

Report for the West Cumbria Rivers Trust

Activity and Interpretation Plan Wilder Walkmill

Final Report, for Round 2 Submission February 2023



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Contents

Step 1 - Where are we now?	4	Consultation with stakeholders	27	Delivering Interpretation	114	Rosehill Theatre	160
What is the heritage?	5	Pilot Activities and Community Consultation	28	Aims for Interpretation	114	1st Hensingham Scouts	160
Walkmill Colliery	6	Need and demand	29	Interpretation Concept	115	Stakeholders	161
Archaeology	7	Opportunity	29	A story for Walkmill Community Woodland	115	Risk management (Activities & Interpretation Programme)	162
Oral histories	8	Barriers to engagement	30	Central theme	115	Measuring success	163
Archive Material	8	Mitigation	30	Theme 1 - Shaping the woodland	116	Longer term benefits and legacy	164
Ecology	9	Step 2 - Strategic Decisions about engaging people	31	Theme 2 - Sharing the woodland	117	Appendices	
Recent history	10	Project Vision	32	Theme 3 - Sustaining the woodland	118	Appendix 1: Community Consultation	
Heritage implications for activities and interpretation	10	Strategic aims for activities and interpretation	33	Resources to support interpretive content	119	Appendix 2: Staff job descriptions	
Strategic Context	11	Alignment with organisation and with NLHF outcomes	34	Concept design	120	Appendix 3: Apprenticeship job descriptions and Work Plan	
Cumberland Council	12	Target audiences	41	Design Process	121	Appendix 4: Volunteer role descriptions	
Cumbria County Council Wellbeing priorities	12	Local young people	42	Design Principles	121	Appendix 5: Outline Session plan for Discovering Walkmill	
Natural England action plan 2022-23	13	Local residents	43	Outputs	128	Appendix 6: Forest Schools Handbook	
Wellbeing and Heritage Strategy for Historic England 2022-25	13	Local working people	44	Managing Activities and Interpretation	151	Appendix 7: Business Plan and Terms of Reference for Friends of Group	
Why now?	14	Formal learners	45	The Wilder Walkmill Project Board	152	Appendix 8: Interpretive Concept Design	
Community movement	15	Project partners and stakeholders	46	Moresby Parish Council	153	Appendix 9: Action Plan	
Strategic opportunity	16	Proposed activity summary	47	WCRT	154	Appendix 10: Activity Plan Budget	
The loss of heritage	16	Interpretation Plan	108	Walkmill Steering Group	155		
The People and Nature Survey for England: Monthly indicators for March 2022 (Official Statistics)	17	The need for interpretation	109	Walkmill Community Woodland Activity Group	155		
Access improvements	17	Visitor experience audit	109	Project delivery	156		
Cumbria Coastal Community Forest	17	Existing interpretation	109	Recruitment	156		
Developing the Round 1 Application	18	Consultation and audience interest (media)	110	Roles and training	156		
Changes since Round 1	19	Focus group with Moresby Primary School, School Council	110	Project Staff	157		
Staff Roles	19	Conclusion	110	Staff structure	157		
Activities	20	Consultation and audience interest (stories)	111	Project volunteers	158		
Audiences	23	Focus group with Moresby Primary School, School Council	111	Project Board	159		
Who are they?	24	Conclusion	111	Support from WCRT	159		
What are they like?	24	Routes through the site	112	Project team (NLHF-funded posts)	159		
Where do they come from?	25	Messages for communication	113	NLHF project participants	159		
Population background	25	Management Aims	113	Key project partners	160		
How often and how many?	25	Audience Interest	113	Askham Bryan College	160		
What is the current offer?	26	Stories inherent in the resource – natural and cultural.	113	Copeland Wellness Service / Copeland Primary	160		
Current activities	26			Care Network	160		
Implications for activities and interpretation	26			Moresby Primary School	160		
Consultation with potential audiences	27			Whitehaven Academy	160		
				Moresby Parks residents	160		

About this document



This Activity Plan was developed between May 2022 and February 2023.

The plan was developed through extensive research and consultation including:

- Project inception meeting
- Site visits
- Background document review
- Project Board workshop
- Local community survey
- Local community consultation
- Pilot Events
- Extensive consultation with stakeholders
- Liaison with client team and consultants (archaeologists, ecologists, hydromorphologists, evaluation consultant)

Around Whitehaven there are limited public access spaces where we can establish collaborations that allow our youth members to make a meaningful and lasting contribution and then see the sustained benefit. The Walkmill site is close to where we operate and is publicly accessible, meaning that young people can visit with their families and friends to show-off what they've been doing in the short term and see it develop (for example trees take root and grow) in the long-term. Involvement in a lasting and local project will allow our youth members to be invested in their local environment and community, and hopefully foster their interest and enthusiasm to do other things that benefit the people and environment around them.

(1st Hensingham Scouts, Leader)

Step 1 - Where are we now?

What is the heritage?

What is the heritage?



Walkmill Colliery

Walkmill Community Woodland is on the site of Walkmill Colliery, a mine sunk in 1879 and worked until 1961. A very outline history from Durham Mining Museum (DMM) shows that it operated under:

1890s - 1947 Moresby Coal Co. Ltd.

- Coal: Coking, Gas, Household, Manufacturing, Steam. (at various times)

1947 - 1961 National Coal Board (N.C.B.)

- Coal: Coking, Gas, Household, Steam.

The DMM account shows the tonnage taken, numbers of employees above and below ground, names of seams worked. A fuller account has been provided as part of the Durham University Archaeological Services report.¹

“After its closure, almost all of the colliery buildings were demolished. The large pit heap was left standing in the centre and south of the present site for some years. Two phases of reclamation, in the 1970s and 1990s, ended with most of the mine spoil removed and the site landscaped and replanted with grass and trees.”

“A few minor structural elements of the old colliery remain. These are the 1879 pit road from Moresby Parks village, and an early 20th-century colliery dam beside it; a partly canalised beck that ran along the western edge of the mine site, together with the remains of two small weirs; the trackbed of the mineral line that served the colliery; the remains of a building that housed a weighbridge for rail wagons, installed in 1913; and a large concrete wall at the south end of the old pit heap.”²

¹ Durham University Archaeology Services 2022, *Walkmill Woods & Colliery, Moresby, Cumbria: Archaeological Assessment Report*

² Durham University Archaeology Services 2022, *Walkmill Woods & Colliery, Moresby, Cumbria: Archaeological Assessment Report*

The site is treated in only a few books, according to the Northern Mines Research Society (NMRS)³. The Cumbria Archives and Local Studies Centres (Barrow, Carlisle and Whitehaven), hold various archive collections relating to the site while it was a colliery.⁴

While no disasters are recorded, there were plenty of fatalities.⁵ The list of those primarily relates the names and ages of those killed. But the accounts also illustrate in detail both the working conditions and practices of the time. Some of the entries for these men (all fatalities at Walkmill Colliery were men) link to transcripts from contemporary newspaper or report articles.

Records for the Walkmill Colliery show that the Moresby Coal Co. Ltd began work here in 1888, operating until the National Coal Board took over in 1947. In 1930, at its busiest, there were 903 workers, 651 working below ground⁶. Miners were taking coal at Walkmill, at the southern end of the site, before 1867 when the Ordnance Survey shows an ‘old coal shaft’ is shown next to a quarry. At this time, the area of Moresby Parks was shown as moss cut across by field boundaries and seemingly partially drained.

It was both a mine (underground tunnels, albeit shallow) and an open cast pit. DMM has between 3 and 6 abandonment plans in its archive⁷, and WCRT have requested these from DMM.

³ <https://www.nmrs.org.uk/mines-database/?sort-by=all&search=walkmill>

⁴ Durham University Archaeology Services 2022, *Walkmill Woods & Colliery, Moresby, Cumbria: Archaeological Assessment Report (draft)*

⁵ <http://www.dmm.org.uk/colliery/w047.htm>

⁶ <http://www.dmm.org.uk/colliery/w047.htm>

⁷ <http://www.dmm.org.uk/abandon/w047.htm>

The plans of abandoned mines are held by the Coal Authority (<http://www.coal.gov.uk/>) at the following address: The Coal Authority, 200 Lichfield Lane, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG18 4RG

What is the heritage?



Archaeology

“What is left of the mining industrial archaeology is covered with grass and brambles or silted up.”¹

“The site has been transformed since the pit closure. Buildings, railway lines/ sidings and extensive spoil heaps have been removed. Despite this, there is still some industrial archaeology we wish to preserve that locals know of, now covered with vegetation or silt. These will be uncovered and made apparent if safe, or interpreted if not. For example, the weigh bridge and pond dams which are the last remaining structures of the colliery. It would highlight the ingenious work of the Victorians, and there is little archaeology left of the old pits of West Cumbria.”²

“people really love the dam wall so it’s been reinstated”

“Volunteers have done a good deal of work clearing vegetation and exposing the structures of the dam and the weighing machine building. Keeping these structures clear would help visitors to visualise something of the site’s industrial past. [...] It is considered very unlikely that any other elements of the old colliery could be revealed by excavation.”³

The Moresby Coal Company built the village of Moresby Parks, as miners’ accommodation. Four terraced rows of 19 and 20 units, arranged were laid out back-to-back on the drained section of moss. Another part of what had been moss was by now plantation woodland (Bonny Wood). There was a school and methodist chapel not far to the north-west, and the manager’s house was a larger property to the north of and set apart from the terraces. The bungalow beside the manager’s house was the mine offices. There were no pubs here. They built an identical village at Pika.

1 Round 1 Application to NLHF

2 Round 1 Application to NLHF

3 Durham University Archaeology Services 2022, *Walkmill Woods & Colliery, Moresby, Cumbria: Archaeological Assessment Report (draft)*

What is the heritage?



Oral histories

“Younger relatives will now be able to see their grandad or great-grandad on the film for the first time, rather than just look at the invitation card or hear us talking about it.”¹

Some local inhabitants are descendants of the miners. Some local residents share surnames with miners who were fatally injured. The census documents will provide the names of miners up until 1911. Mine records will provide the names of some people after this date, sadly usually those killed in the workplace. News articles record some of the fatalities (see above).

In 2011 oral histories in the village were recorded as part of a project to preserve mining heritage (see ‘Archive material’ section right).

There are some individuals in the community (i.e. B Mossop, J Ritson) who are very knowledgeable about the heritage of the site and how it links into the Moresby Parks community. They have collated information about notable persons and events using modern and historic photographs, and newspaper articles.

- Brian Mossop has provided historic image
- Joseph Ritson has provided historic images and has said will send more.
- Joseph Ritson has supplied information about Maggie Thom and the Thom family, mainly via the Durham Mining Research resource and information about the connection between the family gravestones and the colliery community (also supplied photos of gravestones).
- Joseph Ritson has supplied photos re T Stephenson, Moresby miners’ leader, long-serving NUM member and secretary, and recipient of a - also features on a BBC archive film²
- Joseph Ritson has supplied his own family history recollections of the D-Day preparations at Walkmill.

Stories we have been made aware of so far include:

- Former Walkmill pitman Major Frank Kavanagh, killed on Western Front 1918
- Moresby miner Tom Stephenson’s visits abroad and union work, fundraising and organising miners welfare
- in 1911 Archibald Thom (Jnr) was one of the first batch who received the Edward Medal in the aftermath of the Wellington Pit disaster at Whitehaven (sometimes referred to as “the mining V.C.” and is the equivalent of the George Cross which was brought in later). 147 men and boys died in this, the worst mining disaster in Cumbria.
- The Thom family moved here from North Lanarkshire, an historic mining heartland of Scotland’s central belt. It was one of the first places to organise collectively, with friendly societies and miner’s associations as an early form of social security, in some cases developed into prototype trade unions.³ This is not directly relevant to Moresby, but it links into the Tom Stephenson story.
- Tales of WW2 training at the Moresby mine sites.
- The Walkmill mining tokens are very rare and thus valuable.
- WCRT have made a voice recording about the ‘First Aid’ with Don Messenger and now have access to his photos
- Tommy Savage, a miner who signed up to the WW1 ‘pal’s battalion’ (d 1916).

Archive Material

Historic maps help to illustrate the site history (Tithe 1839 and first OS 1862 pre-date the pit at Walkmill, but show the Walk Mill; OS 1900 shows the mine and coke ovens, spoil heaps and railway; OS 1946 shows a much busier operation with aerial cables, a large opencast pit, and a mud lagoon). There are also some, but only very few, photographs of either the colliery or the site post-operation.

Haig Pit and Cumbria Records Office (Whitehaven) delivered an Oral History project in 2011.

¹ Online comment on T Stephenson film on BBC archive

² <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/09/a3565109.shtml>

³ <https://www.culturenmuseums.co.uk/story/lanarkshire-mining-beginnings/>

What is the heritage?



Ecology

Walkmill Community Woodland has a rich natural heritage. Some rare and endangered species are known to frequent the site, including red squirrels and adders. The northern marsh orchid grows at some locations, and the over-wintering hen harriers are known to inhabit the areas around the site.

Habitats: The 13 different habitat types at the site include plantation woodland, scrub, grassland, water.¹ Slight variance in conditions - principally light, water and density - influences the different makeup of each habitat. This variation was actively encouraged by the former owners - when the plantations were created c 1996/7, ditches were put in. Some were for drains but most were *“simply dug to encourage wildlife... [and] while they had machines on site they would try a pond”*²

Species: As a group, the Walkmill habitats provide opportunities of varying value to animal species that include amphibians, reptiles, birds, bats, badgers, and even red squirrels. The habitat here provides foraging, shelter, and nesting for some of these species.

The majority of habitats at the site were considered of low or moderate nature conservation value. The ecologists expect that the value of habitat would increase with maturity.

One habitat area - continuous common heather and gorse - was of increased habitat value and has potential to contribute to the UK BAP habitat of upland heathland.³

¹ Archer Ecology 2022, *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal – Final report: Walkmill Community Woodland, Whitehaven*, September 2022

² B Mossop, *pers comm*

³ Archer Ecology 2022, *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal – Final report: Walkmill Community Woodland, Whitehaven*, September 2022



What is the heritage?

Recent history

For twenty years, the large slag banks were left behind, until they were cleared away by the council in the 1980's. Some residents remember the burning waste being transferred by vehicle to another local site. In common with many abandoned mineshafts worldwide, the shafts were used as informal dumping sites by some residents until they were properly capped by the coal board. The open cast mining site was fenced off at its end of life.

The County Council acquired the site and created the plantation woodland present today during the 1990's. Council employees also introduced some of the landscape features - scrapes and ditches - to the site using plant. This is the origin of the large pond. Public access to the site continues to be afforded by various public rights of way - public footpaths and permissive paths. The public footpaths were originally permissive paths but - after a campaign of persuasion in 2019 driven by issues with other private landowners not honouring permissive path arrangements - the County Council amended some of these to become public footpaths in 2019/2020.

The potential of a sale of the Walkmill Woods followed by restriction of access was a major concern for the parishioners, but Moresby Parish Council (MPC) had reservations about funding future maintenance. After mining ceased, many follow-up actions had not taken place, such as maintaining drainage ditches and thinning out the planting.

A solution was sought from MPC. MPC looked at how it might take on responsibility for the site, having worked previously with the County Council on access improvements and part-funding of some path improvement works. MPC had helped contribute to management of the site with CCC, but could not afford the sums for the major overhaul the site required. If a plan were to succeed, it could not rely on greater annual funding from MPC.

MPC contacted local conservation charities to see if anyone could assist with advice and management of the site. West Cumbria Rivers Trust were

working on a large River Restoration project on the adjacent River Keekle site and agreed to help MPC in their pledge for community access.

Heritage implications for activities and interpretation

The former colliery and its records present a real opportunity to raise awareness of and connect the local community to the woodland's historical and cultural heritage. By gathering resources and stories to share with local people there is opportunity for developing and fostering a greater sense of pride in the woodland as well as opportunities for learning. The natural heritage - habitats and the species it supports at the site presents a natural resource that can support health and wellbeing in the local community, in particular through active participation and engagement with nature.

There is room to improve the conservation value of the site. Activities to deliver this present multiple opportunities for people to engage with the natural heritage at the site, for example via habitat management, development mitigation, and monitoring/Citizen Science opportunities.

Strategic Context

The Strategic Context



The Strategic Context

The Wilder Walkmill project is not happening in isolation. In addition to the partners' own aims there are opportunities for the project to utilise the heritage to deliver on outcomes and priorities for local and regional organisations, in particular local authority priorities regarding climate and health/wellbeing.

Cumberland Council

From April 2023, a significant local government restructure will mean that the Copeland Borough Council area will be governed by a new local government body, Cumberland Council, along with the areas of Allerdale and Carlisle.¹

The draft council plan for Cumberland Council² states that the focus for 2023-27 will include:

“Listening, responding and empowering our residents to help shape our services.

“We want to give our residents a big say in the things we do. This means creating spaces for honest and open conversations with our residents, service users and service providers to create and deliver services designed around local needs.

“Putting health and wellbeing at the forefront of all that we do.”

“We want our residents to be happy, healthy, and safe throughout long and full lives. We will promote independence, but also make sure we provide help early when it is needed. When people are vulnerable, our services will support them to live well. We will also take action on the wider social, economic and

environmental factors that impact on our wellbeing, such as climate change.”

Implications: Through engagement with heritage the project will support the new council plan by:

- empowering local people to manage the site based on local needs and aspirations.
- providing an environment to support residents to be healthy.

Cumbria County Council Wellbeing priorities

The Wilder Walkmill project can support Cumbria County Council's *Joint Health Strategy*, principally these health and wellbeing priorities:

- Improve mental wellbeing of children and adults
- Reducing social isolation
- Promoting physical activity

Implications: Through engagement with heritage the project can contribute by supporting the community's use of its natural assets. The project can promote the use of green spaces and provide opportunities for engagement with the natural world.

Partnership with the Copeland Wellbeing Service is a vital link in providing these benefits to the greatest possible number of participants.

¹ <https://www.copeland.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation-information>

² <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/cumberland-council-plan>

The Strategic Context (continued)



Natural England action plan 2022-23

Natural England's current strategic approach¹ focusses on tackling barriers to nature, to help people and communities engage with nature for their health and happiness.

Health and wellbeing:

- develop and showcase effective nature-based solutions in the cross-government Green Social Prescribing partnership pilots through our area teams
- support the development of policy and establishment of health partnerships across the Integrated care system

Tackling barriers to nature:

- deploy effective community engagement in local nature recovery, new partnership building and understanding local barriers to connecting with nature

Access to the outdoors:

- demonstrate how trails and access to the outdoors can be adapted to deliver wider social, health and economic benefits, working with planning authorities and communities

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-england-action-plan-2022-to-2023/natural-england-action-plan-2022-to-2023--2#priority-actions-for-2022-to-2023>

Wellbeing and Heritage Strategy for Historic England 2022-25

This strategy² aims to make a positive difference to people's wellbeing by providing more opportunities to bring communities together with heritage and the historic environment.

The vision for the organisation is that:

"Everyone experiences the wellbeing benefits of heritage"

It prioritises the following target groups for Historic England:

- people with mental health needs
- people who are lonely or socially isolated
- older people, especially those who are coping with age-related challenges or a reduction in their capacity to thrive
- younger people, especially those who need support to counter disadvantage

² <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/current/social-and-economic-research/wellbeing/strategy/>

Why now?



Why now? - the opportunity to engage people

Community movement

In 2018 the land occupied by Walkmill Community Woodland land was put up for sale. MPC, in partnership with the newly formed Walkmill Action Group (WAG, set up to lobby and petition for the site not to be sold into private ownership) and WCRT completed all the necessary requirements for a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of the site to MPC on a 99-year lease. The decision to approve the CAT was formally taken by the CCC Cabinet on 17 December 2020 and the lease was signed on 23rd March 2022.

Pressure from the local community through the Walkmill Action Group has been important in achieving the present status of the site and its footpath network. It is a valued asset now. It was felt that other former mining sites could also have been turned to public access along the River Keekle, but that these had been sold off into private ownership and now were off-limits to local people. This last piece of semi-natural habitat free for them to use makes the Walkmill Community Woodland even more highly valued to the local community.

Achieving Community Asset status for the site was itself a great achievement, but the Parish Council, as site leaseholder, is only able to contribute financially to some of the site management. MPC lacks funds for improvements or maintenance. The partnership is seeking funding in order to maintain the impetus of the project.

The present application to NLHF represents the largest such application. In support of this there is a Walkmill Community Woodland Business Plan (Appendix 7), which outlines its commitment to the engagement of people:

- increase the benefit to the community that this land can offer
- retain its beauty for the benefit of people, wildlife and the environment
- maintaining potential for the experience of a 'bit of quiet' in an otherwise busy world

As of September 2022, a constitution has been created for a Walkmill Steering Group, until now the Walkmill Sub-committee of MPC. This constitution outlines the benefits of Walkmill Community Woodland for people:

- Create a secure environment for people and wildlife in which everyone can enjoy open access to the benefits of Walkmill Community Woodlands. This is to be achieved through liaison with the Moresby Parish Council, Walkmill Activity Group, the West Cumbria Rivers Trust, residents and users.
- Work in partnership with Moresby Parish Council and West Cumbria Rivers Trust ... ensuring that all developments, activities and uses of the park are carried out in such a way as to encourage and promote environmental sensitivity.
- Enable and encourage informal, and formal, activities for those of all ages from the local area

Why now? - the opportunity to engage people



Strategic opportunity

West Cumbria Rivers Trust Limited is a charity established to ‘deliver environmental projects for the public benefit ‘on the ground’ in keeping with the ‘wet feet’ tradition of rivers trusts across England and Wales.’

The charity is one of the project board partners. An MOU between Moresby Parish Council (MPC) and West Cumbria Rivers Trust (WCRT) sets out the detail and mechanisms by which WCRT will hold and administer funds for and on behalf of MPC for projects at Walkmill Community Woods to enable the site to be improved for the benefit of people and wildlife by delivering habitat improvement works and community engagement on the site.

MPC thought it feasible to maintain the woods on the basis that they would fund work but that it would be carried out by willing volunteers. MPC and the existing pool of volunteer talent lacked the organisation or safety management skills to run such a group. In addition to maintenance, there was a 20 years’ backlog of tasks. An original site management plan drawn up by the county council included tree thinning which is now over 10 years overdue, and the risk is growing that with the trees growing too close together, they are too weak to withstand storms. Recent bad weather has damaged many trees and it is only a matter of time before there is major damage. MPC has neither skills nor budget to manage or plan such an extensive programme.

