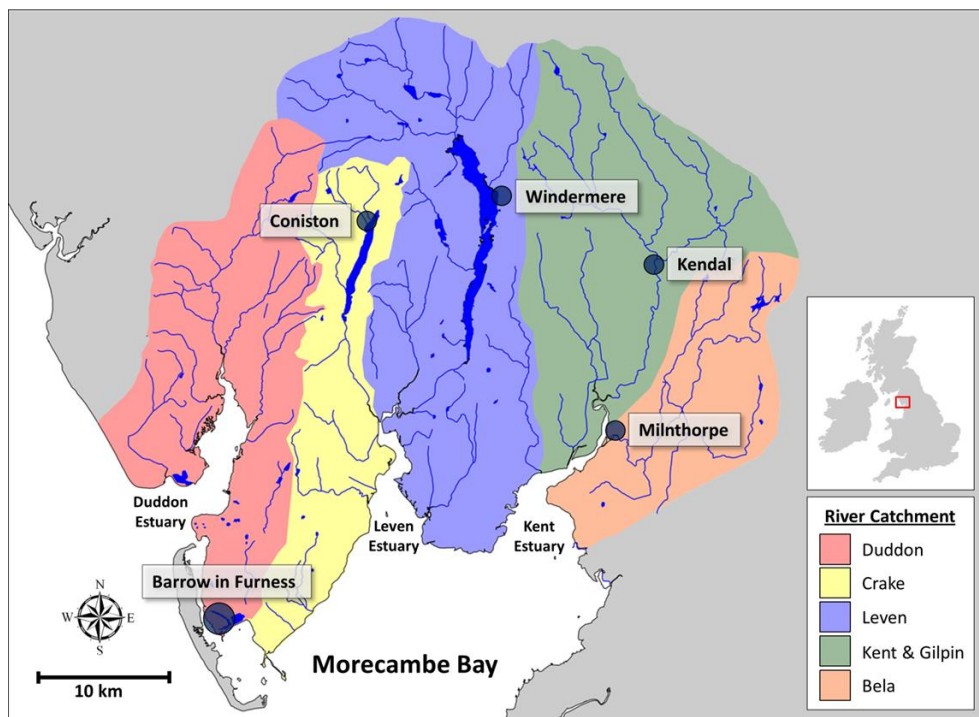


Figure 1. South Cumbria Catchment Partnership area

3. Objectives:

The objectives of the partnership are to:

- Deliver improvements to achieve diverse, sustainable and healthy catchments, which support the provision of a wide range of ecosystem services particularly services such as biodiversity, flood and drought resilience, water quality and carbon storage which are often undervalued.
- Advocate the work of the partnership and increase awareness of the issues and solutions on our catchments to a wide number of stakeholders including local communities.
- Identify and maximise additional and existing resources, including funding and knowledge exchange.

This will be achieved by:

- Supporting the development of a strategic long-term direction at a catchment scale, as identified through the catchment plan.
- Working collaboratively to identify new opportunities, prioritise action and maximise resources.
- Strengthening communication between partners and other stakeholders to support co-ordinated delivery of projects and exchange knowledge.
- Advocating the work of the partnership and increasing awareness of the issues affecting our catchments by engaging with a wide number of stakeholders (including the public, local communities, tourists, businesses and landowners) and increasing access to information.
- Promoting and encouraging the use of the catchment plans as hosted on the catchment partnership website as a resource and knowledge hub.
- Involving a wide range of stakeholders in decision making, including local communities.
- Engagement and education with land managers to recognise the true value of services provided from the landscape.
- Identifying and seeking additional resources and funding for catchment management.
- Influence policy change by uniting to raise issues at a higher level including to government.

The partnership recognises the need to take a holistic approach to management and will therefore operate at a catchment scale connecting land and water management.

4. Operating Principles

As the DEFRA appointed catchment hosts South Cumbria Rivers Trust will co-ordinate the catchment partnership and the catchment plans, facilitating between partners. They will also chair the partnership and hold any additional partnership funds.