The obvious solution was to find a partner with the skills and the knowledge and to work with them on a project specifically to complete the backlog of maintenance work and build a more viable volunteer group to maintain the site in future. West Cumbria Rivers Trust was working on the River Keekle river restoration project, into which surface water from the Walkmill Woods drains, and were the perfect partner for this.

The loss of heritage

“At its height 900 men worked at the pit extracting 80,000 tonnes of coal a year”

The colliery shut for good in 1962. A handful of ex-colliers continue to live in the village. The oldest of these, Mr Bryden, performed opened the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the 17 July Open Day.

The generation of local residents who remember the pit and surrounding infrastructure are ageing, so there is some urgency to capture their memories and copies of old documents.

“I still remember as a child lying in bed listening to the back shift coming home – a cacophony of clogs which got louder as the approached the village, laughing, joking and shouting.”

(Memory from a local resident)

The community was close-knit, like most mining villages. Most people either worked in or had a family member working at Walkmill Colliery. That the colliery workers of the Moresby Colliery Co (Walkmill and Oatlands) paid for the headstone of Margaret (Maggie) Thom, the daughter of the Walkmill colliery manager who had died 1897 aged just 22, is perhaps an indication of how closely people felt such a loss as a community. This is supposed to have been the biggest funeral ever known at Moresby Church.



Why now? - the opportunity to engage people

The People and Nature Survey for England: Monthly indicators for March 2022 (Official Statistics)

For many people, coronavirus restrictions encouraged them to find new ways to connect with nature. 68% of people said they were taking more time to notice and engage with every day nature (March 2022)¹. Close to four in ten adults said nature/wildlife (39%) and visiting green and natural spaces (40%) had been even more important to their wellbeing since coronavirus restrictions began.

This transformation was not felt by all. For many people, spending time outside in nature is not always easy. 26% of adults surveyed said they had not spent any time in green and natural spaces in the previous 14 days (March 2022). This was higher for people from lower income households (37%, income less than £15,000, March 2022) suggesting that existing inequalities in accessing nature were not negated.

The survey identifies the main reasons for not spending time outdoors:

- Bad / poor weather (33%)
- Poor physical health (or illness) (22%)
- Too busy at home (20%)
- Too busy at work / with family commitments (16%).

The proximity of Walkmill Community Woodland to Moresby Parks and areas of deprivation along Cumbria's west coast present opportunities for providing activities that support people to connect with the natural heritage in a way that overcomes barriers.

¹ <https://naturalengland.blog.gov.uk/2022/05/18/people-and-nature-survey-how-has-covid-19-changed-the-way-we-engage-with-nature/>

Access improvements

The site is traversed today by various paths - including both permissive paths and public footpaths. Today it is a popular recreational area - Moresby residents and visitors, in particular dog walkers, appreciate its woodland paths and open spaces, and they are keen for the site to remain accessible for all. CCC have managed the site for nearly 50 years but not actively. They have maintained public rights of way (PROW) as per their statutory obligations, and will continue to do so within the constraints of the Highways budget.

“Cumbria County Council will remain responsible for future maintenance costs of designated rights of way.”

Cumbria Coastal Community Forest

Funded by DEFRA, thousands of new trees will be planted along the coast of Cumbria to better connect coastal communities to nature.² The Walkmill Wood project adds value to this network of woodlands along the Cumbrian coast.

² <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/CCCF.asp>

Developing the Round 1 Application



Changes since Round 1

The activities have been developed and refined since the Round 1 application as a result of research and consultation. The changes to the Activity Plan since the outline proposals at Round 1 include changes to staff roles and activities.

Staff Roles

The 6 x staff roles outlined originally at the Round 1 submission stage have been reviewed. The staff roles reflect the volume and scope of work in the activity and interpretation plans as they have been developed.

Round 1	Change since Round 1	Why the change?
1 Project Manager (1.0 FTE)	1 Project Manager (1.0 FTE)	No change
1 Volunteer Co-ordinator (1.0 FTE)	1 Volunteer Co-ordinator (1.0 FTE)	The programme that they are co-ordinating is better defined now, and the role will still deliver conservation sessions across the catchment where appropriate. They will collaborate extensively with the Learning and Outreach Manager position.
1 Apprenticeships Co-ordinator (1.0 FTE)	1 Apprenticeship Co-ordinator (1.0 FTE)	No change
1 Learning & Outreach Officer (PT 4d pw)	1 Learning and Outreach Manager (0.6 FTE)	The programme is better defined now and the role description matches the responsibilities set out in the activity descriptions.
	1 Admin and Comms Manager (0.1 FTE)	No change
	1 WCRT Director (0.1 FTE)	Added to ensure appropriate oversight and support for the project team and to enable liaison with WAG and MPC

Changes since Round 1



Activities

Activities outlined at Round 1 have been reviewed so the scope and definitions now closely align with the needs of user groups, target audience interest, and the heritage need.

The original outline activities in the Round 1 bid have been separated out and re-organised into strand groups so as to enable effective management, and to deliver targeted benefits and impacts.

Round 1	Change since Round 1	Why the change?
Apprenticeships	Apprenticeships Cohort (1)	Split into two groups of four, to reflect their distinct timings (with 6 month gap between) and slightly different pay scales. Consultation with Askham Bryan College, York, has consolidated the precise details.
Apprenticeships	Apprenticeships Cohort (2)	Split into two groups of four, to reflect their distinct timings (with 6 month gap between) and slightly different pay scales. Consultation with Askham Bryan College, York, has consolidated the precise details.
Volunteer conservation sessions	Conservation Volunteering Events for people working on the West Coast of Cumbria	Consultation strongly indicated the need for this to be a separate activity. This is separated out as an activity strand that better matches user need and demand to the project needs. Scope and definition have been revised to meet user demand and needs. Consultation with CNSL and James Fisher Nuclear Ltd has consolidated the precise activity details.
Volunteer conservation sessions	Regular conservation volunteering for Copeland's wellbeing / Regular conservation volunteering	Consultation strongly indicated the need for this to be two separate activities. This is separated out into two strands that better match user need and demand to the project needs. Scope and definition have been revised to meet specific user demand and needs. The scope of the Conservation Management Plan also now drives the tasks and requirements.
Volunteer conservation sessions	Monitoring to feed future plans (1): Citizen Scientist monitoring by volunteers	The citizen scientist monitoring has been separated out to create 2 x activity strands that better match user need and demand to the project needs. This specific activity can now better support ongoing sustainability. The scope of the Conservation Management Plan now defines the tasks and requirements.
Volunteer conservation sessions	Monitoring to feed future plans (2): Citizen Scientist monitoring by local young people	The citizen scientist monitoring has been separated out to create 2 x activity strands that better match user need and demand to the project needs. This particular activity can now better support engagement with the project and creates pathways to progress interest in the site. Consultation with the Outdoor Learning and PE Department, Whitehaven Academy, has consolidated the precise details.

Changes since Round 1



Activities (continued)

Round 1	Change since Round 1	Why the change?
Green Gyms	Regular conservation volunteering for Copeland's wellbeing	This activity has been revised so scope and definition meet user demand and needs. Consultation with Copeland Wellness Service organisers has consolidated the precise details of each activity.
Archaeological excavation	** Removed **	Following expert advice, this activity has been removed. One of the 'Deeper Walkmill (2) Guided heritage and wellbeing events' will be held to replace this activity, sharing the cultural heritage of the site with the local community.
Oral history project with local school and young volunteers	Remembering Walkmill for the Local Community: Intergenerational oral and social history research and collection	This activity is now geared more towards needs and demands amongst local schools and young people. Support is now available from the Beacon Museum, Whitehaven, and it will be possible to build on the work done by them in 2011.
Develop interpretation boards to explain the heritage	Physical Interpretation Interventions for all Walkmill Wood users	Interpretation has been reviewed so that interventions are made where they support management objectives, and where they can meet and reflect the audience interest as expressed during consultation.
Mining Memorial	Co-Creation (1): Walkmill Colliery memorial intervention	This activity has been redesigned as a co-creation activity to ensure that the needs of the local community are at the heart of the design process. Consultation with the local community has informed this approach, and co-creation will guide designs and outputs.
Wellbeing activities for local residents	Deeper Walkmill (1): Project Progress walking events	The original strand is now separate activities that each reflects an area of specific user needs, demand and barriers to engagement. Each activity has its own specific outcomes, and are designed to take place at the most appropriate points during the programme. This particular activity is designed to share project progress effectively with the community, project partners and other stakeholders, and to promote the project.
Wellbeing activities for local residents	Deeper Walkmill (2): Guided heritage and wellbeing events	This activity now meets user demand, interest and barriers to engagement. The events comprising this activity are intended to promote and support engagement with the heritage of the site.

Changes since Round 1



Activities (continued)

Round 1	Change since Round 1	Why the change?
Wellbeing activities for local residents	Deeper Walkmill (3): Family Fun Events Days	This activity now meets user demand, interest and barriers to engagement. The events comprising this activity are intended to promote and support engagement with the heritage of the site, and to encourage use of the site for wellbeing.
School visits	Learning about the heritage with the local community (1): Formal learning sessions	The original strand is now separate activities that each reflects an area of specific user needs, demand and barriers to engagement. Consultation with local schools has informed the precise activity details, which now include the cultural as well as the natural heritage.
Forest schools on the site	Learning about the heritage with the local community (2) Forest School sessions	No significant change since Round 1 application. Volume and scope have been reviewed to reflect user demand and pilot events. Consultation with local schools has confirmed appetite and barriers to engagement.
School visits	Learning about the heritage with the local community (3): Practical Conservation Days	The original strand is now separate activities that each reflects an area of specific user needs, demand and barriers to engagement. Consultation with local schools has informed the precise activity details.
Eco-therapy and Eco-adventure sessions for adults and young people	Co-Creation (2): Interpretation co-creation for families and young people	The original proposed eco-therapy sessions activity now forms part of the 'Regular conservation volunteering for Copeland Wellness users' activity. A new co-creation activity, involving local young people with developing and producing interpretation of the project heritage, has been created in place of the original proposal. This new activity better meets user demand and working in partnership with Rosehill Theatre to overcome barriers to engagement with the project heritage, .
Self-sustaining management group	Community Management Group, such as 'Friends of' group	No significant change since Round 1 application.
Self-sustaining management group	Sharing lessons learnt and legacy	This has been separated out from the Round 1 self-sustaining management group activity so as to better deliver legacy benefits and organisational resilience to the project partners. Consultation with the project partners has confirmed the precise details based on particular areas of interest.

Audiences

Audiences for heritage now



Who are they?

The list of user groups below was suggested initially by anecdotal evidence, but it is also supported by mid-day monitoring carried out by WAG members during September, October and December 2022. The monitoring also noted the use of the site by schools groups taking part in pilot events.

- Project partners (including WAG, WCRT, MPC)
- Existing volunteers at the site
- Local regular dog walkers: overwhelmingly the majority of users¹.
- Casual walkers
- Local regular walkers
- Local people with young families.
- Schools in nearby communities

Anecdotally:

- Most visitors to the site are dog-walkers from the local area
- Other walkers too from the local area also use the site.
- There are small numbers of cyclists and horse-riders using the public footpath, and occasional dirt bikes.
- People run along the pit road, but the rest of the site is too boggy.
- A very small number of people use the southern half of the site as an informal dog agility training area.

¹ Every lunchtime 12-15 September and also confirmed during December

What are they like?

The online surveys (see Appendix 1) revealed that:

- The number of users reporting a disability was greater than the demographic base.
- Ethnic background matches the expectations based on the local demographic base.
- Nature viewing has increased over the two surveys²
- Prominent age group is 31-50.
- Gender split amongst users was 50:50, broadly similar to the local demographics.

Consultation revealed that:

- Regular walkers and dog-walkers tend to use the same routes and entry/exit points.
- People from further afield park in the small car park at the south end of the site to walk their dog.
- People make occasional visits with their family.
- Knowledge about the heritage of the site tends to be low.
- People want to know more.
- People value the site and want to support it.
- People value the seating and paths through the woodland.
- People value the natural heritage at the site.

² The Evaluator 2022, *Walkmill Data Driven Decisions*

Audiences for heritage now



Where do they come from?

Anecdotally, most visitors to the site are from the local area. Maps showing the spread of survey respondents support this assertion.

- Most visitors are local, but some drive specially to visit the site.
- Travel to the site was mostly on foot, but in 2022 was mostly by car.
- The second survey had more respondents from a wider geographical spread including Parton and Mirehouse. But none from the west side of the A595, which may be a psychological as well as physical barrier.
- Groups were becoming more frequent than single visitors - the site seems to be becoming more of a social space.
- A third of participants in 2022 come from the lowest half of deprivation, and two thirds from the least deprived. This is a dramatic shift and it has opened up to people from more deprived areas.¹

Population background²

There are 67,100 people living locally in Copeland.

The evaluation consultant has drilled down into the two most relevant LSOAs for additional demographic data: Parton and Distington (001D), and Hensingham, Hillcrest and Aikbank (003A).

Within this local neighbourhood you could further define the Moresby Parks residents as 'ultra-local'.

How often and how many?

- Most people now visit a few times a week rather than daily, perhaps with friends or family on the weekends
- Annual footfall is between 30-50,000 with average group size 1.75-1.8³.

Mid-day monitoring carried out by WAG members during September and October 2022 seems to support the group size data in the survey.

¹ All information from The Evaluator 2022, *Walkmill Data Driven Decisions*

² Thanks to Kirsty the Evaluator for providing the data here.

³ The Evaluator 2022, *Walkmill Data Driven Decisions*

What is the current offer?



Current activities

Until recently there have been no formal activities at the site.

It is frequented by dog-walkers and other users who are simply using the paths for recreation, although there are some uses - a small number of cyclists and horse-riders use the public footpath, occasionally dirt bikes; and some people use the southern half of the site as an informal dog agility training area.

A small number of dedicated volunteers have worked here, repairing footpaths, removing fencing and installing benches.

Other notable visitor motivations evident in the survey are that:

- Demand for parking has increased dramatically.
- Demand for better facilities has increased dramatically.
- Demand for events has increased dramatically.
- Demand for more wildlife has increased dramatically.

Implications for activities and interpretation

- The annual footfall figure from the survey is much higher than that estimated at the Round 1 application stage.
- Users who know about the site come regularly to get out into nature, or to go for a social walk.
- The users and their reasons for visiting have become more varied (than just dog walkers) since 2020. Now visitors are more likely just to be walking, viewing nature, or out with the family.
- This is a “*well-kept secret*”¹ for local people with high value to and high use by them.
- Demands for improvements are high.
- Car use has increased, but this is difficult to square with wider conservation aims and the climate crisis. Sustainable transport will be encouraged and footpaths and cycle routes to the site have been identified and will be promoted.
- Many local visitors also do not know much about the history or heritage of the site.
- Demand to know more about the cultural and natural heritage of the site is high.

¹ The Evaluator 2022, *Walkmill Data Driven Decisions*, p16



Potential audiences and activities

Consultation with potential audiences

Extensive consultation was undertaken with potential audiences to determine barriers to engagement, areas of interest, prior knowledge, and potential activities to engage people with the heritage.

WCRT and the Project Board (cf p152) held a series of events in summer-autumn 2022. The local community was invited to two events in July, with flyers hand-posted to every household in Moresby Parks.

The events provided opportunities to explore interests and motivations of users and potential users amongst the local community, to test prior knowledge (especially relating to mining in the woodland), to test responses to initial proposed media options, and to trial guided tours of the site, led by the WCRT Director.

Additional consultation events and pilot events explored engagement with different audience groups within the local community, and explored behaviours, motivations and barriers.



Consultation with stakeholders

- 1st Hensingham Scouts
- Askham Bryan College
- British Dragonfly Society
- Copeland Borough Council
- Copeland Primary Care Network
- Copeland Red Squirrel Group
- Copeland Work and Skills Partnership
- Cumberland Bat Group
- Cumbria Amphibian and Reptile Group
- Cumbria Badgers
- Cumbria Butterfly Conservation
- Cumbria Nuclear Solutions Ltd
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust
- Eden Rivers Trust
- Frizington Community Primary School
- Groundwork NE & Cumbria
- James Fisher Nuclear Ltd
- Lake District National Park Authority
- Moor Row Primary School
- Moresby Primary School
- Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network, Whitehaven
- Rosehill Theatre
- South Cumbria Rivers Trust
- The Outdoor Partnership
- Valley Primary School
- WCRT Youth Panel
- Whitehaven Academy

Potential audiences and activities



Pilot Activities and Community Consultation

NLHF development funding has enabled WCRT and the project board to deliver a number of pilot activities at the site during 2022-23:

- 3 Aug 2022: Plug planting event with 1st Hensingham Scouts
- 9 Aug 2022: a bat walk (local community)
- 30 Aug 2022: Wildlife day - drop-in session with local community (families with young children)
- 22 Sep 2022: Bat walk event with the 1st Hensingham Scout
- 28-29 Sep 2022: Plug planting with Whitehaven Academy
- 10 Oct 2022: Walk and Talk with a geomorphologist and an archaeologist
- 16 Oct 2022: WCRT Youth panel
- 30 Oct 2022: Halloween event with local families with young children / Mothers with young children in prams
- 2 Nov 2022: Conservation volunteering session with a group of refugees and asylum seekers living in Whitehaven
- 12 Nov 2022: Conservation volunteering session with a group of current volunteers
- 21 Nov 2022: a forest schools session with Moresby Park Primary School
- 21 Nov 2022: surveys with regular dog walkers
- 15 Dec 2022: site visit and consultation with Copeland Wellness Service
- 28 Jan 2023: family tree-planting pilot attended by up to 90 people, organised through Scouts (beavers, cubs and scouts attended)
- 29 Jan 2023: Corporate volunteering event held with staff of James Fisher Nuclear Ltd

WCRT have also delivered talks and to local groups including the U3A and WI and the team has facilitated and supported regular steering group meetings and volunteer fairs in Whitehaven and at the Whitehaven Harbour Festival.

Results of all consultations are presented in Appendix 1 and the feedback from pilot sessions is included as evidence in the activity proposals.



Consultation highlights



Need and demand

Lack of awareness of the site and its history.

Most non-local visitors know nothing about the site's history.

The majority of the 67,000 residents of Copeland, and the people who additionally work in the area, are not current users and are unaware of the site.

Many local visitors also do not know much about the site's history.

Opportunity

The Walkmill Wood project can engage Copeland residents and workers

This is the best opportunity to widen, diversify and strengthen the audience base for the heritage. Activities must reach these non-users via the most fruitful avenues, i.e. young people, school students, and people working in the area. Partners like Groundwork offer opportunities to funnel their users to activities at the site.

Demand for engagement opportunities

Demand for volunteering outstrips current supply.

Some large local organisations want their staff to be able to partake in corporate responsibility projects.

Local health and social care organisations want to be able to provide heritage engagement and wellbeing activities for their users.

The Walkmill Wood project can provide volunteering opportunities

More volunteering opportunities in conservation work - manual, practical work - are needed to satisfy significant demand among local corporations, health and social care organisations.

Need to broaden opportunities for engagement

Physical labour in support of conservation is a popular offer, but it presents barriers to engagement for many people.

Additional and more wide-ranging tasks need to be made available so that the offer is far more inclusive.

The Walkmill Wood project can provide a broad volunteering offer

Monitoring, learning and events present opportunities to offer more than practical volunteering. A broader offer reduces barriers to engagement and can engage a wider group of people with wide-ranging interests.

Consultation highlights



Barriers to engagement

Footpath network

Paths are poor and muddy in places. There are also flooded areas, bridges and walkways are impassable. The footpath network presents accessibility issues throughout the site.

Activities require clothing/equipment

Pilot event attendees did not always possess appropriate clothing for the cold weather. Lack of clothing and specialised equipment is recognised as a wider societal barrier.

Communication

Reaching local audiences can be challenging. There is no marketing / communications plan.

Transport

Ability to pay for activities and transport
Access to car travel and public transport

Wider barriers

Low population density and geographical isolation of the site
Lack of awareness of opportunities
A non-outdoor mindset

Mitigation

Network upgrades and regular maintenance

The footpath network can be repaired and upgraded. A regular, resourced programme will maintain the state of them year-round. Water management in the form of drains, online and offline ponds recommended by Dynamic Rivers.

Supporting audiences to engage

PPE and warm clothing can be provided by the project and can address barriers to engagement.
Providing information in advance, is essential.

Training

Supporting the team to improve their advance information to cover some basic access needs.
Have a marketing and communications plan which focuses on delivering audience-focussed marketing and publicity.

Covering cost of transport

Transport and expenses can be provided by the project.

Mitigation

The opportunities will be well promoted.
Provide indoor activities in locations such as Rosehill Theatre and Moresby Rugby Club.
Marketing and communications can support reassuring messaging.

Step 2 - Strategic Decisions about engaging people



“**Shape, share**
and **sustain**
the woodland
for **people**
and **wildlife.**
Inspired by the **past,**
looking to the **future.**”



Strategic aims for activities and interpretation

Strategic aims 1-5 developed as part of this project will support the project vision. These have been developed through consultation, surveys, information gathering and analysis.

Principles will underpin delivery of the strategic aims for activities and interpretation as follows:

1. Support people to learn about the heritage of Walkmill Wood

- Activity – range of audience-appropriate first-hand/first-person events and experiences.
- Interpretation - accurate, relevant and audience appropriate storytelling, grounded in the resource and landscape.

2. Engage and inspire people to adopt the heritage of the site

- Activity – accessible volunteer roles and opportunities in a positive environment that change lives through greater wellbeing and empowerment
- Interpretation - celebrate volunteer benefits .

3. Work in partnership with the local community to better engage and involve them with the heritage

- Activity – activities curated, informed by and developed with the local community to deepen engagement with the heritage.
- Interpretation - working with the local community to co-create content and encourage more frequent use of and interaction with the site.

4. Support the resilience and sustainability of Partner Organisations (WCRT, WAG, MPC)

- Activity – developing and retaining conservation, management and communication skills within a local organisation, and nurturing apprentices with conservation skills.
- Activity – upskilling in conservation management, and interpretation/communication, to develop a skilled, diverse workforce that can adopt and manage the site heritage beyond the project.
- Interpretation - include calls to action and promote the value of the group's work.

5. Inspire local people to get involved in conservation

- Activity – apprenticeships that increase employment opportunities for local people
- Activity – a broad range of offers to suit different user profiles and needs
- Interpretation - highlight benefits of engagement opportunities in conservation at Walkmill and more widely

Alignment with organisation and with NLHF outcomes



The aims for the Activities and Interpretation align with NLHF outcomes as follows:

ACTIVITY AND INTERPRETATION AIMS	NLHF OUTCOMES
1. Support people to learn about the heritage of Walkmill Wood	1, 8, 9
2. Engage and inspire people to adopt the heritage of the site	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
3. Work in partnership with the local community to better engage and involve them with the heritage	1, 2, 3, 9
4. Support the resilience and sustainability of Partner Organisations (WCRT, WAG, MPC)	1, 2, 6, 4
5. Inspire local people to get involved in conservation	1, 6, 9

1 A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)

- 2 The funded organisation will be more resilient
- 3 People will have greater wellbeing
- 4 People will have developed skills
- 5 The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit
- 6 The local economy will be boosted
- 7 Heritage will be in better condition
- 8 Heritage will be identified and better explained
- 9 People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions



Alignment with organisation and with NLHF outcomes

A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)

The project partners are looking for sustainability by encouraging participation and volunteering from as broad a section of the community as possible. The project will actively recruit participants to the conservation volunteering activities from groups of Copeland Borough residents and workers, most of whom are not currently engaged with the site and its heritage.

School-age students within a 5-mile radius of the site have expressed their support for the formal learning, oral and social history research, co-creation, species monitoring and practical conservation activities. The overwhelming majority of this audience does not currently engage with the site and its heritage.

By working with partners Rosehill Theatre and providing free family fun days, the project will increase the engagement of under-represented and low engagement residents, especially families and disadvantaged communities, with the heritage of Walkmill. The Rosehill Theatre participants come from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds, with participation increasing at every meeting so far. Rosehill Theatre will promote the co-creation activity through existing family networks, and by offering the project to present at the Whitehaven Harbour Festival.

Engagement of each of these new groups of people will raise awareness of the heritage of the site amongst friends and family, and encourage visits from new users by recommendation. The informal 'bring your friends' approach used by Rosehill Theatre is successfully increasing participation amongst males, something that can be challenging with creative activities.

The funded organisation will be more resilient

By the end of the project, WCRT will have gained valuable experience of providing structured training, including bespoke learning programmes and individual training plans. WCRT will seek funding to employ 1 x part-time apprentice to manage and maintain the site and run the conservation volunteer group going forward.

WCRT will have experience of setting up and nurturing a self-sufficient group of local residents to adopt the site Conservation Management and Maintenance Plan as part of the Community Asset Transfer. WCRT will also have gained further valuable experience of conservation planning at the inception of site management, and in how to effectively transfer knowledge.

The monthly reflection sessions will help the project team identify what has gone well, and lessons learned to take to other projects. The annual project report and the end-of-project case study and webinar will enable honest reflection on the highlights and achievements for taking beyond the project.

Two of the new roles will be seconded to the positions from within WCRT, which retains existing skills within WCRT. Bringing in new members of staff to the other roles will bring in new skills and fresh perspectives and experience into the organisation.



Alignment with organisation and with NLHF outcomes

People will have greater wellbeing

The environment at the site is highly valued by local people for their health and wellbeing. It presents a natural resource helping to sustain health and wellbeing in the local community. Guided walk events with a wellbeing purpose, including support walks for older adults, will enable people to improve their health through interaction with the heritage at the site.

Some of the outdoor volunteering sessions are for residents in receipt of social prescribing by NHS services. The conservation work enhances the fitness and health of participants, which is important for people who are unable to attend a gym or sports centre. The social interaction and outdoor participation builds the confidence of users, gets people away from their digital devices and improves mental health.

Some groups in the local area specifically want to get out and take part in social and physical activities for their wellbeing. This is the case for users of the refugee network and people working for local employers. During a pilot conservation volunteering activity with the refugee network group, participants stated that they really wanted to be active and would welcome the opportunity to do conservation volunteering work at this site. Local workers participating in the pilot conservation volunteering event also reported greater wellbeing after the session. This is seen by the participating employers as a key benefit of the activity.

For young people and families, experiencing the outdoors at a slow pace, looking closely and taking the time to understand and enjoy it is good for their wellbeing. Many of the Rosehill Theatre service users have expressed how much they enjoy the relaxed yet structured approach taken on other projects. The 'Wellbeing in the Wood' forest school will focus on working with learners who are most at need, and who will attend weekly sessions for a whole year. The local school age learners value the woodland and want to return, they like being in nature and seeing the wildlife at the site, and are

made happy by being at the site, where they can have fun. Engaging this young audience with the project and with the natural and cultural heritage of the site will increase the wellbeing among participants, including members of staff. Many of the younger participants' education and opportunities for social interaction have suffered during COVID, and the pilot forest schools sessions have been transformational in some cases.

Alignment with organisation and with NLHF outcomes



People will have developed skills

Eight apprentices will have gained a Countryside Worker Level 2 qualification by the end of the project. They will have developed specialist skills and receive training that supports management, restoration, conservation, preservation and communication of the heritage.

Volunteers involved in species monitoring activities will be trained in recording techniques and equipment, and to use the i-Naturalist app. Participants in the conservation volunteering events will also have learnt essential conservation skills.

The oral and social history activity will support students at Whitehaven Academy to achieve their Cumbrian Award/Arts Award. Participants will be trained in oral history and story collection, and volunteers will receive local history training from Whitehaven Record Office to support collection of information and data for use in interpretation outputs. The co-creation activities also enable those participants to build new practical and creative skills with the support of the project team and partners, and to work collaboratively to curate the projects as exhibitions. Forest Schools session participants will also have developed social skills and teamwork.

The Friends of Group will learn about governance, training and processes. They will audit their skills individually and as a group to inform needs for a skills/training plan that will enable them to support the Conservation Management and Maintenance Plan and ongoing skills development.

The sharing lessons learnt activity will enable project partners to adopt learning, models and processes from this project.

The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit

Regular conservation work volunteering is needed to satisfy a demand among local residents for rewarding outdoor activities. Local workers at participating employers will have played a rewarding and active role in the local community, breaking down social barriers and socialising with people from different social and cultural backgrounds.

The wayfinding and signage interventions will open up new areas of the site to visitors, and it will encourage more frequent and longer visits. The interpretive messaging will promote more socially-responsible visits through behaviours change.

The apprenticeships activity will improve the long-term employment prospects for eight people. Priority will be given to local young people. It will work towards filling a major gap in education provision in this region.

Alignment with organisation and with NLHF outcomes



The local economy will be boosted

The apprenticeships activity will improve the long-term employment prospects for eight people. Priority will be given to local young people, and it will work towards filling a major gap in education provision in this region, and partially address a recognised skills shortage for countryside employers.

Heritage will be in better condition

There is considerable room to improve the conservation value of the site.

The Apprenticeship posts will carry out much of the project's conservation work, but the site management and conservation work relies on more people to carry out the physical and ecology work required. The conservation volunteering activities will also include gentle conservation work to support the objectives of the Conservation Management Plan.

Responsibility for site management, the management plan, and the skills, resources and knowledge to update it at appropriate intervals will be adopted by the Friends of Walkmill Community Woodland group by the end of the project.



Alignment with organisation and with NLHF outcomes

Heritage will be identified and better explained

The interpretation outputs, including the wayfinding and signage, are designed to help visitors identify the industrial heritage of the site, and to identify and engage with its natural heritage. An interpretation trail will engage people with the mining heritage in the village and connect that with the former colliery site in the Walkmill Community Woodland itself.

The historic photographs showing the colliery, the redundant site full of waste tips, and the railway junction leading to the site, will be used to amply illustrate the scale of change in the last 30 years, and to make the historic mining operation relevant to today's visitors. Because the photographic and map evidence is scant, co-creation with local groups and schools will generate new heritage to help explain the mining and natural heritage through the interpretive media.

The oral and social history activity will further support the content of the interpretation, and Whitehaven Academy will collate those materials and publish the work as sound/film and other outputs to interpret the heritage for a wider audience, including online.

The Memorial Intervention activity is an opportunity to identify and explain the mining heritage of the Walkmill Woods that is compelling and relevant. It will ensure that the local residents understand more about the heritage of Walkmill Wood and Moresby Colliery, especially all of the people that worked there and the families that supported the colliery operation.

The guided walks, project progress and family fun events will promote and explain the natural and cultural heritage that the community group will manage during and after the project. Knowledgeable volunteers, specialist suppliers and partners, supported by the Learning and Outreach Manager, will ensure that each aspect of the site's heritage is explained well and at an audience-appropriate level.

The co-creation family labs participants will respond to the site's history to create a 'new heritage', exploring the site through a contemporary lens, looking to its future and linking into relevant topics such as climate change and pollution.

Alignment with organisation and with NLHF outcomes



People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions

Project partners and participants will undertake research, collate and collect stories about Moresby Colliery, lives of miners and related village life to raise awareness of the mining heritage among local residents and formal learners. The Beacon Museum will provide reference materials and handling collection opportunities to support understanding and appreciation of the site's industrial heritage and its social history.

The co-creation activities will raise awareness about the Walkmill Community Woodland, and demonstrate the value of the part it plays in raising conservation value and biodiversity. Formal learners will understand the wellbeing benefits that outdoor activities offer, and how to access opportunities at Walkmill Wood. They will also be able to transfer knowledge from the Forest School sessions, for example into science lessons about materials.

Over the course of a Conservation volunteering event participants will learn about the natural and cultural heritage of Walkmill Wood. Guided walk events will change people's ideas about the species present and the value and impact of mining to host communities. Project progress events will demonstrate the value of the project to a small number of people who will be able to advocate in their community or organisation. The family fun events days will showcase the project progress in terms of habitat and site management, and bring attendees to newly-opened up and upgraded areas, and to new interaction opportunities. This will encourage new, and more frequent, visits to the site among the audience group comprising local families with young children, which has good potential for growth.

The signage interventions at the site will comprise predominantly interpretive messaging to effect emotional responses to the heritage

through compelling and accessible language that is audience-relevant. The messaging will also be designed to effect behaviour change, primarily behaviour towards and respect for the natural environment.

Progression pathways from broad and shallow volunteering will enable engaged volunteers to move into more time-consuming and demanding activities involving the site's heritage, for example the species monitoring, regular conservation and Friends of Group.



Target audiences

Going forward, the target audiences for the Walkmill Community Woodland project can be grouped together most effectively as follows:

- Local young people
- Local residents
- Local working people
- Formal learners
- Project partners and stakeholders

Each of these groups are discussed over the following pages.

The current user base comprises primarily some local residents and some formal learners. This selection of target audiences is intended will ensure that a wider range of people will engage with the heritage of Walkmill Community Woodland.



Local young people

Young people living in Moresby Parks, and in the 001D (Parton and Distington) and 003A (Hensingham, Hillcrest and Distington) areas. This includes the specific groups that have been engaged through pilots and consultation during the Development Phase including:

- WCRT Youth panel (“a group of kids who are passionate about nature, love the outdoors, or are just looking for something to do who meet up once a week to help West Cumbria Rivers Trust(WCRT) get an idea of what young people think as well as helping out with some of the WCRT’s projects they have going on”). Two members of the group are from Moresby Parks.
- 1st Hensingham Scout groups

Why?

The pilots and consultation show that it is easy to organise engagement via clubs and uniformed groups, and that these are a route into the wider community through word of mouth.

Furthermore, through engagement with heritage there is an opportunity to support young people’s wellbeing:

“The percentage of children and adults in Copeland classified as obese is above the national average at reception age (4-5), year 6 (10-11yrs) and adult. Rates of obesity and diabetes are higher than the national average and alcohol related hospital admissions of under 18 year olds are more than double the national rate.

“Emotional health and wellbeing issues in Cumbria as a whole are estimated to affect 9.6% or around 10,000 - 11,000 people aged from 5-16. Copeland has the highest suicide rate in the county and the number of people diagnosed with depression is predicted to increase. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic has had the effect of heightening pre-existing levels of poverty and raising concerns about wellbeing.”¹

¹ David Harvey / The Outdoor Partnership Cumbria, July 2020, *Needs, challenges and opportunities: Preliminary report of research conducted with stakeholder and user groups*

Specific barriers to engagement with heritage

- A non-outdoor mindset
- Limited public transport
- Poverty and disposable income
- Lack of awareness of opportunities
- Lack of clothing and specialised equipment ²

What activities can be developed for them?

Activities which support:

- Specific targeted activity offers
- Tying in with existing activities offered by other organisations and groups
- Targeted marketing to attract these visitors
- Motivating and inspiring young people about career choices by working with partner organisations
- Tying in with apprenticeship and internship programmes
- Working with partner organisations to open up routes into other and wider opportunities beyond the project

² David Harvey / The Outdoor Partnership Cumbria, July 2020, *Needs, challenges and opportunities: Preliminary report of research conducted with stakeholder and user groups*

Target audiences



Local residents

People living in Moresby Parks, and in the 001D (Parton and Distington) and 003A (Hensingham, Hillcrest and Distington) areas.

With a particular focus on:

- Families with young children living in Moresby Parks and nearby villages
- People who use local wellbeing services
- People at risk of social isolation

Why?

Current users of the site are mostly, but not exclusively, drawn from Moresby Parks residents. There are c 3,000 people living in the wider area. This group is a key stakeholder as the principal current and future user and manager of the woodland.

This audience is also important for their existing connections to the Walkmill site itself - through familial connections and first-hand experience of the working coal mine.

Heritage has been identified as a way to help address health and wellbeing issues. In Copeland 75.9 per cent of adults are overweight or obese and 30 per cent of adults do less than 30 minutes' of exercise each week. In 2012, 28.3% of adults are classified as obese, worse than the average for England. The rate of alcohol related harm hospital stays was 741*, worse than the average for England. The rate of self-harm hospital stays was 298.7*, worse than the average for England. The rate of smoking related deaths was 355*, worse than the average for England. Estimated levels of adult excess weight are worse than the England average (Public Health England 2015).

Specific barriers to engagement with heritage

- Limited public transport
- Lack of awareness of opportunities
- Lack of clothing and specialised equipment ¹

What activities can be developed for them?

Activities which support:

- Wellbeing of individuals and communities - health and wellbeing and wellbeing of place and people
- Engagement at site access points
- Online engagement
- Targeted marketing to attract these visitors
- Developing a relationship with local community
- Capture of local stories, memories and ephemera to support interpretation
- Interpretation that features more local community stories
- Local people to feel pride in the heritage on their doorstep
- Volunteering to tell 'my' story
- Interpretation of the heritage in their locality
- Wider engagement with the local community – schools and uniformed groups can facilitate wider connections via associated adults, for example
- Working with third sector organisations to open up routes into engagement opportunities with the project

¹ David Harvey / The Outdoor Partnership Cumbria, July 2020, *Needs, challenges and opportunities: Preliminary report of research conducted with stakeholder and user groups*



Target audiences

Local working people

People working in Copeland Borough, some of whom are also residents. This includes employees of CNSL, and James Fisher Nuclear Ltd, who have both been engaged during the development phase.

Why?

There is a clear demand among some local employers to engage in volunteering to achieve social impact. There are not currently sufficient opportunities to satisfy this demand, particularly for the Sellafield Nuclear Power Station and its supply chain close to (11 miles, or a 20-minute drive) the site.

Specific barriers to engagement with heritage

- Lack of awareness of opportunities
- Lack of joined up approach to delivery
- Limited existing sector capacity to deliver increased provision
- Transport to activities and access to car travel
- Lack of clothing and specialised equipment ¹

What activities can be developed for them?

Activities which support:

- Tying in with existing initiatives offered by local employers and umbrella organisations
- Specific targeted activity offers

¹ David Harvey / The Outdoor Partnership Cumbria, July 2020, *Needs, challenges and opportunities: Preliminary report of research conducted with stakeholder and user groups*



Formal learners

School-age learners in Moresby Parks, and in the 001D (Parton and Distington) and 003A (Hensingham, Hillcrest and Distington) areas and the wider Whitehaven area.

Why?

There are 49 schools in the local area. The pilots and consultation show that it is relatively easy to organise engagement via schools, and that these offer routes into the wider community through word of mouth.

This target audience includes Moresby Primary School and Whitehaven Academy, both of whom have been involved in pilot sessions during the development phase. Other schools have also been vocal in their interest in accessing the Walkmill Community Woodland to meet their needs.

Specific barriers to engagement with heritage

- Lack of awareness of opportunities
- Lack of joined up approach to delivery
- Limited existing sector capacity to deliver increased provision
- Transport to activities and access to car travel
- Lack of clothing and specialised equipment¹

What activities can be developed for them?

Activities which support:

- Tying in with existing activities offered by local schools
- Specific targeted activity offers
- A broad range of offers to suit different areas of interest, different learning styles and participant age groups,
- Online engagement
- Capture of local stories, memories and ephemera to support interpretation
- Interpretation that features more local community stories
- Local people to feel pride in the heritage on their doorstep
- Interpretation of the heritage in their locality
- Practical, education skills sessions, workshops and experiences
- Motivating and inspiring young people about career choices by working with partners
- Tying in with apprenticeship and trainee programmes
- Working with partners to open up avenues to offer opportunities

¹ David Harvey / The Outdoor Partnership Cumbria, July 2020, *Needs, challenges and opportunities: Preliminary report of research conducted with stakeholder and user groups*

Target audiences



Project partners and stakeholders

The project team comprises WCRT employees, WAG, MPC, capital works and specialist contractors (i.e. Dynamic Rivers).

The following are key partners, described further on pages 159.

- Askham Bryan College
- Copeland Wellness Service / Copeland Primary Care Network
- Moresby Primary School
- Whitehaven Academy
- Moresby Parks residents
- Rosehill Theatre
- 1st Hensingham Scouts

The stakeholders include (see full list on page 160):

- Beacon Museum
- West Cumbria Refugee Support Network
- Pit Crack
- Moresby Rugby Club (RUFC)
- Cumbriam Badger Vaccination Group
- Copeland Squirrel Group
- Amphibian and Reptile Group
- Eden Rivers Trust
- South Cumbria Rivers Trust
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Why?

The activities will be delivered in partnership with this audience. They need to be aware of the project background, aims, outcomes and values and are crucial to the project's success. The project progress and lessons learned should be shared with as wide a group as possible to maximise the value of

the lessons learned.

Specific barriers to engagement with heritage

- Time pressure - each key partner and stakeholder will be engaged with existing workloads and projects. Understanding their capacity and needs early on is very important.
- Some are charities with only volunteers working for them, and these may need financial resources to help access the site.

What activities can be developed for them?

Activities which support:

- Specialist and partner input to improve and refine activity delivery for both partners.
- Online as well as on-site engagement to broaden participation.
- Promoting good practice and sharing lessons learned.



Proposed activity summary

The Activities for the project have been developed from the outline ideas as presented at the Round 1 application stage. They have been developed in respect of additional research and consultation (see Appendices). The activity descriptions should be read in conjunction with the Action Plan (see Appendix 10).

In this section, interpretation is included as an activity as appropriate under the 3 strands, but the Interpretation Plan is presented after the other descriptions of the other activities.

1) Shaping the woodland

Individuals and communities will be at the heart of activities which will shape the woodland for future use, while respecting and being sensitive to the existing natural and cultural heritage that have shaped the woodland in the past. This group of activities involves people working in the woodland to make physical improvements and changes, that will benefit both people and nature. This includes habitat creation and management as well as site maintenance and access improvements.

Local people and local businesses are keen to contribute both time and energy to the management, maintenance and conservation of the site. Wellbeing activities will contribute to the conservation of the site and will fill the strong demand for outdoor activities that support health outcomes for project partners and help tackle societal health and environmental issues.

2) Sharing the woodland experience

People will be involved activities that facilitate learning about the natural and cultural heritage of Walkmill Wood. Activities, that include research and co-creation projects, will ensure that stories and memories are collected, understood and interpreted for the future. Events will ensure that knowledge about the wood is shared with others, to instill a sense of pride and ownership over the woodland and support deeper engagement by the local community.

Local people clearly demonstrate an appetite for learning, and for volunteering, and would like to know more about the site, its history and wildlife, and the engagement opportunities. The activities and interpretation proposed will meet this need, making natural and cultural heritage relevant to the target audiences and actively involving the local community when there is demand.

3) Sustaining the woodland

Local people are central to activities that will support the management and maintenance of Walkmill Wood in the future. Activities will provide support and training for volunteers, including a community management group, that will ensure there is a structure in place for the future.

There is a clear appetite for conservation of this site amongst local residents, shown by the numbers engaging in Green Gyms and Saturday volunteer groups at the site developed in the Development Phase. The project aims to nurture a self-sustaining community group to adopt the conservation management plan, and who will organise future monitoring activities to maintain the woodland after the project finishes.