Members of the Core Group:

The partnership core group will initially comprise representatives of:

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| ▪ Cumbria Wildlife Trust | ▪ National Trust |
| ▪ Environment Agency | ▪ Natural England (including Catchment Sensitive Farming) |
| ▪ Forestry Commission | ▪ RSPB |
| ▪ Friends of the Lake District | ▪ Woodland Trust |
| ▪ Lake District National Park Authority | ▪ United Utilities |
| ▪ Morecambe Bay Partnership | |



The core group can invite and receive interest from others to join the group. Any new members will be agreed into the core partnership by SCRT and existing members of the core group. The catchment partnership website will also facilitate engagement from wider stakeholders including the public; providing further opportunities to engage with and input into the planning and delivery of the catchment plans.

The group will meet in response to any stimulus such as new funding streams or management plans but will not set a target number of meetings per year. The partnership seeks to avoid the need for numerous meetings and the requirement for partners to commit resources to these meetings. Therefore, catchment partnership meetings will be held as necessary and the catchment partnership co-ordinator will initiate meetings with individual partners at least annually to update the catchment plan.

Community involvement is recognised as a necessary part to delivering catchment scale changes. This will be achieved through close working with local community catchment partnerships (such as those already operating under the umbrella of South Cumbria Rivers Trust) and engagement of community representatives as necessary. The partnership website will also offer the community a chance to influence and be involved with the catchment plans. However, decision making will ultimately lie with agreement from the core partnership who are recognised for their expertise in this area.

Whilst we aim to develop a strategic direction we recognise that partners will have their own objectives and priorities. The partnership will support and work with these objectives to operate in a more co-ordinated manner and avoid competition for resources. It will identify existing partnerships, groups and plans and does not seek to duplicate or compete with already existing organisations but rather to recognise and advocate the work which is already on-going. This will ensure the partnership continues to deliver against multiple objectives.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the Catchment Partnership officer is to:

- Organise meetings between the core partnership as necessary, such as in response to new plans or funding cycles.
- Facilitate meetings between individual partners to ensure the catchment plans are kept up-to date.
- Keep the catchment partnership website, which hosts the catchment plans, up to date.
- Continue to engage with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Disseminate information between partners and facilitate knowledge exchange.
- Manage and maintain the partnerships evidence base, including updating data from both a national and a local level.
- Work with other rivers trusts in Cumbria and the surrounding area to co-ordinate actions and minimise requirements from partners who operate at a county wide scale.

Members of the core group will agree to:

- Support the delivery of the catchment plans.
- Raise awareness of the catchment partnership and catchment plans, both within their organisation and to the wider community, and identify opportunities to promote this further.
- Represent their organisation at meetings of the core partnership.
- Support the Catchment Partnership officer by sharing information on projects, case-studies, funding opportunities and resources to populate and inform the catchment plans.
- Communicate and share information with the group via the catchment partnership website or through individual meetings with the catchment partnership co-ordinator.

6. Sharing of Information and Resources:

The South Cumbria Catchment Partnership aims to collate a wide range of data and images from a variety of sources. The majority of this data will be hosted on the catchment partnership website either publically or within a 'partners only' log-in section, dependent on the sensitivity of the information.

The catchment partnership believes that easily accessible data will support the delivery of the partnership objectives in catchment management and therefore strives to make the majority of the data available for non-commercial decision making, education, research and local community interest. However, there may be some circumstances where the availability of the data needs to be restricted such as:

- If it contains any sensitive personal information. Data will be managed under the Data Protection Act 1998.
- If it is likely to increase the risk of damage or threaten a protected species or habitat.
- If the data provider has requested that certain data is withheld.
- If the data or information has not yet been fully agreed with all relevant parties.

Members of the core group will have access to additional information which is not publically accessible, via the catchment partnership website and a 'members-only' log-in section. This is to facilitate the generation of ideas potentially before they are fully agreed or presented to all relevant parties. Therefore, any new members to this section need to be agreed by the core group.

All data will be logged and recorded so partners know where to access it and if there are any restrictions on its use. All data will be made available to support the objectives of the South Cumbria Catchment Partnership. Data providers retain the copyright of the original data or images at all times, however, the catchment partnership has their permissions to hold a copy of their data or images. Anyone wishing to use the data or images for commercial purposes will require additional permissions from the data provider. Additional permissions will also be required for the use of data and images for wide dissemination such as on websites, leaflets or other promotional materials. South Cumbria Rivers Trust works closely with the Rivers Trust under the catchment based approach to use the data provided and supported under this initiative. Data used from this agreement will be as per the issued licences.