STRAND 1

STRAND 1 – Shaping the Woodland: Apprenticeships

Activity number	1.1
Activity name	Apprenticeships
Summary	
<p>The project will support the delivery of eight apprenticeship posts who will achieve the Countryside Worker Level 2 qualification administered by Askham Bryan College. Priority will be given to local young people and those who are seeking employment in the environment sector.</p> <p>The posts will directly support delivery of the capital works and the NLHF activity programme, and the apprentices will carry out much of the project's conservation work. They will learn new skills and develop a sense of ownership for the site.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>There will be two Cohorts of the apprenticeship, with four candidates in each cohort, enrolled on the 18-month block release course from Askham Bryan campus of York University.</p> <p>Apprentices will attend the York campus for 6-7 block weeks in the academic year. The training element of the apprenticeship is 12-15 months long, with a further 3 months available to complete the End Point Assessment, allowing them to be employed as an apprentice for 18 months.</p> <p>WCRT have been advised by West Cumbria Works and other partners to advertise the positions at the Cumbria Future Leaders Early Careers service (https://www.cforlp.org.uk/cumbria-future-leaders/), Job Centre, Copeland Work and Skills partnership, Inspira, Phoenix Enterprise Centre, Copeland Borough Council Works and Skills Programme, Countryside Jobs service, local newspapers, Whitehaven Academy, Workington Academy, Lakes College and West Cumbria Works, and via the Land and Nature Skills Service (LANSS) once that service is available.</p> <p>WCRT will also coordinate 'find out about our apprenticeships' taster days, which will take the form of practical conservation sessions, as advised by the Work & Skills Programme Officer, Copeland Borough Council, and promote these via the same avenues, to raise awareness of the opportunities and enable prospective applicants to find out more before applying. WCRT will also attend and present at Whitehaven Academy's 'Futures Week' (promoting careers). WCRT will also promote on social media throughout National Apprenticeship Week. Word of mouth from the steering group and a Facebook post in National Apprenticeship week has already had the interest of 4 participants, 3 of whom are from Moresby Parks.</p> <p>The apprentices will be recruited as two cohorts. The first cohort will be appointed at the beginning of the project for 18 months. There will be a 3-6 month gap and then a second cohort recruited.</p> <p>Each cohort will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be recruited by WCRT and enrolled onto the Askham Bryan course. • Receive apprenticeship wage according to government guidance £5.28 per hour for the first 12 months followed by national minimum wage - £10.42 - for the second year (6 months) 	

- Be managed by the Apprenticeship Coordinator, also receiving day-to-day specialist supervision and professional mentoring from within the WCRT team.
- Develop specialist skills and receive training that supports management, restoration, conservation, preservation and communication of the heritage. Each apprentice will receive the following specialist training:
 - First Aid
 - Brushcutter
 - Chainsaw
 - Pesticides

The qualification is very hands-on and practical and a great gateway into the environmental sector. Whilst the focus of their work will be at Walkmill Community Woodland they will also have opportunities to work on WCRT’s other projects and also with a broad range of partners; Natural England, Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council, Lake District National Park, National Trust, South Cumbria Rivers Trust and Eden Rivers Trust. This will enable the apprentices to gain further experience across the county and increase their job prospects. They will also work alongside Lake District National Park apprentices to share best practice and skills.

An Apprenticeship Coordinator will be appointed to manage and oversee both cohorts of apprentices and the apprentice activities. Initially they will be responsible for supporting the recruitment and ‘find out about our apprenticeship’ days. They will be responsible for the pastoral care of the apprentices as well as supporting them supporting them to comply with the academic requirements of the course. The coordinator will ensure that the apprentices receive the required training, tools, risk assessments, support and supervision. The Coordinator will be appointed in advance of apprentice recruitment so that they are fully prepared for their start date.

Please see Appendix 3 for Apprenticeship Job Description and Work Plan

Need/opportunity/justification

A desk-based study carried out by WCRT in 2016 has shown there is little or no opportunity for outdoor, curriculum-based, environmental education in West Cumbria. Research showed that the Lake District National Park was offering educational activities at Brockhole near Ambleside and Cumbria Wildlife Trust deliver activities on their reserves in other areas, mainly to the south of the county and in the north near Carlisle. Copeland and Allerdale are the most deprived boroughs in our patch (Copeland is the second most deprived area in Cumbria and falls within the 10% most deprived areas nationally). Levels of educational attainment in Copeland are low compared with the rest of the county. The district has the lowest proportion of adults that have achieved a certificate of higher education (level 4 or above) in Cumbria. 19.2% of adults in Copeland have achieved L4+, compared to 30.9% in Cumbria and 31.1% in England (Cumbria Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Copeland District Statistical Summary, March 2012).

The site and the project provide opportunities to train local young people. By partnering with the Askham Bryan College, York, to provide the Countrywide Worker Level 2 qualification, there is opportunity to meet the outcomes of the project as well as raise the skill levels and educational attainment by local people.

Having lost its only remaining agricultural college at Newton Rigg in July 2021, there is no provider of conservation courses in Cumbria. If we do not get funding to run the Countryside Worker apprenticeship this will greatly reduce opportunities for Cumbrian young people seeking to enter the environment sector. This severe skills shortage is recognised by research undertaken in 2022

by the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission. The draft of their Land and Nature Skills Service (LANSS) plan for Cumbria includes advertising apprenticeship opportunities, and providers of apprenticeship opportunities are one of their anticipated service users.

Similar apprenticeships at comparator organisations (LDNPA) were oversubscribed by 60 applicants to 16 shortlisted.

- *“With all previous [LDNPA] schemes, everyone has gone to employment of their choice or higher education of their choice. People have gone on to self-employment, Forestry England, Environment Agency. So on the whole it has been a success getting people into the industry”* (Ranger Team Leader, LDNPA)
- *“We have a number of students who are considering work in the outdoors and conservation since working with WCRT and completing the outdoor learning course. An apprenticeship with WCRT would be a new and very appealing future opportunity and progression pathway for our students.”* (Teacher of Outdoor Learning and PE, Whitehaven Academy)
- *“I am looking for two apprenticeships for my two sons they both turn 16 on the 1st July. We live up in [redacted] West Cumbria would you have any details on the apprenticeships please?”* (local resident via email)

The apprentices will require:

- Professional mentoring, especially with the academic side of the programme
- Management from the supporting organisation’s Human Resources team
- Significant Human Resource time to ensure appropriate pastoral care
- Shared experience with other apprentices, such as those working for the Lake District National Park
- Structured training, including bespoke learning programmes and individual training plans – including basic introduction and essential skills training, specialist training and working on specific projects such as designing the dog agility area.
- Careers advice

Who will manage and run the activity?	Apprenticeships Co-ordinator
What training will they require?	See Appendix 3 for Apprenticeship Job Description and Work Plan
Delivery partners / stakeholders	<p>Lake District National Park Authority <i>“We would like to offer the service of our apprentices to work on our sites to gain further experience of landscapes within the National Park and the LDNPA but would also reciprocate with the offer of our apprentices working on some NFM projects at Walkmill Woods”</i> (from Lake District National Park letter of support)</p> <p>Eden Rivers Trust <i>“Eden Rivers Trust would be happy to work with apprentices, giving them experience of working on our conservation projects in east Cumbria.”</i> (from Eden Rivers Trust letter of support)</p> <p>Copeland Borough Council <i>“Happy to support any pre apprentice programme going forward along with apprentice recruitment.”</i> (Work & Skills Programme Officer, Copeland Borough Council)</p>

	<p>Allerdale Borough Council <i>“We look forward to the apprentices joining up with the weekly volunteer work parties that we deliver through the work of the Workington Nature Partnership. By doing so, the apprentices will be working alongside volunteers of varied age range, ability and experience, thus gaining a valuable insight into volunteer management as well as developing their practical skills.”</i> (from Allerdale Borough Council letter of support)</p> <p>South Cumbria Rivers Trust <i>“SCRT would very much like to extend the same invitation to WCRT if you are successful in your bid. The nature of the opportunities we would be able to offer could include, but not necessarily limited, to such activities as: • Electrofishing surveys; • Tree planting; • Water sampling; • Analysis of water samples; • Reed planting (Phragmites australis); • Large woody debris installation”</i> (from South Cumbria Rivers Trust letter of support)</p>	
Timescale	First cohort – September 2023-February 2025 Second cohort – September 2025-February 2027	
Target audience	The positions will be suitable for young people seeking an Apprenticeship in Countryside Working. The applicants should ideally be local to the area, but this is not a requirement.	
Targets and measures of success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4x apprentices complete the course • 4 x apprentices gain qualification • 2 x where possible from the local area • Each apprentice to attend 4 x specialist training courses • 1 x celebration/showcase event, taking place during National Apprenticeship Week (February) 	
Management and maintenance considerations	None beyond the end of the project. WCRT hope to gain funding for a part time warden/ranger for the site which we hope could employ one of the apprentices.	
Barriers to engagement		Mitigation
Strain on organisational capacity to provide training, risk assessments, supervision		Apprenticeship Training Officer role to meet capacity
Local mentality of ‘I’ll just go and work at Sellafield’		Advertise and promote widely. Introduce taster sessions for young people
Travel costs		Expenses included in AP budget. Apprenticeship Coordinator to support travel to site in the project vehicle
NLHF outcomes		
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)		Yes
The funded organisation will be more resilient		Yes
People will have greater wellbeing		
People will have developed skills		Yes
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit		Yes

The local economy will be boosted	Yes
Heritage will be in better condition	Yes
Heritage will be identified and better explained	
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions	Yes
Delivery Partners	
Askham Bryan College (course provider)	
Impact and legacy	
<p>A video diary/podcast will be kept by the apprentices and shared on the project website and social media – as a way to share their learning and as an evaluation tool.</p> <p>WCRT will seek funding to employ one part time apprentice to manage and maintain the site and run the conservation volunteer group going forward. This post could be held within WCRT should the Parish Council not wish to take on the responsibilities of employing staff members. The vehicle purchased for the project will also be left with this staff member to continue transporting tools and equipment and volunteers.</p> <p>Other local organisations have expressed an interest in recruiting individuals with the Countryside Worker qualification as there is a real regional and national shortage of a trained and skilled workforce.</p>	

STRAND 1 – Shaping the Woodland: Conservation Volunteering Events for people working on the West Coast of Cumbria

Activity number	1.2
Activity name	Conservation Volunteering Events for People working on the West Coast of Cumbria
Summary	
<p>Regular volunteering sessions will be provided for employees of West Cumbria organisations, including Cumbria Nuclear Solutions Ltd. These sessions will not only fulfil the need of the project conservation management plan, by providing additional resource to undertake conservation work, but they will also support the participants’ personal development and wellbeing, and the participating organisations to fulfil their corporate social responsibility requirements.</p> <p>Over the course of an event participants will learn about the natural and cultural heritage of Walkmill Wood as well as the essential conservation skills to undertake work as required by the site/dictated by the time of year.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>There will be 10 ‘corporate volunteering’ conservation events per annum, spread across two phases - Mar/Apr and Aug/Sep - each year. There will be a total of 40 activity events during the life of the project.</p> <p>There will be 5-15 participants attending each activity, equating to 200-600 volunteer days assigned to this activity over the course of the project.</p> <p>Each event will be publicised through press releases and through internal communications (e.g. email and posters) at the relevant organisations.</p> <p>A typical day will range from 10am to 4pm. The activity on that day will include tasks from the Conservation Management Plan, dependent on weather and time of year, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boardwalk construction • Bridge construction • Constructing aggregate paths • Constructing path edging along secret valley informal paths • Constructing willow hide • Dismantle wooden boardwalk • Hedge maintenance • Hedge planting • Path drainage works on informal paths • Planting wildflower plug plants and sowing seed in wildflower meadow • Putting up fencing around the pond • River restoration works • Wildflower meadow management • Cleaning heritage features <p>The project Volunteer Co-ordinator will manage and oversee the activity events. They will be responsible for recruiting the participants, supporting the participants, and for ensuring provision of the required training, tools, risk assessments, supervision and refreshments.</p> <p>See Appendix 4 for volunteer role description.</p>	

Need/opportunity/justification

There is considerable room to improve the conservation value of the site. The site management and conservation work for this project will need people to carry out physical activities and ecology work.

Companies based locally need volunteering projects to engage with as part of their desire to support 'social impact' projects. Some of these local companies advertise social impact volunteering to their workforces, and the subscribers take part in one-day events comprising conservation or similar volunteering.

"CNSL believe there are a number of benefits to getting involved with Volunteering but the key benefits we feel are:

- *"People who engage in volunteering, report a greater sense of purpose and meaning in their lives*
- *"The NHS lists a number of health benefits relating to volunteering, including improved quality of life, improved ability to cope with ill health and improved self-esteem.*
- *"Employees will have participated in playing an active role in the local community, contributing to positive social change*
- *"Employees will have helped to break down social barriers, offering people an opportunity to socialise with people from different social and cultural backgrounds.*
- *"Reasons for doing the project*
- *"As well as the obvious benefits of helping WCRT, CNSL benefits by having happier, more motivated staff who have a more open perspective and the ability and desire to drive change at a local level.*
- *"Sellafield are also asking us to monitor the amount of time employees of CNSL spend doing social volunteering activities as part of their social KPI's"*
(Manager, CNSL Social Impact Hub)

As a company, James Fisher Nuclear understands the value of this project and wishes to give their employees the opportunity to commit time to it:

- *"With the increasing risk of climate change environmental conservation is more important than ever and can have real social value, as well as environmental, benefits."*
- James Fisher Nuclear employees *"all have 2 days a year to volunteer so are looking at one or two days as a group and opportunities for individual staff"*

"Cumbria Nuclear Solutions Ltd, a partnership of six of the most respected organisations in the North-West supply chain is currently looking for a project to engage with." (Marketing and Communications Manager, Cumbria Nuclear Solutions Ltd)

These user organisations require a series of one-day events for a larger number of volunteers recruited from their workforce. This is to *"to create shared value from the business we generate for all stakeholders by creating permanent, positive and significant social, environmental or economic change through deliberate activities which change people's lives."*

The conservation management programme, as well as some of the capital works programme, presents opportunities to meet this local need, to engage a wider range of people with the heritage, and to raise awareness of the site.

<p>CNSL employees were invited to take part in a pilot event on 26 January, during which 11 employees from participating companies took part in environmental conservation (tree planting) work at the Walkmill Community Woodland site with the WCRT team. Comments from the session included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Working together in the outdoors makes a change to the usual office environment... [the benefits are] working with others from the company that I wouldn't normally.</i> • <i>[I enjoyed] the fresh air and sense of achievement</i> • <i>[Walkmill Wood is important because] outdoor space away from roads but still local... reclamation of land after industrial age</i> 	
Who will manage and run the activity?	Volunteer Coordinator
What training will they require?	Bespoke on-the-day training according to the activity
Delivery partners / stakeholders	Cumbria Nuclear Solutions
Timescale	Recruitment throughout project – September 2023-February 2027 Ongoing volunteering – October 2023-March 2027
Target audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local working people • Local businesses (CNSL staff, Sellafield and NDA)
Targets and measures of success	<p>40 volunteering events (each event is one day) over course of project (10 events per annum)</p> <p>5-15 participants attend each event</p> <p>Total of 200-600 volunteers over the course of the project</p>
Management and maintenance considerations	To be taken on by the 'Friends of' group once the project has come to an end
Barriers to engagement	
Strain on organisational capacity to provide training, risk assessments, supervision	Volunteer coordinator role to meet capacity
Lack of uptake	Work closely with the local businesses to ensure that the volunteer offer is fit for purpose and meets their requirements
NLHF outcomes	
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)	Yes
The funded organisation will be more resilient	
People will have greater wellbeing	Yes
People will have developed skills	Yes
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit	Yes
The local economy will be boosted	
Heritage will be in better condition	Yes
Heritage will be identified and better explained	
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions	Yes
Impact and legacy	
<p>Participants will be invited to take part in regular volunteering on the site, and/or with WCRT.</p> <p>People will have learnt new skills and have better health and wellbeing and hopefully return to</p>	

the site to show their families the work they have carried out and visit the site more. The Project Board hope some participants may join the friends group.

The success of this activity can be continued by the 'Friends of' group on project completion.

STRAND 1 – Shaping the Woodland: Regular conservation volunteering for Copeland’s wellbeing

Activity number	1.3
Activity name	Regular conservation volunteering for Copeland’s wellbeing
Summary	
<p>In partnership with the Copeland Wellness Service and the Copeland Primary Care Network the project will deliver regular Green Gym and Social Prescribing events for people at the site.</p> <p>The project will run events activities and the team at Copeland Wellness Service would refer their users to the activities. The Wellness Service would also offer staff resource and emotional/mental support for their clients at the events.</p> <p>The project will also offer regular social prescribing-related events through the Refugee Network, North Cumbria Green Social Prescribing, the Outdoor Partnership, Copeland Borough Council and doctor surgeries.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>One event per month during the life of the project will be delivered in partnership with Copeland Wellness Service. There will be an estimated 5-10 volunteers participating at each session.</p> <p>Initially the events will target users of the Adult Service but will develop over the course of the project to offer opportunities for the Children and Families Service and the Learning Disabilities Service.</p> <p>Regular sessions will enable the Wellness Service to support service users to attend, with the ambition to support users to attend independently and feed into regular volunteer/activity sessions.</p> <p>A further 160 weekly events will be delivered through partners with whom the project has developed relationships with during the Development Phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee Network • North Cumbria Green Social Prescribing – Groundwork and North East and North Cumbria • Outdoor Partnership Cumbria • Social prescribing officers at Copeland Borough Council • Specific doctor surgeries <p>The weekly events will be advertised on the Copeland Social Prescribing service’s newsletter.</p> <p>A typical day will range from 10am to 2pm. Participants will travel to/from site by WCRT minibus. The activity on that day will include gentle conservation work supported by monitoring, traditional woodland crafts, eco art activities and foraging dependent on weather, season, and user interest. Work will also support the delivery of the Conservation Management Plan. Volunteers will be invited to take part in the regular volunteering days on the site, and we hope that some of the volunteers may use this route to become regular volunteers at the site and/or with WCRT.</p> <p>The Volunteer Co-ordinator will lead, manage and oversee the sessions. They will be responsible for liaising with partners and recruiting participants. They will also support the participants, ensuring provision of the required training, tools, risk assessments, supervision and refreshments. WCRT have approved Green Gym status through TCV and will use their accreditation to run the sessions.</p> <p>Please see Appendix 4 for Conservation Volunteer role description.</p>	

Need/opportunity/justification

The natural heritage – habitats and the species it supports – at the site presents a natural resource helping to sustain health and wellbeing in the local community. The environment at the site is highly valued by local people for their health and wellbeing. Awareness of the benefits of spending time here increased during the COVID lockdowns.

"People have told me the woods were their saviour in lockdown."
(consultee, from Round 1 application)

"Green social prescribing is a mechanism for linking people from primary care, social care or other routes to nature-based community activity which supports their health and wellbeing. Using the natural environment, GSP can support resilience, recovery and contribute to the building of social networks, helping people to connect and to maintain good mental/physical health and wellbeing." Groundwork 2023

Social prescribing supports residents in need of secondary care and support for long-term conditions. Green Gyms are fun, free outdoor volunteering sessions offered across the UK transforming local green spaces. These sessions provide the ideal framework for developing activities in Walkmill Wood. The programme aims to provide people with a way to enhance their fitness and health while taking action to improve the outdoor environment. It enables people to get fit who would not normally attend a conventional gym or sports centre. This will be linked to local GP surgeries as part of 'Social Prescribing'.

"Social prescribing involves helping patients to improve their health, wellbeing and social welfare by connecting them to community services which might be run by the council or a local charity. For example, signposting people who have been diagnosed with dementia to local dementia support groups."
(NHS website)

"The Green Gym days are designed to benefit the mental and physical wellbeing of the local community through social interaction and outdoor participation, whilst also helping to benefit and improve the area through conservation activities."
(Copeland Wellness Service)

The project can contribute by supporting the community's use of its natural assets. The project can promote the use of green spaces and provide opportunities for engagement with the natural world. Green Gym activities at Walkmill Wood presents opportunities to meet a local need and to benefit people who are already referred to the Copeland Wellness Service. These Green Gyms will engage a far wider range of people with the heritage, and will raise awareness of the site. Pilot activities have been delivered during Summer and Autumn 2022 to assess the user need, barriers to engagement and audience interest.

These sessions need to be agile and flexible, as activities delivered in any given session are dictated largely by the make-up of each particular group and the audience interest. The consistent elements are that the users are taking part in social activities outdoors at this site.

- *"I feel the weekly walking group has improved my mental health and wellbeing. Its given me the opportunity to get up and out as I would have never just gone for a walk on my own."*
- *"The walk has help with my rehabilitation following a recent injury."*

- *"I have enjoyed be able to get out and just have conversations with people. Like a lot of other people on the weekly walks I go home to an empty house. This has been an opportunity to meet new people, make friends and meet in other social settings.*

Benefits to Cumbria Wellness Service users are:

- Good as part of their journey
- Meeting people
- Digital detox
- Good for mental health
- Good for physical health
- Confidence building

Our new learning disability nurse started a couple of weeks ago and I know she is very keen to get an active group up to Walkmill shortly (Wellness Programme Lead, Copeland Primary Care Network)

Green Gym Pilot participant Feedback:

- *"I don't talk to people for days sometimes until I get here"*
- *"good for mind and body"*
- *"a lifeline"*
- *"couldn't do without my volunteering"*
- *"healthy alternative... I retired early because of bereavement... many people use volunteering instead of medication"*
- *"If everybody who was down had a week of doing this"*
- *"depression can be very internal... If going through a bad patch ... being on my own is the worst"*
- *"Volunteering... should be on prescription"*
- *"It's all about learning for me"*
- *"My other half is a speech and language therapist... this (the tally checks) is a really nice set up"*

There is a need among some groups in the local area to get out and take part in social, physical activities. This is the case for users of the refugee network. During a pilot with this group, the participants stated that they really wanted to be active and would welcome the opportunity to do conservation volunteering work at this site.

"Would like to do similar" / "Yes, 100 yes! 200 yes! For me" / "No problem, any time" / "I would come on my own if I knew how to get here" (users of Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network, Whitehaven)

Also facilitated through Groundwork, a federation of charities providing introductions to green social prescribing opportunities, to at least 31 March 2024. Groundwork will also be able to provide some of the project team with training, support, information advice and guidance.

"Having weekly sessions allows for individuals to really build up rapport with instructors and create meaningful relationships with other members. On our Choices program, we have held a wide variety of sessions on a weekly basis and have found that this gives participants a real sense of belonging, a sense of responsibility, and a routine which brings meaning to their weeks. I have had numerous participants list to me (very proudly) their weekly schedules and explain to me how

<i>important it is for them to have this structure to their lives.” Green Community Hub Facilitator / Green Social Prescriber, Groundwork NE and Cumbria</i>	
Who will manage and run the activity?	Volunteer Coordinator
What training will they require?	Bespoke on-the-day training
Delivery partners / stakeholders	<p>Partnership with the Copeland Wellbeing Service and Groundwork is a vital link in providing these benefits to the greatest possible number of participants.</p> <p><i>“With over 96% of our patients reporting their mood is affected by their current situation, the importance of identifying organisations, activities and support on offer for low mood and emotional resilience is clear”</i> (Wellness Programme Lead, Copeland Primary Care Network)</p> <p><i>“connecting with nature through “green activities” has improved their mood. This includes walking for wellbeing, taking up outdoor sports, nature based activities such as birdwatching, nature photography, forage & craft”</i> (Wellness Programme Lead, Copeland Primary Care Network)</p> <p><i>“green ‘socially prescribed’ activities [are] an area where impact is high on improving both mental and physical health”</i> (Wellness Programme Lead, Copeland Primary Care Network)</p> <p><i>“Working with West Cumbria Rivers Trust provides a strong pathway to signpost patients to in order to support their own low level needs, meet new people, develop new skills and experiences as well as strengthen their coping strategies and emotional resilience – all essential components to holistic self-care.”</i> (Wellness Programme Lead, Copeland Primary Care Network)</p> <p><i>“Weekly for 39 weeks Max 10 per session sounds great”</i> (Copeland Wellness Service)</p>
Timescale	<p>Recruitment of volunteers – September 2023- May 2024 (and will continue once programme is established)</p> <p>Regular volunteering to take place – October 2023-March 2027</p>
Target audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local residents including Copeland Wellness Service users
Targets and measures of success	<p>48 events (each event is 4 hours e.g. 10-2) over the course of the project (1 event per month, 12 events per annum)</p> <p>5-10 x volunteers per event</p> <p>Total of 240-480 volunteers over the course of the project</p> <p>160 events (each event is 2 hours) in partnership with the social prescribing network over the course of the project (40 events per year, 1 x per week for 40 weeks in year). Up to x 4 participants at each event</p>

Management and maintenance considerations	To be taken on by the 'Friends of group' and partners once the project has come to an end.	
Barriers to engagement	Mitigation	
Reliance on partner organisations for delivering and sustaining projects long-term <i>"Where we have the biggest challenge is finance, we rely heavily on delivery from partners particularly around access/transport, materials and sustaining projects over the longer term. I'd be really keen to identify projects that would benefit those who are already referred to our services as well as appeal to those who may anticipate a need for services – where we can help reduce the reliance on other primary care services where there isn't actually a medical need."</i> (Copeland Wellness Service)	Building ongoing wellbeing sessions into the legacy planning relies on regular applications to funding providers	
Strain on organisational capacity to provide training, risk assessments, supervision	Volunteer coordinator role to meet capacity	
Managing varying degree of need	Volunteer coordinator role needs equality and diversity training	
Participants feeling anxious at the prospect of long-term commitment to volunteering	Ensure that participants are offered pathways that suit their individual needs and requirements i.e. they can volunteer regularly or attend a one-off session	
Cold weather and lack of access to appropriate warm / waterproof clothing	WCRT can supply PPE and warm clothing for participants during the project	
Transport, especially the lack of public transport	WCRT can supply transport (minibus and the project works vehicle) and during the project	
NLHF outcomes		
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)	Yes	
The funded organisation will be more resilient		
People will have greater wellbeing	Yes	
People will have developed skills	Yes	
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit		
The local economy will be boosted		
Heritage will be in better condition	Yes	
Heritage will be identified and better explained		
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions	Yes	
Legacy		
Given sufficient supervision, organisation, travel and equipment, there is no reason why the relationships between the Copeland Wellbeing Service, other Green Gym / Social Prescribing organisations and WAG, and the improvements to the site that their users make, cannot continue beyond the life of the project with the support of the partner organisations.		

STRAND 2

STRAND 2 - Sharing the Walkmill Wood Experience: Remembering Walkmill for the Local Community: Intergenerational oral and social history research and collection

Activity number	2.1
Activity name	Remembering Walkmill for the Local Community: Intergenerational oral and social history research and collection
Summary	
<p>The project will work with Moresby Primary School, Whitehaven Academy, local Moresby Parks residents, mining interest group Pit Crack, and volunteers to undertake research and collate and collect stories about Moresby Colliery, lives of miners and related village life. This work will be supported by the Beacon Museum who will provide reference materials and handling collection opportunities to support understanding and appreciation of the industrial heritage of the site.</p> <p>This will raise awareness of the mining heritage, and to inform the content of the on-site interpretation and the website.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>Through facilitated intergenerational activities, local people and volunteers will be recruited to work with Moresby Primary School and Whitehaven Academy to collate and collect research and record their memories and stories about Moresby Colliery. The interviews, interactions and research will form the basis for co-created interpretation trail and contribute to the on-site interpretation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 x local residents/interest group members will be recruited from a list generated in the Development Phase to share their memories and stories. • A minimum of 10 stories will be collected and recorded. • Intergenerational activities will support 30 x Moresby Primary School to liaise and learn from 10 local residents to collect stories. • The collection activity will form the basis of a project for 10 x secondary school participants from Whitehaven Academy who will collate materials and publishing the work as sound/film and other outputs. • An interpretation trail will be created to engage people with the mining heritage in the village and connect that with the colliery site in Walkmill Community Woodland. • The work will support students at Whitehaven Academy to achieve their Cumbrian Award/Arts Award for example through drama re-enactment • 1 x learning volunteer will support the activities with the schools. <p>The participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive training on oral history and story collection. • Receive local history training from Whitehaven Record Office to support collection of information and data, for use in interpretation outputs. <p>The Learning and Outreach Manager will manage this activity, liaising with the oral history custodians and the education providers, and ensuring that the outputs from the activity are incorporated into the interpretation plan and outputs as appropriate. They will also manage the small quantity of archive material generated or required, liaising with and getting that material to and from the Records Office as required.</p>	

<p>The interpretive designer will support the activity to ensure that it provides material for the interpretation outputs.</p>	
<p>Need/opportunity/justification</p>	
<p>The intangible heritage and oral history resources are rapidly disappearing. <i>"It would be wonderful to have all these things recorded and remembered to show our grandkids"</i> (unnamed consultee, quoted in the Round 1 application)</p> <p><i>"He is a brilliant story teller and has numerous stories to tell about living and working in the coal industry in the Whitehaven area"</i> (response to the call for Walkmill stories)</p> <p>In consultation a number of local school children indicated that they were descendants of miners in the area and at Walkmill Colliery.</p> <p><i>Participation is increasing intergenerational conversation about the site and heritage - one participant is keen to bring elderly family members to a future session, who remember the industrial heritage of the site. It has also prompted a search for old photographs which will be brought to the sessions for discussion and creative interpretation.</i> WCRT Youth Panel leader</p> <p>This project provides opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform and raise quality of interpretation content on and off- site • widen scope and appeal of co-created interpretation outputs on and off- site • support wellbeing in the community through intergenerational activity • co-create interpretation with the local residents and learners • build on the existing Haig Pit / Records Office resources from 2011 • build on the archive research carried out for the project (provided by Durham University) • build relationships with organisations like Pit Crack who have members with information/artefacts about Walkmill Colliery • Make use of maps donated by the coal board • Identify stories and artefacts held in the local community 	
<p>Who will manage and run the activity?</p>	<p>Learning and Outreach Manager Project Manager</p>
<p>What training will they require?</p>	<p>Oral history and story collection Local history research</p>
<p>Delivery partners / stakeholders (provide quote to demonstrate their commitment or involvement)</p>	<p>Whitehaven Academy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Whitehaven Academy has a creative curriculum – designed during lockdown. Students in years 8 and 9 take ownership over their learning. They do 12 term block choosing outdoor learning, philosophy, creative media etc</i> <p>Moresby Primary School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Powerful. Already thinking of how this can work."</i> <p>Beacon Museum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"The Beacon has a coal mining loan box that can be hired out at £20 per week, there are probably some men left on the village that worked in the pits and could explain to the children what the bits and pieces are."</i>

Timescale	Kickstart - November 2023-February 2024 Deliver – March 2023-August 2024
Target audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents • Formal learners • Pit Crack
Targets and measures of success	<p>10 x local residents 30 x school children 10 x secondary school participants</p> <p>Minimum of 10 x events (1 x day) Minimum of 10 oral histories/stories 10 x volunteer days (1 x learning volunteer at each event) 2 x training events 10 x secondary school participants supported to achieve their Cumbria Award/Arts Award</p> <p>Interpretation informed by these interactions and the film/audio or written interview material generated Interpretation outputs co-created with schools and partners</p>
Management and maintenance considerations	Material generated from this activity will be uploaded and stored on the project website and shared with the Whitehaven Records Office.
Barriers to engagement	Mitigation
Lack of time for education providers	Learning and Outreach Manager role to support education providers and deliver the required capacity
Lack of user confidence	CRO Archivist and specialist contractor (Durham University) to provide taster session to facilitate entry-level engagement
Travel	Learning and Outreach Manager to go to the education providers WCRT to arrange for travel to Records Office in project vehicle. Alternative arrangements might include, for example, the CRO archivist bringing facsimile documents to the RUF.
NLHF outcomes	
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)	Yes
The funded organisation will be more resilient	
People will have greater wellbeing	
People will have developed skills	Yes
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit	
The local economy will be boosted	
Heritage will be in better condition	
Heritage will be identified and better explained	Yes
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions	Yes
Impact and legacy	
The interpretation generated during the project by young people will help a new generation of local residents to understand how the mining industry shaped their environment and society. The Records Office will have enhanced their records relating to the Walkmill Colliery and its community.	

STRAND 2 – Sharing the Woodland: Deeper Walkmill (1): Project Progress events

Activity number	2.2
Activity name	Deeper Walkmill (1): Project Progress events
Summary	
An events programme will raise awareness of the project, share the project's progress, and demonstrate its value and impact. These events will be for project delivery partners, local people, and volunteers.	
Activity Description	
<p>There will be 4 'project progress' events during the project, and 1 final event held in the final month as a celebratory-thank you event.</p> <p>Each event will be by invitation. The progress events will promote and explain the activities that are taking place on site (learning and volunteering), the upgraded path network, the hydrological works, the ecological / conservation management works, and the archaeological and natural heritage that the community group will be managing during and after the project.</p> <p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be led on a guided project walk with project staff and consultants, apprentices and volunteers, describing and showcasing the completed/upcoming works <p>The Project Manager will manage and oversee the delivery of the events with support from the Volunteering Coordinator. The Project Manager will be responsible for organising and promoting the events. They will be supported by Parish Council, WAG/ the successor 'Friends of' or similar group. Three volunteers will be present at each event ensuring participants can see the works 'in action'. Five volunteers will support the final celebratory event. It is hoped people who have not previously been to the site will then return and bring friends and family.</p>	
Need/opportunity/justification	
<p>Demand among current users to know more about the cultural and natural heritage of the site is high. The local community (Moresby Parks) is keen on events at the site. This activity provides opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of site heritage • Raise awareness of the project amongst local residents • Satisfy the demand to know more about the cultural and natural heritage of the site. • Broaden access to the site beyond the current user base and audience profile. • Demonstrate the value of the project and importance to the site's future 	
Who will manage and run the activity?	Project Manager
What training will they require?	none
Delivery partners / stakeholders	Moresby Parish Council Walkmill Action Group
Timescale	Deliver once a year – July Final event and celebration to take place in April 2027
Target audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Partners • Local residents

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers
Targets and measures of success	<p>5 x events over course of project. 4 progress events and one celebration event lasting a minimum of 2 hours 90 x participants (10 x participants per progress event and 50 x participants at celebration event) 17 x volunteers to support the events (3 x volunteers per progress event and 5 x volunteers at celebration event)</p>
Management and maintenance considerations	<p>These events can continue on a less frequent basis beyond the end of the project</p>
Barriers to engagement	
Mitigation	
Strain on organisational capacity to provide training, risk assessments, supervision	Project Manager to meet capacity, working with partners where appropriate to identify and address needs
Lack of engagement	Will need effective marketing to the engaged and via them to the less-engaged
Lack of interest in the mining heritage	Good promotion required using good images and minimal text to promote benefits
Lack of awareness of the offer	Targeted promotion and invitation
NLHF outcomes	
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)	Yes
The funded organisation will be more resilient	
People will have greater wellbeing	Yes
People will have developed skills	
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit	
The local economy will be boosted	
Heritage will be in better condition	
Heritage will be identified and better explained	Yes
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions	Yes
Impact and legacy	
<p>Ongoing management of the site will be better supported where better understood by the local community. The WAG/successor 'Friends of' Group will benefit from experience of running the sessions. The events should inform the post-project regime management and maintenance plan, in particular what form these sort of regular events should take post-project.</p>	

STRAND 2 – Sharing the Woodland: Deeper Walkmill (2): Guided heritage and wellbeing events

Activity number	2.3
Activity name	Deeper Walkmill (2): Guided heritage and wellbeing events
Summary	
<p>The project will offer two types of events as part of a regular events programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning about the heritage • Wellbeing through heritage <p>Learning about heritage will be facilitated through events such as bat walks and bird and tree identification walks. Events with a wellbeing purpose will support people to improve their health through interaction with the heritage.</p> <p>Events will be delivered in partnership with specialist providers/practitioners such as Cumbria Amphibian and Reptile Group and Lakeland Wellbeing.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>These events will provide guided walk opportunities to promote the natural and cultural heritage, support engagement with heritage through wellbeing activity and publicise further events.</p> <p>There will be six events per year and two types of events on offer, supported by volunteer organisations and freelancers.</p> <p>In year one the programme will consist of the following events:</p> <p>Learning about the natural and cultural heritage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided twilight bat walk with project staff, apprentices and volunteers, showcasing the importance of the site for local wildlife • Guided bird walk with project staff, apprentices and volunteers, showcasing the importance of the site for local wildlife • ‘Adders are Amazing’ project to reverse the effects of the negative publicity that adders have received <p>Engaging with the heritage to support wellbeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking our way to wellbeing with wildlife • Connecting with the Colliery • Forest bathing - tied into the Well Being in Nature Events Programme (Whitehaven) <p>The events will be promoted through social media and other channels such as ‘Moresby Matters’ (the Parish Council newsletter).</p> <p>The Learning and Outreach Manager, Project Manager and Volunteer Coordinator will manage and oversee these activities. They will be responsible for organising and promoting the events. The volunteers and/or specialist suppliers and partners will support the Learning and Outreach Manager. Where the events concerns birds or bats, an expert will be employed to deliver the event, supported by the project team.</p> <p>Training will be provided for organisations employed to deliver events in partnership.</p>	
Need/opportunity/justification	

Walkmill Community Woodland is one of only two sites listed as ‘access for all’ walking routes on the CCC website in and around Whitehaven. The site provides opportunities for the physical health benefits of walking as a group, and to combat loneliness. Demand among current users to know more about the cultural and natural heritage of the site is high.

- 48% of online survey respondents would like to know more about the wildlife / animals / insects. 60% of survey respondents wanted to know more about the history of the quarry/ mining on site.
- Consultation during the Development Phase showed that people in the local community (Moresby Parks) would like to take part in guided activities at the site.
- A bat walk pilot event held on 9 August 2022 was fully booked (20 participants) within a few days of the first advertisement. Mostly attracting local residents, the attendees also included a group from Braithwaite, 30km away. The event was well received and attendees requested repeat events.
- The experience that WCRT has of Longlands Lake, a nearby comparator site, shows there is a high demand there for birdwatching events.

This activity provides opportunities to:

- Raise awareness of site heritage, including using the events as publicity opportunities
- Satisfy high demand to know more about the cultural and natural heritage of the site.
- Widen scope and appeal of specialist knowledge, and to broaden access to the site beyond the current user base / audience profile.
- Employ volunteer specialists who are already engaged with WCRT, willing and available to lead events.
- Tie in with other Green Gym activities at neighbouring sites, i.e. Longlands / Keekle
- Strengthen strategic partnerships with similar charitable organisations and suppliers in and around Cumbria (i.e. Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Emmaus House, Groundwork)
- Increase community involvement as per the Walkmill Community Woodland Business Plan
- Support walks for older adults

“Evaluating past projects whereby we have introduced people to amphibians and reptiles has shown a more positive view and respect for these species. It has encouraged people to record their sightings which is vital for us to monitor changes in populations. They have made adjustments to their gardens and allotments to help herptiles and other wildlife. Feedback has shown peoples confidence has improved through mixing with others that have a shared interest. Through work undertaken personally for Amphibian and Reptile Groups UK (ARG UK) whereby we have worked with vulnerable groups introducing them to our range of native herptiles (and discovering new a location for a species as well!) brings excitement and togetherness alongside the benefits of being outdoors, exercise and exploring what is around them - sometimes in the most unexpected of places such as burial grounds and golf courses.” (From Cumbria Amphibian and Reptile Group)

Who will manage and run the activity?	Learning and Outreach Manager Volunteer Coordinator Project Manager
What training will they require?	Training and event briefing will be provided for groups/individuals delivering walks in partnership with the project e.g. Cumbria Amphibian and Reptile Group
Delivery partners / stakeholders (provide quote to demonstrate their	Active Cumbria Walking for Health, <i>“We use this wood on a regular basis as part of ‘Walking for Health’ through ‘Active Cumbria’ as it provides a beautiful outdoor space with easy access to encourage people to improve</i>

<p>commitment or involvement)</p>	<p><i>their health and wellbeing through walking. We would like to work with west Cumbria Rivers Trust, Moresby Parish Council and the Walkmill Woods Action Group to ensure continued maintenance and improvement of the woodland and we would be very keen to see the site improved.”</i> (Walking for Health Walk Leader for Hensingham and Moresby Walking Group)</p> <p>The Green Social Prescribing Fund <i>“programme is designed to bring those together who socially prescribe with those who deliver nature-based solutions across Cumbria. Specifically, underserved populations in North Cumbria that are at risk of experiencing health inequalities, to improve their mental wellbeing and overall health”</i> (Craig Drummond, Employment Programmes Manager at Groundwork)</p> <p><i>“We are delighted to be working in partnership to improve health and wellbeing, mental health and ensure those at risk of experiencing health inequalities have equal access to nature-based therapies and activities.”</i> (Sarah Thompson, Grants & Programmes Officer at Groundwork)</p> <p>Cumbria Amphibian and Reptile Group <i>“The ‘Adders are Amazing’ project would work well at Walk mill woods as it is an inspirational programme to engage the wider community and general public and reverse the effects of the negative publicity that adders have received over so many generations.”</i></p> <p>Cumbria Badger Vaccination Project <i>“We could offer badger talks and activities to cater for all ages and abilities. We would be happy to deliver badger talks, sett survey training and monitoring, badger crime training and badger rescue/vaccination talks”</i></p>
<p>Timescale</p>	<p>Plan during October-December Deliver at least bi-monthly January 2024-May 2027</p>
<p>Target audience</p>	<p>Local residents Local working people</p>
<p>Targets and measures of success</p>	<p>24 events over the course of the project (6 events per year, each lasting a minimum of 2 hours)</p> <p>240-360 x participants (10-15 x participants per event)</p> <p>48 volunteers (2 x volunteers per event)</p> <p>2 x project training events for partners delivering events</p>
<p>Management and maintenance considerations</p>	<p>Budget to support the delivery of events will be required e.g. practitioner professional fees, volunteer expenses</p>

Barriers to engagement	Mitigation
Strain on organisational capacity to provide training, risk assessments, supervision	Learning and Outreach Manager, Project Manager and Volunteer Coordinator role to meet capacity, working with partners where appropriate to identify and address needs
It was also suggested events timing - specifically outside school time - presents a barrier to user groups with young children.	Ensure programme offer includes a range of timing.
Lack of engagement	Will need effective marketing to the engaged (i.e. dog walkers, schools), and via them to the less-engaged. Moresby Facebook group has proved a good medium for advertising what is going on
Lack of interest in the heritage	Good, targeted promotion required using images and minimal copy to promote benefits
Lack of awareness of the offer <i>"Any talks/activities which we provide would be for the visitors of Walkmill Woods so would need to be advertised and promoted."</i> (Cumbria BVP)	Promotion of event amongst engaged groups Promotion of event amongst groups newly engaged during other co-creation activities, including local schools and uniformed groups.
NLHF outcomes	
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)	Yes
The funded organisation will be more resilient	
People will have greater wellbeing	Yes
People will have developed skills	
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit	
The local economy will be boosted	
Heritage will be in better condition	
Heritage will be identified and better explained	Yes
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions	Yes
Impact and legacy	
<p>Natural heritage resource and ongoing management will be better supported where better understood by the local community.</p> <p>Support for the work of the WAG/'Friends of' successor group will be stronger.</p> <p>Links with partners organisations will be stronger.</p> <p>The events should inform the post-project regime management and maintenance plan, in particular what form and with what frequency these sort of regular events should take post-project.</p>	

STRAND 2 – Sharing the Woodland: Deeper Walkmill (3): Family Fun Event Days

Activity number	2.4
Activity name	Deeper Walkmill (3): Family Fun Event Days
Summary	
<p>A family fun events programme will be delivered during the project. The programme will include delivery of one day-long summer event and two other half-day events (one at Christmas and the other at Easter). There will also be a Forest School 'summer school', which will take place over the course of a week. The events will be held in partnership with the Moresby Rugby Club.</p> <p>The events will primarily provide arts and craft-based opportunities for families to engage with the natural and cultural heritage of the site. They will include workshops with specialist art/craft suppliers/freelancers.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>Family-fun event days will take place during the project tailored to the interests of local families with children, to raise awareness of wildlife, habitat and site management and project progress. These will be held on weekends and school holidays when families are looking for events and activities to engage younger family members and join in as a family. Based on the success of a similar event during the Development Phase the events will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest School taster activities, which will take place over the course of a week during the school summer holidays • Riverfly taster sessions • Wildflower planting • Willow weaving • Nature trails created with the help of the local primary school • Badge-making • River Simulator • Dog agility show/competition <p>The family events will include options for attendees to visit areas that have been newly-opened up and upgraded, or where new interaction opportunities have been installed. The events will provide opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage people through audience-appropriate activities • Engage audiences with the project in-person and on-site • Engage audiences with the natural and cultural heritage of the site in person and on-site • Showcase the project progress in terms of its habitat and site management, using film and digital channels to reach more people <p>The Learning and Outreach Manager and Volunteer Coordinator will manage and oversee the events and be responsible for organisation and promotion. Volunteers will assist the Learning and Outreach manager and apprentices in both these tasks.</p>	
Need/opportunity/justification	
<p>Within 5 miles of the site sit some of the most deprived wards in Cumbria, which are the 10% most deprived in England. As regards arts and culture, 60% of the catchment population is in the four least-engaged groups, compared to 17% nationally and 26% regionally. (Source: West Cumbria Opportunities and Challenges, February 2019)</p> <p>Families living locally with young children are a current user group, but there are local areas where engagement is low (see The Evaluator's postcode mapping of the online surveys).</p>	

<p>Consultation has showed that the local community (Moresby Parks) is keen to see events at the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence from consultation at pilot events supports the need and demand for events, in particular family events. • The Open Day event at the site and Moresby RUFC attracted around 62 children and young people, with the number of adult attendants estimated at 60-70. • The Walkmill Family Activity day on 30th August 2022 attracted 36 attendees from Frizington, St Bees, Whitehaven, Distington, Egremont, Cleator Moor and Moresby. <i>“there is a strong belief amongst providers, teachers, commissioners and stakeholders in the importance and value of time and outdoor and adventurous activities in the natural environment for mental and physical health, personal development and broadening horizons”</i> Walkmill Community Woodland Business Plan 2022 <p>This activity provides opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfy the demand to know more about the cultural and natural heritage of the site. • Encourage the audience group comprising local families with young children to make more use of the site as families. New users from this group would be targeted from within Moresby Parks itself, and from the two local districts 001D and 003A. • Tie in with RUFC facilities and events • <i>“The rugby club has changed its focus to act as more of a community resource to help sustain its future.”</i> (from R1 application) 	
Who will manage and run the activity?	Learning and Outreach Manager, Project Manager and Volunteer Coordinator
What training will they require?	Events briefing from Project Manager and follow WCRT event plans
Delivery partners / stakeholders	Moresby Parish Council Moresby Rugby Club
Timescale	Plan during January-February Deliver every April, July and December
Target audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents, in particular local families with young children
Targets and measures of success	<p>12 x family event days over the course of the project (3 events per year)</p> <p>600 x participants (50 x per event)</p> <p>24 volunteers (2 x volunteers per event)</p> <p>4 x forest school 'weeks' over the course of the project with up to 80 participants (20 participants attending each)</p> <p>8 x volunteers to assist with forest school weeks (2 x volunteers per week)</p>
Management and maintenance considerations	Budget for equipment and materials and to support practitioner and volunteer involvement will be required.
Barriers to engagement	Mitigation
Strain on organisational capacity <i>“It was quite a staff/volunteer heavy event, needing staff or volunteers to supervise all of the activities.”</i> (WCRT note on Open Day)	Learning and Outreach Manager role, apprentices and volunteers to meet capacity

<p>Lack of awareness of opportunities <i>“It was more difficult to engage people from the village, Moresby Parks, to visit the site and engage with the variety of activities on offer.”</i> (WCRT note on Open Day)</p> <p><i>“Most of the people had seen the August event on our Facebook page, one from the Primary Times advert and some had attended most or some of our summer events programme over our 3 sites – Longlands Lake, The Gather and Walkmill.”</i></p>	<p>Will need effective and targeted marketing to the engaged (i.e. dog walkers, schools), and via them to the less-engaged.</p>
<p>Limited public transport</p>	<p>Wider societal issue – WCRT has some capacity to provide minibus transport from nearby urban centres through Cumbria Community Transport.</p>
<p>Poverty and disposable income From The Outdoor Partnership report 2020</p>	<p>There will be no charge for the events and associated activities</p>
<p>NLHF outcomes</p>	
<p>A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>The funded organisation will be more resilient</p>	
<p>People will have greater wellbeing</p>	
<p>People will have developed skills</p>	
<p>The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>The local economy will be boosted</p>	
<p>Heritage will be in better condition</p>	
<p>Heritage will be identified and better explained</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Impact and legacy</p>	
<p>Natural heritage resource and ongoing management will be better supported where better understood by the local community. The long-term health benefits this project aims to support by facilitating greater participation amongst local people will be difficult to measure. The events should inform the post-project regime management and maintenance plan, in particular what form these sort of regular events should take post-project.</p>	

STRAND 2 – Sharing the Woodland: Co-Creation (1): Walkmill Colliery memorial intervention

Activity number	2.5
Activity name	Co-Creation (1): Walkmill Colliery memorial intervention
Summary	
<p>Working in partnership with Moresby Primary School, Whitehaven Academy, local Moresby Parks residents that have a connection with mining in the area, mining interest group Pit Crack and volunteers a series of co-creation workshops will take place to inform a Walkmill Colliery memorial.</p> <p>Development Phase consultation has already indicated the importance of ‘remembering everyone’ that worked at the Colliery, including the roles people had and the work they did but co-creation sessions will help to further inform the interpretive memorial’s final location, form and content.</p> <p>The sessions will be informed by the information gathered by the oral and social history research activity (Activity No. 2.1).</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>This activity will ensure that the local residents understand more about the heritage of Walkmill Wood and Moresby Colliery, including all of the people that worked there and the families that supported the colliery operation.</p> <p>A series of facilitated intergenerational activities will explore the location, form and content for the memorial. As plans for the memorial develop further and wider consultation will take place to ensure that the wider community are supportive of proposals.</p> <p>See Interpretation Plan for concept design – to be developed further through this co-creation activity.</p> <p>The Learning and Outreach Manager and Project Manager supported by the interpretive designers will manage and oversee this activity, supported by the Interpretive Designer. They will be responsible for organising and promoting the co-creation events.</p>	
Need/opportunity/justification	
<p>During Development Phase consultation Moresby Primary students indicated that it was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Important to have a memorial so people don’t forget what it was”</i> (Moresby Park School Councillor) <p>And to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Remember what they did for us”</i> (Moresby Park School Councillor) <p>The students further added that they felt the memorial should feature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All people who worked at the colliery are celebrated • Names of the people that worked in the mine and what [job] they did • Old photos of the mine • Dates of when the mine opened and closed <p>A descendant of a local resident fatally injured at Walkmill Colliery said:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“I think what the children have added is absolutely spot on and I’ve nothing else to suggest.”</i> 	

Whilst the function of the memorial is not to focus on those who lost their lives at the colliery it is noteworthy that there were 54 fatalities recorded 1881-1960, and those killed were aged between 15 and 71.

The number of people killed and fatally injured working at Walkmill Colliery is not unusual for a coal-mining area like this. Unlike other collieries, Moresby Park does not have a memorial to Walkmill Colliery. Until the colliery’s demolition, one was present, but no-one can remember what it looked like or precisely where it was.

This activity provides opportunities to:

- Commemorate the people who worked at the Colliery
- Work with local families in an engaging, interesting and respectful way
- To identify and explain the mining heritage of the Walkmill Woods that is compelling and relevant
- Satisfy the demand to know more about the cultural and natural heritage of the site.
- Stimulate and develop interest in the cultural heritage of the site.

Who will manage and run the activity?	Learning and Outreach Manager
What training will they require?	Support from Interpretive designer
Delivery partners / stakeholders	<p>Moresby Primary School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“We are always interested in making ways that they can learn and connect with curriculum”</i> (Head Teacher) <p>Whitehaven Academy</p> <p>Local Moresby Parks residents that have a connection with mining in the area</p> <p>Pit Crack</p> <p>Beacon Museum</p>
Timescale	March 2024-August 2024
Target audience	<p>Formal learners including Moresby Primary School, Whitehaven Academy</p> <p>Local residents that have a connection with mining in the area,</p>
Targets and measures of success	<p>10 x local people</p> <p>30 x school children</p> <p>10 x secondary school students</p> <p>10 x Cumbria Award/Arts Award achieved</p> <p>5 x co-creation events</p>
Management and maintenance considerations	Management and maintenance of the memorial will be required after the project
Barriers to engagement	Mitigation

Strain on organisational capacity	Learning and Outreach Manager role, apprentices and volunteers to meet capacity
NLHF outcomes	
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)	Yes
The funded organisation will be more resilient	
People will have greater wellbeing	
People will have developed skills	Yes
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit	
The local economy will be boosted	
Heritage will be in better condition	
Heritage will be identified and better explained	Yes
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions	Yes
Impact and legacy	
Local residents will place greater value on the Walkmill Community Woodland.	

STRAND 2 – Sharing the Woodland: Co-Creation (2): Interpretation co-creation for families and young people

Activity number	2.6
Activity name	Co-Creation (2): Interpretation co-creation for families and young people
Summary	
<p>Working in partnership with Rosehill Theatre a series of ‘heritage family-labs’ will be delivered as part of the project. The family-labs will provide intergenerational activities that will explore the site’s heritage and co-create and design responses that will inform the interpretive interventions. This will ensure that the interventions are fit-for-purpose and engaging.</p> <p>Young people from the WCRT Youth Panel will also participate in the co-creation activities.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>‘Heritage Family Labs’ will be run in partnership with Rosehill Theatre in order to increase local resident engagement, in particular families and disadvantaged communities, with the heritage of Walkmill. Through creative facilitation the family labs will provide an opportunity for participants to respond to the site’s heritage and create a ‘new heritage’, allowing the site to be seen through contemporary lens and to look to its future. The results of the family labs will directly contribute to the design of the interpretive interventions.</p> <p>Rosehill Theatre will support this activity by promoting it through family networks and by offering an opportunity for the project to be present at the Whitehaven Harbour Festival (July 2024), where the first family lab will take place.</p> <p>The Learning and Outreach Manager will manage and oversee this activity with support from Rosehill Theatre’s Family Producer. The Learning and Outreach Manager will ensure that the activities are well organised and that they have the input of the Interpretive Designer.</p> <p>Local young people will also be involved in the co-creation activities. Through a micro-project the young people will test the ground for permanent installations and features, allowing them to tell a story of Walkmill Community Woodland, look to the future and explore relevant topics such as climate change and pollution.</p>	
Need/opportunity/justification	
<p>There's a project need to drive engagement and raise awareness through ownership and participation.</p> <p><i>“Family labs bring artists and communities together to explore new ideas and new perspectives. Working creatively to co-create things and make and design things.”</i></p> <p>Creative Director Rosehill Theatre</p> <p><i>Creative sessions with the youth panel have given participants the opportunity to explore and understand the site from a variety of different perspectives, which makes it engaging and inclusive. It allows them to apply their curriculum-based knowledge in a real environment, complementing, reinforcing and extending their school-based studies.</i></p> <p><i>Collaborative delivery with a conservationist or ecologist from WCRT means they get a truly interdisciplinary experience - an understanding of the science around them, and creative interpretation to help them consider and embed their knowledge.</i></p>	

<p><i>Experiencing the outdoors at a slow pace, looking closely and taking the time to understand and enjoy it, is good for their wellbeing - many of them have expressed how much they enjoy the relaxed yet structured approach.</i></p> <p><i>This relaxed approach allows informal conversation about wider relevant topics such as climate change and pollution, and how this affects the site. At least one participant has chosen to undertake a creative project related to recording areas of pollution and the consequences.</i></p> <p><i>The activities are heavily participant-led, enabling individuals and small groups to undertake creative projects that relate directly to their own interests, whilst building new skills and working collaboratively to curate the projects in the summer.</i></p> <p><i>We are attracting participants from a range of socioeconomic backgrounds, with participation increasing at every meeting so far. The informal 'bring your friends' approach is working, and is increasing male participation, something that can be challenging with creative activities.</i></p> <p>WCRT Youth Panel leader</p>	
Who will manage and run the activity?	Learning and Outreach Manager
What training will they require?	Support provided by Rosehill Theatre's Family Producer and the Interpretive Designer.
Delivery partners / stakeholders	<p>Rosehill Theatre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “we want to create a new heritage. New ways of presenting work that looks to the past but very much connecting. Explored through arts and culture – what it is now.” <p>WCRT Youth Panel</p>
Timescale	March 2024-August 2024
Target audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local residents Local young people
Targets and measures of success	<p>5 x family-lab events (1 x day per event)</p> <p>Engage a minimum of 100 people (20 people for each event)</p> <p>3 x events with 30 young people attending (10 x young people attending each event)</p>
Management and maintenance considerations	None beyond the project
Barriers to engagement	Mitigation
Strain on organisational capacity	Learning and Outreach Manager will work in partnership with Rosehill Theatre to deliver
Lack of awareness / engagement	Will need effective promotion to local residents in sufficient time to recruit participants
Cost of transport	Funding to support transport
NLHF outcomes	
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)	Yes
The funded organisation will be more resilient	
People will have greater wellbeing	Yes
People will have developed skills	Yes
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit	



The local economy will be boosted	
Heritage will be in better condition	
Heritage will be identified and better explained	Yes
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions	Yes
Impact and legacy	
Natural heritage resource and ongoing management will be better supported where better understood by the local community. Co-creation of interpretation by the local families and young people will help develop the sense of ownership of the woodland by the local community.	

STRAND 2 – Sharing the Woodland: Learning about the heritage with the local community (1): Formal learning

Activity number	2.7
Activity name	Learning about the heritage with the local community (1): Formal learning
Summary	
<p>Formal 'Discovering Walkmill' learning sessions will be provided by the project to engage learners with the heritage of Walkmill Wood. These sessions will be supported by the Beacon Museum, Whitehaven.</p> <p>These sessions will be offered to schools within a 5-mile radius of the site.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>A formal learning 'Discovering Walkmill' session will be developed and offered to schools within a 5-mile radius of the site.</p> <p>The project will engage 20 schools over the course of the project. Each session will comprise a visit to the school by the Learning and Engagement Manager which will be followed up by a visit to the site. Of the 6 nearest schools contacted, 4 have already expressed an interest in the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moresby Primary • Frizington Community Primary • Moor Row Primary • Valley Primary <p>The session will be adapted from WCRT's successful 'Wild about Rivers' session that is currently offered to schools across West Cumbria. The sessions will provide curriculum and need-led engagement with the project heritage. The session plan will deal with the project specifics relating to heritage – mining and post-mining issues, landscape restoration and community ownership. The mining history links into local history, and the Victorians in the context of the local area. The natural heritage links into the existing 'Wild about Rivers' programme, but sessions developed for this project will be specific to the Walkmill site, its particular issues and character and how that links into the wider picture. The success of the session plan will be evaluated in year 1 and modified, where necessary for delivery in Years 2-to 4 to ensure that it is fit for purpose</p> <p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about the site and the project background in school • Visit the site to learn about the mining landscape, its recovery and community management • Learn about the wellbeing benefits that outdoor activities offer, and how to access opportunities • Learn more post-visit, in the classroom, about the mining history of Walkmill Colliery in the Victorian period and 20th century, and in West Cumbria since the mining industry closed <p>The session will comprise: Half-day session in the classroom. Topics to cover include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining history of the site – using primary and secondary sources, maps, census etc. • Social history of area – handle real objects and find out about a range of different characters who worked at the mine 	

- Investigate different habitats
- Restoring landscapes – practical activity looking at the river Keekle restoration. Why plastic liner was bad.

Field trip Activities. Three activities will include:

- Kick sampling/pond dipping – using biotic index
- Survey area – similar to phase 1 habitat survey using keys producing colourful habitat map of Walkmill
- Look for clues/signs of the old mine. Link activity to characters that worked at the mine that they learned about in the classroom.

See the outline session learning plan Appendix 5

The Learning and Outreach Manager will manage and oversee this activity. They will be responsible for organising the activity with the school staff, with the support of volunteers.

Need/opportunity/justification

The heritage is poorly understood by the local community. There is a project need to drive engagement and raise awareness through ownership and participation.

- 23% of respondents to the online survey do not know much about the history or heritage of the site, compared to 15% who know ‘a lot’.

Local schools value the opportunities that the site presents for engagement with heritage, and with learning outside the classroom. Building on the popularity of the ‘Wild about Rivers’ school sessions, local primary schools have expressed interest in a new cross curriculum ‘Discovering Walkmill’ session that would include learning about Walkmill Colliery and the woodland’s mining past (linked to History curriculum)

- *“local history is very important.”* (Teacher, Moor Row Community Primary)
- *“we also look at mining when looking at the Victorians in context of our local area.”* (Teacher, Frizington Community Primary)
- *“The local area is very important part of the curriculum and having knowledgeable staff and a location that ticks all these boxes is invaluable”* (Moor Row Community Primary School)
- *“The children lost out on so much learning and so many experiences during Covid lockdowns. We feel it is really important for that time to be made up and the children to be offered as many experiences to enhance their learning as possible. We are lucky to live in an area so rich with history and nature and we need to help the children to develop a love and understanding for this.”* (Teacher, Valley Primary School)
- *“Many of our children have limited life experiences and we need to support them in providing them opportunities that they may not be able to experience. It also encourages them to appreciate and care for their local area.”* (Head Teacher, Montreal CofE Primary School)

Bringing local people to the site and engaging them with its heritage will drive engagement and raise awareness of the project more widely than the participants themselves. Young people in education have fewer barriers to engagement than adults, and the return on investment for engagement is typically high. These sessions will provide opportunities to:

- Build on the popular, successful ‘Wild about Rivers’ sessions with schools that WCRT currently deliver and the relationships with those schools, and learning how to create new bespoke sessions that meet the user need effectively.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage audiences with the project and with both the natural and cultural heritage of the site Meet the demand amongst local schools for curriculum-linked learning and Learning Outside The Classroom
Who will manage and run the activity?	Learning and Outreach Manager
What training will they require?	Keep up to date with safeguarding and curriculum changes
Delivery partners / stakeholders	<p>Beacon Museum</p> <p><i>“The Beacon has a coal mining loan box that can be hired out at £20 per week, There are probably some men left on the village that worked in the pits and could explain to the children what the bits and pieces are. There is also a poetry book by John Skelly (who used to write pitman poetry) and you can probably find some of his poetry that might inspire the school children to write their own. We can also organise a visit to The Beacon at £3 per child. We have a mining section and VR, taking you down underground.”</i></p> <p>Ewanrigg Junior School</p> <p><i>“we would be very keen to see a new site that is available to use locally to get our children learning in the outdoors. We would be interested in the opportunity for our learners to take part in Forest School on site and would also enjoy having a new site to explore during the Wild About Rivers fieldtrips.”</i> (Assistant Head)</p> <p>Moresby Primary School</p> <p><i>“we would be very keen to see a new site that is available to use locally to get our children learning in the outdoors. The opportunity to have a developed site within walking distance of our school would be a real positive for us. We would be interested in the opportunity for our learners to take part in Forest School on site and would also enjoy having a new site to explore during the Wild About Rivers fieldtrips”</i> (Head Teacher)</p>
Timescale	<p>Detailed planning and recruitment of schools – September-October 2023</p> <p>Delivery – November 2023-May 2027</p>
Target audience	School-age learners attending schools in local area (001D and 003A)
Targets and measures of success	<p>20 schools over the course of the project. 2 x sessions per school. Total of 104 sessions.</p> <p>1560 participants (300 per year)</p> <p>104 volunteer days (1 x learning volunteer at each session)</p> <p>Learning sessions delivered to 25% of the 49 schools in the local area</p> <p>Learners have learnt about the heritage of the site</p>

Management and maintenance considerations	To be maintained and offered by WCRT beyond the life of the project. Transport costs will no longer be available unless WCRT or the Friends of group apply for further funding.	
Barriers to engagement	Mitigation	
Strain on organisational capacity <i>“So good to have someone to deliver”</i> (Head Teacher, Moresby Primary School) <i>“We would like it to be lead as having someone who knows the history and the area, it is also a wonderful opportunity for children to learn from others.”</i> (Headteacher, Montreal CofE Primary School) <i>“On us to make sure that they provide SEND support”</i> (Head Teacher, Moresby Primary School)	Learning and Outreach Manager role and volunteers to meet capacity and reduce staff resource costs for participating schools	
Transport cost	Funding for transport to / from site	
Class sizes <i>“we would like to bring the full class at one time, which can be 25 children. This then means we need to hire transport which can be pricey. We can hire a smaller mini bus and have a staff member drive it, but that would mean splitting the group up, meaning some children are unable to attend at the same time as their peers. It is something we would try and make work though”</i> Headteacher, Montreal CofE Primary School	Offer sessions that can accommodate a full year group, splitting them into groups where necessary.	
NLHF outcomes		
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)	Yes	
The funded organisation will be more resilient		
People will have greater wellbeing		
People will have developed skills	Yes	
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit		
The local economy will be boosted		
Heritage will be in better condition		
Heritage will be identified and better explained		
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions	Yes	
Impact and legacy		
Natural heritage resource and ongoing management will be better supported where better understood by the local community. We intend that the project will raise awareness of the site and its management, and that participants will be encouraged to support that management in some form as part of the Strand 3 activities. All the events should inform the post-project regime management and maintenance plan, in particular what form regular events might take post-project.		

STRAND 2 – Sharing the Woodland: Learning about the heritage with the local community (2): Forest Schools

Activity number	2.8
Activity name	Learning about the heritage with the local community (2): Forest Schools
Summary	
<p>The project will provide a ‘Forest Schools’ programme, designed to engage learners with the natural heritage of the site. These sessions will primarily be offered to Moresby Primary.</p> <p>‘Forest School – Wellbeing in the Woods’ – will focus on working with learners who are most at need, who will attend weekly sessions for a whole year. We will work with two schools each year- 2 sessions a week with different cohorts.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>The ‘Forest Schools’ and ‘Forest School – Wellbeing in the Woods’ sessions will take place in a specially designated forest school area at the site that was built in the development phase to trial these sessions, to inspire exploration and discovery. In line with the Forest School ethos the learners will be encouraged to take the lead in their own learning with a range of resources and activities provided which encourage creativity and exploration. These activities can include learning fire lighting skills, building a shelter, creating art using natural materials or discovering more about a particular plant or animal.</p> <p>The participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to site by minibus • Be introduced to the site and the project • Interact with the natural heritage of the site on their own terms • Reflect on the natural heritage of the woodland when back at school <p>The ‘Forest School - Wellbeing in the Woods’ sessions will follow the same format as the ‘Forest Schools’ sessions but work more intensively with young people at schools who are most at need and provide them with the opportunity to experience the natural world in regular, long-term sessions. We will work with the participating schools and youth groups to identify the young people most at need and those who will benefit most from these sessions to create positive development for young people. The project will focus on young people in the areas of West Cumbria who experience the most challenging circumstances and have limited access to opportunities.</p> <p>The Learning and Outreach Manager, who is also a Forest School practitioner, will manage and oversee this activity. They will be responsible for organising the activity with the school staff. They will assess the interests of the learners and will adjust or add new resources to the next session to support that interest.</p> <p>A specific forest schools area will be created in the woodland.</p> <p>See Appendix 6 for current Forest School handbook.</p>	
Need/opportunity/justification	
<p>15 primary schools which are in the top 3200 of the highest deprivation pupil premium (FSM6) are in our area. Health and wellbeing is also an area for concern, with Copeland having the highest number of year six children classified as obese in Cumbria and numbers are on the rise (Copeland District Statistical Summary, March 2012). The amount of riverbank accessible to local people, or</p>	

knowledge of how to access it has been identified as a need and there is also a lack of confidence amongst certain communities in accessing local greenspaces.

The heritage is poorly understood by the local community. There is a project need to drive engagement and raise awareness through ownership and participation. Following the pilot Forest Schools events with Moresby Parks Primary in 2022, we know that the local school age learners:

- value the woodland and want to return
- like being in nature and seeing the wildlife at the site
- are made happy by being at the site, where they can have fun

"You see a whole different side to them, they come out of themselves." (Teacher, Moresby Primary)

"The class are able to confidently identify different tree, bug and fungus types."

"The class have a deeper sense of understanding when it comes to the environment and taking care of nature."

"The class were able to transfer knowledge from Forest School into our Science lessons about materials."

"it's more about seeing education through different lens." (Head Teacher, Moresby Primary School)

Other primary schools in the local area say that they are interested in forest schools for one or more of their key stage groups.

- Frizington Community Primary School: *"Key Stage 1 would be interested in taking part in these sessions, all year round!"* (C Ellwood, Year 3 / 4 Teacher Frizington Community Primary School) = 60 pupils per year [Frizington has 128 students from age 4-11 yr]
- Moor Row Primary School *"We would like both KS1 and KS2 to take part"* (Moor Row Primary School) = 120 pupils per year [Moor Row has 78 students from age 3-11 yr]
- The Vale Primary School (Whitehaven) *"Most year groups would be interested, from nursery up to year 6 (around 30-35 children in each year group)"* (The Vale Primary School) = 300 pupils per year
- Moresby Primary School [has 126 students from age 3-11 yr]
- Montreal: *"We would definitely be interested; it is something we would like all of our 6 classes to be part of at some point (127 children) We have clothing that enables our children to take part throughout the year so the time of year is whenever we could get the chance to take part."*

Howgill Family Centre

"we would be very keen to see a new site that is available to use locally to get our children learning in the outdoors." (Manager)

Bringing local people to the site and engaging them with its heritage will drive engagement and raise awareness of the project more widely than the participants themselves. Young people in education have fewer barriers to engagement, and the return on investment for engagement is typically high. These sessions will provide opportunities to:

- Engage audiences with the project and with the natural and cultural heritage of the site
- Increased wellbeing among the participants, including members of staff
- Develop social skills and teamwork among the participants

A specific area of the woodland is needed to facilitate the forest schools but also to support other young people's engagement with the site.

"An area where, with permission and under suitable control, we could do fire lighting and backwoods cooking; and possibly even run overnight events such as hammocking. I realise this

<p><i>would need to be considered against use of the space by the wider community.” (1st Hensingham Scouts, Leader)</i></p> <p>The Learning and Outreach Manager will manage and oversee this activity.</p>	
Who will manage and run the activity?	Learning and Outreach Manager
What training will they require?	Safeguarding update, Forest School practitioner update
Delivery partners / stakeholders	Moresby Primary And other formal learning settings
Timescale	Detailed planning and recruitment of schools – September-October 2023 Delivery – November 2023-May 2027
Target audience	School-age learners attending schools in local area (001D and 003A)
Targets and measures of success	Moresby Primary Forest School – 126 learners per year, each participating in 1 session per week for 6 weeks. ‘Forest School – Wellbeing in the Woods’ with two schools per year – 30 learners (2 cohorts of 15) per year for a whole year (each cohort receiving two sessions per week). 120 x volunteer days (1 x learning volunteer at each session)
Management and maintenance considerations	To be maintained by schools beyond the end of the project. WCRT will embed the site into its education programme
Barriers to engagement	
Transport costs Transport is a real barrier to schools engaging with heritage. Funding is needed to get schools to the site. It is too far for young children to walk to, even for the closest school.	Funding provided for transport.
Toilet facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “For longer sessions toilets on site would be good, temporary facility good solution” (Head Teacher, Moresby Primary School) 	Portable camping toilet
Staff resource <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “On us to make sure that they provide SEND support” (Head Teacher, Moresby Primary School) 	SEND support provided by school. Additional support to be provided by the Learning and Outreach Manager
NLHF outcomes	
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)	Yes
The funded organisation will be more resilient	
People will have greater wellbeing	Yes
People will have developed skills	Yes
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit	
The local economy will be boosted	
Heritage will be in better condition	
Heritage will be identified and better explained	

People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions	Yes
Impact and legacy	
<p>Natural heritage resource and ongoing management will be better supported where better understood by the local community. We expect awareness of the site and its benefits to spread amongst older family members from the Forest School participants.</p> <p>This long-term nature/wellbeing learning-outside-the-classroom strand may continue past the project close, assuming environmental factors like transport funding and interest are sustained. The events should inform the post-project regime management and maintenance plan, in particular what form these sort of regular events should take post-project.</p>	

STRAND 2 – Sharing the Woodland: Learning about the heritage with the local community (3): Practical Conservation Days

Activity number	2.8
Activity name	Learning about the heritage with the local community (3): Practical Conservation Days
Summary	
<p>The project will work in collaboration with Whitehaven Academy to deliver practical conservation days to support the attainment of a John Muir Award. The days will also be offered to Cumbria Outdoors, the Lake District National Park Young Rangers and other local schools and colleges.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>There will be a range of ad-hoc conservation days advertised and offered to formal learners on offer as deemed necessary by the management and maintenance plan. Activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Path maintenance • Ditch clearance • Fence and hedge maintenance • Coppicing • Scrub clearance • Tree thinning, tree guard maintenance and removal • Wildflower planting and meadow maintenance • Growing plants to re-stock the nursery site • Hide building • Maintenance and clearing of historic features <p>These days will be arranged in partnership with the participating group to ensure that the activity delivers the curriculum/educational attainment/wellbeing outcomes.</p> <p>The Learning and Outreach Manager and Volunteer Coordinator will manage, organise, oversee and run this activity with the support of the school staff.</p>	
Need/opportunity/justification	
<p>There is an opportunity to provide progression for users of the site towards stewardship. It is hoped that some of the Whitehaven Academy students and their families may continue a long-lived relationship with the site, in capacities that include regular volunteering as well as supporting or joining the 'Friends of' group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"We are particularly supportive of the work the trust is doing at Walkmill Woods as this is an area we are invested in, can access on foot, an area we use for our extra-curricular 'fell running' club and an area some of students and families use regularly for walking, biking and general enjoyment."</i> (Teacher of Outdoor Learning and PE, Whitehaven Academy) • <i>"The students will want to be responsible for it. Creating it and maintenance."</i> (Teacher of Outdoor Learning and PE, Whitehaven Academy) • <i>"Outdoor learning has opportunity to change attitudes to learning. We have a creative curriculum at the academy – designed during lockdown. Brave thing to do and a cool thing to do. Every term around 70 students could benefit. Also each year group has 'drop down' days. The whole school is up for using the site."</i> (Teacher of Outdoor Learning and PE, Whitehaven Academy) • <i>"We fully support the work WCRT are planning for the site and hope to support it with regular visits and further work by our students to support the conservation and development of the site." "Any physical works would be good. Would love to do footpath maintenance etc."</i> (Teacher of Outdoor Learning and PE, Whitehaven Academy) 	

- *“We believe that all year groups would benefit from this project at some point during our 2-year rolling programme and we are committed to raising the profile of outdoor learning in our school. We would visit at any time of the year and this would benefit as many as 80 children in our school. It is important that this project gets funded as opportunities for educational visits are quite limited in this area but this is the kind of learning that sticks with the children. More opportunities for outdoor learning centres in this area are very much needed.”* (Headteacher, Moor Row Community Primary)

There is also opportunity to support the needs of young people as part of uniformed groups, and which have wider opportunities to engage non-uniformed members and their families:

- *“For our Young Leaders – the Wilder Walkmill project would provide an opportunity for them to complete activities that count towards the International, Community and Value requirements for these top awards. Without partnerships like the one with WCRT these are nearly impossible to complete just by volunteering with the other sections.”* (1st Hensingham Scouts, Leader)
- *“Our Scouts certainly enjoy practical hands-on type activities (a fair number will also be very happy to get wet & muddy); things such helping with clearing drainage channels, thinning out trees and clearing dead wood, possibly even building some new paths/wildlife hides or helping to repair bridges might be things we could help out with.”* (1st Hensingham Scouts, Leader)
- *“I see all of our sections being involved with the project going forwards, plus opportunities for non-member siblings and parents to be involved.”* (1st Hensingham Scouts, Leader)

Who will manage and run the activity?	Learning and Outreach Manager and Volunteer Co-ordinator
What training will they require?	Safeguarding
Delivery partners / stakeholders	Whitehaven Academy Other local learners Uniformed groups
Timescale	Detailed planning and recruitment – September-October 2023 Delivery – November 2023-May 2027
Target audience	Local formal learners Young people
Targets and measures of success	80 sessions (days) over course of project. 20 sessions per year (2 per month) with 15 - 20 learners 1600 participants over the course of the project
Management and maintenance considerations	These sessions will be managed by the Learning and Outreach Manager and Volunteer Coordinator throughout the life of the project. Through building the relationship with schools the activities can continue on site with the support of the Friends of Group.
Barriers to engagement	Mitigation
Transport costs	Provide contribution to transport costs. Schools can provide own transport by minibus.
Toilet facilities	Portaloo facilities or portable toilets. Restriction on session times (limited to 2 hours).

Staff resource	SEND support provided by the schools. Project's Learning and Outreach Manager and Volunteer Coordinator to arrange and run the sessions.	
NLHF outcomes		
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)		Yes
The funded organisation will be more resilient		
People will have greater wellbeing		Yes
People will have developed skills		Yes
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit		
The local economy will be boosted		
Heritage will be in better condition		
Heritage will be identified and better explained		
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions		Yes
Impact and legacy		
<p>Natural heritage resource and ongoing management will be better supported where better understood by the local community. We expect awareness of the site and its benefits to spread amongst older family members from the Forest School participants.</p> <p>This long-term nature/wellbeing learning-outside-the-classroom strand may continue past the project close, assuming environmental factors like transport funding and interest are sustained. The events should inform the post-project regime management and maintenance plan, in particular what form these sort of regular events should take post-project.</p>		

STRAND 3

STRAND 3 – Sustaining the Woodland: Friends of Walkmill Community Woodland Group

Activity number	3.1
Activity name	Friends of Walkmill Community Woodland Group
Summary	
<p>A group of committed community volunteers will take on the management and maintenance of the site. Group roles and responsibilities and roles will be determined by the site Business Plan and Terms of Reference. Members will receive training and develop skills to enable them to apply for funding, maintain the website, and to adopt and implement the site management and maintenance plan. The group will act in the interests of the site, and of the local community and users of the site.</p> <p>The group will act in the interests of the site but also in the interests of the local community and users of the site.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>During the course of the project, the Project Manager, supported by the Director of WCRT (CEO) will support and nurture a self-sufficient group of local residents as a ‘Friends of Group’ to adopt and manage the site and implement the conservation management plan and site maintenance. They will be governed by a terms of reference / memorandum of understanding and articles, and a business plan which sets clear objectives.</p> <p>This new group of committed volunteers will meet bi-monthly and steer the project, apply for funding, maintain the website, and adopt and implement the management plan. To achieve sustainability beyond the project, the Friends of Group will gain experience and training to ensure that they have the requisite skills to plan and deliver conservation and engagement activities.</p> <p>They will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. work with the project partners to deliver the Walkmill Community Woodland Business Plan; b. adopt the Conservation Management and Maintenance Plans to help conserve and enhance the site; c. conduct requisite monitoring and update those plans; d. ensure that regular safety checks are undertaken by qualified and trained personnel, for example trained volunteers that are part of the group e. manage their own volunteers or arrange via partners; f. apply for funding for conservation management work and maintenance; g. promote to local people their work, the benefits of the site, and the value of its management; h. develop and run events for local people at the site. <p>Responsibility for site management, the management plan, and the skills, resources and knowledge to update it annually or at appropriate intervals (as defined by the management plans) will be transferred to the group by the end of the project by WCRT. This transfer will be finalised and formalised in the last 12 months of the delivery phase as Exit Strategy / Succession planning and development, but the group will be developed from the permission-to-start in terms of governance, training and processes. WCRT will continue its involvement in the site beyond the project funding lifespan by joining the group as a corporate member.</p>	

15 participants will:

- Formally join the 'Friends of Walkmill Community Woodland' group
- Audit their skills individually, and as a group, to inform needs for a skills/training plan
- Receive training to support the Management and Maintenance Plan and skills development
- Attend Project Steering group meetings
- Attend Friends of Group meetings (once per month)
- Receive training in site management, conservation management, tree surveys and inspections accreditation, management planning, safeguarding, and safe working.

The group will be supported by the Project Board. Each of the Project Staff will work with the group, to:

- collaborate on updating the management plan,
- planning and delivering the conservation management and maintenance tasks,
- monitoring and updating the plans accordingly,
- working with specialist suppliers and volunteers, and procure goods and services, and
- promoting the Walkmill Community Woodland and work of the group.

See Appendix 7 for Business Plan and Terms of Reference

Need/opportunity/justification

Pressure from the local community was instrumental in achieving the present 99-year lease as a 'community asset' status of the site and its footpath network. Other former mining sites could also have been turned to public access along the River Keekle (Weddicar Woods), but these were sold into private ownership and are now off-limits to local people. This last piece of semi-natural habitat free for them to use makes this Walkmill site even more highly valued to the local community.

The Round 1 application and the Business Plan for the site set out the need for ongoing site management now that the site is owned by the community as a community asset. There is an established partnership between Moresby Parish Council (MPC), Walkmill Activity Group (WAG) and West Cumbria Rivers Trust (WCRT). The Business Plan for the Walkmill Community Woodland allocates responsibility for community activities and maintenance to the proposed 'Friends of' group after the project end date.

There is an opportunity to begin working towards a self-sustaining management group now:

- *The Friends Group will be vital for the long-term sustainability of the project. MPC cannot afford to cover all of the costs for future maintenance work, and the availability of grants in the future to support MPC in the woodland maintenance is uncertain. With a viable Friends Group and the legacy tools and working practices from the project, the woodlands can be maintained within foreseeable future with funding from MPC" Moresby Parish Council Chair*
- *We, along with several friends have worked in an unofficial capacity as volunteers in the woodlands for many years now (path repairs, drainage seat making etc). This has brought the community together and we have made many friends carrying out this work. We feel completely involved with all decision making and we are looking forward to forming an official "friends of Walkmill group". I am confident that this group will slowly develop and as the years pass by will pick up the baton from WCRT and continue working maintaining*

<p><i>the site once WCRT have completed the proposed project</i> (Current member of the Walkmill Community Woodlands steering committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To draw on the committed involvement and resources of WCRT and the project team. The project team will develop future leaders and organisers to ensure that a group of local residents will continue the project. The Parish Council has experience as a constituted body which regenerates itself and this experience will be used to support this. In addition, WCRT ensures they have the technical competencies to carry out conservation work with volunteers. • to encourage new and younger members of the local community to become advocates and supporters through the routes to engagement (Apprenticeships, Volunteering, taking on site management). • to build on the project momentum achieved to date • to harness advice and support from partner organisations (i.e. Cumbria Badger Vaccination Project / Lancashire Badger Group) to develop the skills of the organisation <i>“We would be happy to work as advisors to any badger activity which occurred on the land and help set up a local badger group and to provide ongoing support.”</i> (Cumbria Badger Vaccination Project) • Consultation has also shown that other members of the local community (Moresby Parks) is also keen on maintaining the site. In the survey of current users (dog walkers), one of the most popular activities selected ‘Attending meetings of the Friends of Walkmill group’ • Consultation has demonstrated that 85 individuals would like to be kept informed of developments at Walkmill Community Woodland, with 30 individuals offering to provide their time and/or expertise to the project. • There are currently 14 members on the Walkmill Steering group. • The popularity of WAG shows momentum for a successor group to adopt site management. 	
<p>Who will manage and run the activity?</p>	<p>Project Manager Volunteer Coordinator WCRT Director</p>
<p>What training will they require?</p>	<p>Site management - monitoring and updating the various plans Planning and delivering the conservation management and maintenance tasks, including working with specialist suppliers and volunteers and procurement Tree surveys and inspections accreditation (https://www.lantra.co.uk/course/basic-tree-survey-and-inspection) Project management and management planning, Safeguarding Safe working Promoting the Walkmill Community Woodland and work of the group</p>
<p>Delivery partners / stakeholders</p>	<p>Moresby Parish Council have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WCRT and both are fully committed to the project</p> <p>Cumbria Badger Vaccination Project <i>“We would be happy to train local people to take over from us.”</i></p>

Timescale	Recruitment begins- September 2023 Bimonthly meetings from October 2023-May 2027 Handover of site responsibility – November 2026-May 2027	
Target audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local residents (Moresby Parks) Project partners 	
Targets and measures of success	<p>15 participants over the course of the project 5 x training sessions</p> <p>Group of 15x participants set up and articles agreed/signed</p> <p>Broad spread of participants reflecting the local community</p> <p>Group has developed skills needed to work successfully with the Board to deliver the Walkmill Community Woodland Business Plan</p>	
Management and maintenance considerations	<p>The group will be self-sustaining, so none beyond the end of the project.</p> <p>The group will be supported after the life of the project by WCRT</p>	
Barriers to engagement	Mitigation	
Lack of awareness of the offer	<p>Promotion of event amongst engaged groups</p> <p>Promotion of event amongst groups newly engaged during other co-creation activities, including local schools and uniformed groups.</p>	
NLHF outcomes		
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)		
The funded organisation will be more resilient	Yes	
People will have greater wellbeing		
People will have developed skills	Yes	
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit		
The local economy will be boosted		
Heritage will be in better condition	Yes	
Heritage will be identified and better explained		
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions		
Impact and legacy		
<p>The participants will have progressed from the skills audit to completion of skills plan that enables them to work successfully with the Project Board to deliver the Walkmill Community Woodland Business Plan and Conservation Management and Maintenance Plan.</p> <p>Skills and experience gained on this project will benefit the project staff but also the wider WCRT, increasing its organisational resilience.</p> <p>Processes, plans and assets developed during the Wilder Walkmill project might be transferred to and adapted for other WCRT projects as templates or comparators, for example the Conservation Management Plan, volunteer management processes, and learning resources.</p> <p>Relationships nurtured during this project open up potential strategic partnerships to participating organisations, especially the project board.</p>		

STRAND 3 – Sustaining the Woodland: Regular conservation volunteering

Activity number	3.2
Activity name	Regular conservation volunteering
Summary	
<p>The project will deliver regular practical conservation volunteering events to support ongoing site maintenance and enhancement. These events will take place twice a month, with one on Wednesday and one on Saturday. The activity will be organised and supervised by the 'Friends of' group. The details of the activities will be governed by the needs of the Management and Maintenance Plan. Volunteers will receive specialist training to support their work where appropriate.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>There will be 24 conservation work party events per year, comprising 2 per month. To overcome barriers to engagement, the events will be evenly split between weekend and weekday events.</p> <p>There will be 10 participants per session, equating to 240 volunteer days over the course of the project. Participants will be recruited from the local community and through partners and stakeholders including corporate partners (i.e. James Fisher Nuclear and CNSL).</p> <p>The volunteer participants will deliver the ongoing routine and occasional works as required by the Conservation Management Plan, and the Management and Maintenance Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Path maintenance • Ditch clearance • Fence and hedge maintenance • Coppicing • Scrub clearance • Tree thinning, tree guard maintenance and removal • Wildflower meadow maintenance • Growing plants to re-stock the nursery site • Hide building <p>This activity will be led and managed initially by the Volunteer Coordinator during the project lifespan, handing over to the Friends of Group during Year 4 to ensure a well-executed changeover.</p>	
Need/opportunity/justification	
<p>There are local volunteers who have looked after the site for years in an unofficial capacity. A more formal arrangement is required for these volunteers in order to ensure their health and safety and to ensure that they have the necessary training to undertake works that comply with the site insurance.</p> <p>The site will rely on volunteers for ongoing management and maintenance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"It wouldn't get done if not for the volunteers"</i> (Green Gym Pilot participant) <p>The site business plan requires a sustainable approach to site management and maintenance by recruiting volunteers from as broad a section of the community as possible. Consultation has shown that other members of the local community (Moresby Parks) is also keen on maintaining the site through regular conservation work. In the survey of current users (dog walkers) the most</p>	

<p>popular activities selected were ‘Helping to maintain footpaths’ and ‘Helping manage the habitats’.</p> <p>Evaluation of the 12 November 2022 pilot session concluded that more conservation volunteering opportunities are needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“demand for volunteering activity outstripped the supply”</i> (The Evaluator) 	
Who will manage and run the activity?	Volunteer Coordinator, handing over to the Friends of Walkmill Community Woodland group. Funding for materials for routine maintenance will come from the Parish Council, and for improvements and additional projects via grant applications.
What training will they require?	Hand tools, Safe working, Risk Assessment and other specialist training as per the Management and Maintenance plan – in conjunction with the Apprentices
Delivery partners / stakeholders	Moresby Parish Council have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WCRT and both are fully committed to the project
Timescale	Ongoing recruitment of volunteers and delivery – September 2023-May 2027
Target audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents • People working in the local area
Targets and measures of success	<p>96 events over the course of the project (24 per year)</p> <p>5-10 volunteers at each event</p> <p>960 volunteer days over course of project (maximum of 240 volunteer days per year)</p> <p>8 x specialist training sessions (2 x specialist training sessions per year)</p>
Management and maintenance considerations	This activity will be sustained by the post-project Friends of Group.
Barriers to engagement	Mitigation
Lack of awareness of the offer	Promotion of event amongst engaged groups Promotion of event amongst groups newly engaged during other co-creation activities, including local schools and uniformed groups.
Transport / orientation	Invitations to volunteer must include clear directions/joining instructions, and contact details
Timing not suitable for everyone	Weekday and weekend sessions will facilitate engagement where working hours are a barrier.
NLHF outcomes	
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)	Yes
The funded organisation will be more resilient	
People will have greater wellbeing	Yes
People will have developed skills	
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit	Yes



The local economy will be boosted	
Heritage will be in better condition	
Heritage will be identified and better explained	
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions	
Impact and legacy	
The Friends of Group/WAG will have experience of planning and delivering regular conservation sessions so that they can continue beyond the life of the project. Support for the work of the Friends of Walkmill Community Woodland group will be stronger.	

STRAND 3 – Sustaining the Woodland: Monitoring to feed future plans (1): Citizen Scientist monitoring by volunteers

Activity number	3.3
Activity name	Monitoring to feed future plans (1): Citizen Scientist monitoring by volunteers
Summary	
<p>To support the management and enhancement of the site during the project, Citizen Science monitoring will collect data on a small number of protected animal species to inform how site management evolves over the course of the project to support wildlife.</p> <p>Training will be offered to volunteers who are either unable to attend regular volunteering sessions, or who prefer monitoring activity over practical tasks. The monitoring schedule will be governed by the monitoring requirements of the Conservation Management Plan, and it will support the work of relevant partner organisations, e.g. Copeland Red Squirrel Group.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>A group of 20 volunteers will formally record numbers of and evidence for the following protected species that are already present at the site including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Badgers 2. Red squirrels 3. Reptiles and Amphibians 4. Bats <p>Volunteers will be recruited via project marketing channels, and the activity will also be offered to local working people (see Activity 1.2) as well as users of the Copeland Wellness Service (see Activity 1.3). Visitors to the site will also be encouraged to make informal wildlife observations, to engage them with the activity and to provide a wider, but shallower, evidence base.</p> <p>The volunteers and the Volunteer Coordinator will receive training and support from an ecologist working for the relevant partner organisation (Cumbria Badger Vaccination Project, Copeland Red Squirrel Group, Cumberland Bat Group, Copeland Amphibian and Reptile Group). Volunteers will be trained in recording techniques and equipment (where relevant).</p> <p>20 volunteers will undertake 2-hour monitoring sessions according to the requirements of the Management and Maintenance Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butterflies – Big Butterfly Count (Butterfly Conservation) 1 visit in July/August • Reptiles – National Reptile Survey (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation) 4 visits March-June, 2 visits August-October • Amphibians – National Amphibian Survey (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation) 4 visits January-March • Birds – Breeding Bird Survey (British Trust for Ornithology) 2 visits April-June at least 4 weeks apart. • Bumblebees – BeeWalk (Bumblebee Conservation) monthly visit March-October • Bats – Field Survey, National Bat Monitoring Survey (Bat Conservation Trust) 2 visits in July • Red Squirrels – yearly with Copeland Red Squirrel Group • Badgers – yearly with Cumbria Badgers • Mammal Tracks – 5 consecutive nights May-September • Wildflower surveys – 1 visit April/May, 1 visit August • Riverfly monitoring – monthly April-September 	

<p>Data recording will take place principally via these regular planned monitoring sessions. But individuals will also be able to carry out ad hoc observations using the i-Naturalist app (set up by Cumbria Wildlife Trust), which provides the opportunity for anyone visiting the site to add their wildlife sightings to the Walkmill project.</p> <p>The data from each monitoring session will be uploaded to the i-Naturalist website/app under the Walkmill Community Woodland project, and be submitted to stakeholders and the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre. Feedback from the partner organisations on the results will help to target efforts to manage habitat at the site in future, such as where and when to carry out scrub clearance.</p>	
<p>Need/opportunity/justification</p>	
<p>The natural heritage resource and ongoing management will be better supported if better understood and owned by the local community. Direct engagement with the natural heritage – plant and animal species – will provide opportunities to engage a wide section of the local community while providing information to inform the ongoing revisions to the Conservation Management Plan, which notes that the “Lack of regular monitoring of many species” is an issue.</p> <p>This activity will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform the need to update the evidence base for future iterations of the conservation management plan • reduce the cost to the successor group of ongoing monitoring • build on the experience of partners organisation Cumbria Wildlife Trust who have delivered 5 x projects with similar aspects nearby (i.e. <u>vulcan-park-workington</u>) and are committed to helping WCRT set up a similar i-Naturalist project journal for Walkmill Community Woodland • strengthen local support for the successor group and provide good PR material <p><i>“Evaluating past projects whereby we have introduced people to amphibians and reptiles has shown a more positive view and respect for these species. It has encouraged people to record their sightings which is vital for us to monitor changes in populations. They have made adjustments to their gardens and allotments to help herptiles and other wildlife. Feedback has shown peoples confidence has improved through mixing with others that have a shared interest. Through work undertaken personally for Amphibian and Reptile Groups UK (ARG UK) whereby we have worked with vulnerable groups introducing them to our range of native herptiles (and discovering new a location for a species as well!) brings excitement and togetherness alongside the benefits of being outdoors, exercise and exploring what is around them”</i> (Copeland Amphibian and Reptile Group)</p> <p>Consultation has also shown that other members of the local community (Moresby Parks) is also keen on ‘Helping to record and monitor the wildlife’.</p>	
<p>Who will manage and run the activity?</p>	<p>Volunteer Coordinator</p>
<p>What training will they require?</p>	<p>Monitoring of specific fauna</p>
<p>Delivery partners / stakeholders</p>	<p>Cumbria Badger Vaccination Project</p>

	<p><i>“We would be happy to develop links with Walkmill Wood and to provide any badger advice or support. We would be happy to work as advisors to any badger activity which occurred on the land. We would be happy to deliver badger talks, sett survey training and monitoring, badger crime training and badger rescue/vaccination talks. We could offer badger talks and activities to cater for all ages and abilities. We would expect our volunteers' expenses to be covered and a donation to Cumbria Badger Vaccination Project. We would be happy to train local people to take over from us. We would be happy to support at any open days. Working with the rangers and other volunteers to promote badgers with the aim of setting up a local badger group to protect the badgers visiting the woods and the wider area would be extremely beneficial for the local badger community.”</i></p> <p>Copeland Amphibian and Reptile Group <i>“Some of our volunteers local to the site may be interested. CARG would be happy to help promote these and other activities and events as well. As a group we are here to offer guidance and advice via online platforms/email for free, if site visits are required we would like any fuel costs covered for 1 CARG volunteer. We have in person species ID/ survey training coming up in the group, which the project staff are very welcome to attend, so they are able to carry out sessions themselves, we just ask for a small donation to help cover facility costs (£5-£10) this would be east Cumbria location. Training at the location for project staff would include 2 CARG members with travel costs covered.”</i></p> <p>Cumbria Wildlife Trust Copeland Red Squirrel Group Cumberland Bat Group</p>
Timescale	Recruitment and training of new volunteers – March 2024-April 2027 Monitoring to start with established wildlife groups and then by trained volunteers – September 2023-May 2027
Target audience	Local residents, including people who use local wellbeing services and people at risk of social isolation
Targets and measures of success	<p>20 volunteer events (2 hours each) per year 40 hours of monitoring per year. 80 volunteer events over the course of the project - 160 hours over course of project.</p> <p>10 x specialist training events 5000 observations (i-Naturalist) Photographs of the site over time</p> <p>Groups have carried out monitoring as required Groups have learnt skills Monitoring has informed an updated iteration of the Conservation Management Plan</p>

Management and maintenance considerations	
Barriers to engagement	Mitigation
Transport to site	Expenses provided to all volunteers and organisations undertaking monitoring
I.D. Skills	Training given
NLHF outcomes	
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)	Yes
The funded organisation will be more resilient	
People will have greater wellbeing	Yes
People will have developed skills	Yes
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit	
The local economy will be boosted	
Heritage will be in better condition	
Heritage will be identified and better explained	Yes
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions	Yes
Impact and legacy	
<p>The Friends of Group/WAG will have experience of planning and delivering monitoring so that they can continue to update the Conservation Management Plan appropriately, and plan new programmes, beyond the life of the project.</p> <p>Support for the work of the Friends of Group will be stronger.</p> <p>Monitoring by the participants after the life of the project will reduce the ongoing costs.</p>	

STRAND 3 – Sustaining the Woodland: Monitoring to feed future plans (2): Citizen Scientist monitoring by local young people

Activity number	3.4
Activity name	Monitoring to feed future plans (2): Citizen Scientist monitoring by local young people
Summary	
<p>Citizen Science monitoring will be undertaken by local young people, to support engagement of this key target audience and to employ the education and wellbeing value of the site. 1st Hensingham Scouts wish to use this opportunity for their users to gain badges, and Whitehaven Academy wish to support their students to complete the John Muir Award by engaging with the site. Monitoring will also be undertaken by the WCRT Youth panel and other youth organisations. The monitoring schedule will be informed by the monitoring requirements of the Conservation Management Plan.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>Participants will record flora and fauna during each year. The data will be shared with the relevant stakeholders and submitted to the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre. The participants, the Volunteering Coordinator, and the Learning and Outreach Manager, will receive training and support from an ecologist working for the relevant partner organisation/s (i.e. Butterfly Conservation, British Trust for Ornithology, Bumblebee Conservation).</p> <p>The timing of the planned sessions will support delivery of the Management and Maintenance Plan as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butterflies – Big Butterfly Count (Butterfly Conservation) July/August. • Birds – Breeding Bird Survey (British Trust for Ornithology) April-June • Bumblebees – BeeWalk (Bumblebee Conservation) March-October • Mammal Tracks –May-September • Wildflower surveys –April/May, August • Riverfly monitoring – monthly April-September <p>Data recording of the named species will take place principally via these regular planned monitoring sessions but participating groups will also be invited to undertake photography of the site to note the changes over time.</p> <p>The Volunteer Coordinator will support and run this activity.</p>	
Need/opportunity/justification	
<p>The natural heritage resource and ongoing management will be better supported if better understood and owned by the local community. Direct engagement with the natural heritage – plant and animal species – will provide opportunities to engage a wide section of the local community while providing evidence to support conservation efforts.</p> <p><i>“More volunteers = more evidence = more conservation!”</i> (Cumbria Mammal Group)</p> <p>During a Pilot Event on 3 August 2022, the 1st Hensingham Scouts were engaged in identification work on the wildflowers at the site. They were interested in understanding the species of plants and trees at the site, and were keen to engage with the site and activities here. The scouts would like to make bat boxes and put them up in suitable locations in Walkmill Wood as a way to support the monitoring activity.</p>	

- *In each section there is a world challenge badge which members need to complete as part of earning their top award. Working with WCRT at Walkmill Wood fits with requirements for each of those challenge badges:*
 - *Beavers – My World Challenge:*
Complete an activity to help people in your local community.
Do at least one activity to help you learn about the natural world around you.
 - *Cubs – Our World Challenge:*
As a Pack, identify and complete an activity that benefits your local community.
Take part in an activity about the environment.
 - *Scouts – World Challenge:*
Spend a day volunteering with and finding out about a service in your local community.
Take an active part in an environmental project.

(1st Hensingham Scouts, Leader)

This activity will:

- inform the need to update the evidence base for future iterations of the conservation management plan
- reduce the cost to the successor group of ongoing monitoring
- strengthen local support for the successor group and provide good PR material
- help 1st Hensingham Scouts group to meet their aims of providing their young people with life skills and working towards badge awards
- help future funding bids

Who will manage and run the activity?	Volunteer Coordinator
What training will they require?	Monitoring of specific flora/fauna
Delivery partners / stakeholders (provide quote to demonstrate their commitment or involvement)	<p>1st Hensingham Scouts</p> <p>Whitehaven Academy <i>“We are particularly interested in doing some monitoring activities at Walkmill and learning about/surveying particular, insect, mammal and reptile species. This is something we have not yet had opportunities to do. “We would be interested in monitoring at any time of year.”</i> (Teacher of Outdoor Learning and PE, Whitehaven Academy)</p> <p>WCRT Youth Panel</p>
Timescale	Planning and recruitment – January-February 2024 Delivery – March 2024-May 2027
Target audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local young people (1st Hensingham Scout group) • Local young people (Whitehaven Academy students) • Local young people (WCRT Youth Panel)
Targets and measures of success	<p>4 x monitoring sessions per year 240 participants over course of project (15 participants on each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups have carried out monitoring as required • Groups have learnt skills

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring has informed an updated iteration of the Conservation Management Plan
Management and maintenance considerations	This activity will continue beyond the end of the project past the project close, assuming environmental factors like transport funding and interest are sustained, and assuming that the Friends of Group can collaborate with the user groups to organise the sessions and manage the data.
Barriers to engagement	Mitigation
Transport	Minibus provided during project by WCRT and by project partners
NLHF outcomes	
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)	Yes
The funded organisation will be more resilient	
People will have greater wellbeing	Yes
People will have developed skills	Yes
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit	
The local economy will be boosted	
Heritage will be in better condition	
Heritage will be identified and better explained	Yes
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions	Yes
Impact and legacy	
<p>The Friends of Group will have experience of planning and delivering monitoring so that they can continue to plan new programmes beyond the life of the project, in collaboration with the young people.</p> <p>Support for the work of the Friends of Group will be stronger.</p> <p>Monitoring by the participants after the life of the project will reduce the ongoing costs.</p>	

STRAND 3 – Sustaining the Woodland: Sharing lessons learnt and legacy

Activity number	3.5
Activity name	Sharing lessons learnt and legacy
Summary	
<p>The project will develop and run a series of best practice initiatives and sharing opportunities to support individuals and other organisations to deliver their work based on lessons learnt through the experience of delivery.</p>	
Activity Description	
<p>This project will generate a significant quantity of lessons learned and industry knowledge. This will be shared amongst the project stakeholders and partners as appropriate to ensure that the learning has as great a reach as possible. The dissemination of the lessons learned will comprise a hybrid of interactive sessions and digital publications. Specific outputs comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A ‘Community Ownership and Engagement with Heritage’ network - for organisations like Cumbria Wildlife Trust and Eden Rivers Trust who are facilitating community ownership and asset transfer, to discuss and learn from each other. • Volunteer celebration and learning days – for all project volunteers and volunteers working for other similar projects/environmental organisations, to discuss, share and learn from experience. • Monthly reflection sessions will help the project team identify what has gone well, and lessons learned. • Specialist seminars - for specialist interest groups involved with the project and for those working on similar project to learn from the experiences. • Annual report on the project highlights and achievements to be shared with project partners, stakeholders and funders. • An end-of-project case study and webinar to highlight the successes and challenges of the project to be shared with other similar projects. <p>The Project Manager and WCRT Director (CEO) will deliver the presentations, informed by the experiences of the entire project team as relayed during the monthly reflection sessions.</p>	
Need/opportunity/justification	
<p>This is a newly-written activity for the Delivery Phase.</p> <p>The project offers opportunities to support the sector and increase the organisational resilience of the partner organisations. Lessons learned can be shared with River Trusts partners and other organisations (Wildlife Trusts, Environmental Charities, Community Groups) about running corporate volunteering, guided walks events, site management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new initiative in Cumbria – the Cumbria Coastal Community Forest - is watching this project with interest and wants to follow the A Wilder Walkmill project model for its funding streams, and wishes to meet with the Project Manager regularly. • National Trust, for example, might purchase the adjacent Weddicar Woods site, and are keen to see the development of the A Wilder Walkmill project to share WCRT’s reputation, resources and knowledge of the area. • Eden Rivers Trust (ERT) intend to enter the Development Phase of an NLHF application in 2023 in advance of a four-year (2024 – 2028) project of conservation activities to improve natural heritage along rivers in the Eden Valley area. The Wilder Walkmill project is slightly further ahead along the project programme. This clearly creates a very good 	

<p>opportunity for WCRT to share lessons learned within ERT, about working with NLHF and specialist consultants within the NLHF context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERT are very keen to learn more about the process of Community Asset Transfer, and community ownership of sites like Walkmill. They are keen to understand how they might be able to adopt this model. • The new Cumberland Council are investigating a similar community asset transfer for their Longlands Lake site and will use lessons learnt and case studies from this project. 	
Who will manage and run the activity?	Learning and Outreach Manager Project Manager WCRT Director (CEO)
What training will they require?	Event, Communications and Partnership/Stakeholder Management
Delivery partners / stakeholders	Cumbria Wildlife Trust Eden Rivers Trust Cumberland Council
Timescale	Deliver throughout project – October 2024-October 2026 End of project event and sharing – January-May 2027
Target audience	Project partners and stakeholders, specifically: Eden Rivers Trust <i>“if you do go ahead with a sharing experience element on your NHLF bid in relations to community engagement through to ownership (e.g. like CWT have achieved in Staveley) we would be very interested in being part of that. I believe that is the plan for the Cold Springs site in Penrith that is part of our bid.”</i> (Director, Eden Rivers Trust)
Targets and measures of success	1 x ‘Community Ownership and Engagement with Heritage’ network event per year with 5-10 participants (4 x events and 20-40 participants over course of project) 1 x volunteer celebration and learning day per year with minimum of 20 participants at each (4 events and 80 participants over course of project) 1 x specialist seminar per year with 10 participants at each (4 events and 40 participants over course of project) 1 x annual report (4 x digital reports over the course of the project)
Management and maintenance considerations	None beyond the end of the project.
Barriers to engagement	Mitigation
Lack of time for busy staff working with partners	Summary PDF or similar digital presentation to be made available after each event.
NLHF outcomes	
A wider range of people will be involved in heritage (mandatory outcome)	
The funded organisation will be more resilient	Yes

People will have greater wellbeing	
People will have developed skills	Yes
The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit	
The local economy will be boosted	
Heritage will be in better condition	
Heritage will be identified and better explained	
People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions	
Impact and legacy	
Partner organisations will be more resilient. Strategic partnerships will be stronger. Partners will value the project work and the partnerships more highly.	

Interpretation Plan

The need for interpretation



Visitor experience audit

The site presents a pleasant natural environment for visitors:

- It offers a limited variety of circular routes that start and end in the Moresby Parks village or at the site car park.
- Density of the tree cover and vegetation gives an impression of semi-wildness.
- It appears remote and quiet.
- There is ample wildlife in summer - mainly insects and birds - and much of the wildlife is present year-round. There are deer, adders, red squirrels, and minibeasts in the bodies of water.

Existing interpretation

There is no interpretation at the site:

- Unless you had prior knowledge, there is nothing to indicate that this is a recovering mining landscape that has been woodland since only the 1990s.
- Even among Open Day guides there was some uncertainty as to the precise nature of the site and its features.
- Interpretation can raise awareness and engage visitors with the natural and cultural heritage here.
- The mining heritage extends beyond the areas leased to MPC, and it would be beneficial to explore interpretation outside the site.





The need for interpretation

Consultation and audience interest (media)

- The two most popular media among open day respondents are the Information Panel then Information Post.
- Online respondents preferred the Information Post, followed by the Information Panel.
- The lack of enthusiasm for some (i.e. audio, play) elements was perhaps due to the profile of online respondents, and the lack of younger people submitting responses (compare the Youth Panel and schools responses).

A map would be great. Signposts are a must. (Online survey respondent)

Focus group with Moresby Primary School, School Council

School councillors were shown moodboard images from a draft of the interpretation plan. The councillors were most keen on the Interpretation Panel example used where the use of 3D models provided an interactive angle.

Puzzles and interactives were also popular, as were the distinctive sculptured benches themed and styled to reflect their location. Less popular, but still selected, were the overhead plan view panel, and the information post ('with purpose').

The 3D model / interpretation panel was 2x as popular as the next-most popular item.

Tells people where they can walk and what they can see on that walk
Pupil at Moresby Park School, on Information Post.

Conclusion

There is a clear justification for information panels and information posts to satisfy a demand for knowledge amongst the online respondents, and to provide basic site information, especially wayfinding.

In terms of interpretive media, the responses from younger consultees and the current users show that engagement through interpretation, via sculptural and interactive elements and interventions, for example, will also be popular and will offer opportunities to broaden engagement.





The need for interpretation

Consultation and audience interest (stories)

- Online survey respondents would like to know more about the industrial history of the site (60%), the vegetation (50%) and the wildlife (48%).
- For current users (dog walkers), natural heritage is of far greater interest than cultural
- Amongst younger respondents (Scouts and Youth Panel), the interest tended to focus on the natural heritage, but industrial heritage is still of interest.
- identifying the trees at the site and the types of wildflowers, and (scouts) understanding the species of plants and trees was a strong interest.

Focus group with Moresby Primary School, School Council

Pupils were asked which topics they would be interested in finding out more about at Walkmill. They voted on the topics and provided comments:

“Don’t often find out about past. It’s interesting to learn because people don’t know” (School Councillor)

- (6) The wood in the past (*“Who was in mine”*)
- (5) Mammals (*“People want to know what type there are; People like to see them”*)
- (3) How mining worked in the past (*“Aware of current situation, to reopen, bringing income into area, Process changed a lot – good to know what was there”*)
- (2) People who lived in the village in the past (*“You might not know that someone worked in the mine”*)
- (1) Rivers and streams (*“People don’t tend to focus on this”*)

When asked about the mining memorial, councillors responded that the following aspects were important to consider:

- The people who were working in the mine
- Remembering what they did for us
- Old photos of the mine
- Dates of when mine opened and closed
- Names on memorial and what they did in mine

- Date they died

Conclusion

There is clear justification for including both natural and cultural heritage stories across the interpretation.

In terms of natural heritage, being able to identify and better understand species present is of greatest interest. Ongoing research as well as monitoring and conservation activities will support the development of interpretation.

There are many unknown and untold stories that will be collected as part of the project. As such, co-creation activities are planned for the Delivery Phase in order to address gaps in knowledge and understanding and to guide interpretation.

The need for interpretation



Routes through the site

Some of the public footpaths are well maintained and used. Some of the public footpaths are impassible in winter. The permissive paths vary in their ease of use:

- Most visitors use the public footpaths and permissive footpaths that traverse Areas 2 and 4 the site. These are where the entrances and the better gravelled paths are.
- Anecdotally, the majority of users do a circular walk from Moresby Parks using the 417015 (RUFC to Miners' Road, via pond 6 and bridge 13).
- Fewer people start at the car park or use the paths east of the main north/south route.
- A broken bridge, flooded areas and poorly-maintained or quality paths present barriers.
- The informal bench viewpoints are popular because they provide a resting place.
- Very few people visit Area 1 ('the secret valley') which is furthest from the entrances. Local respondents expressed surprise that this was even possible
- Anecdotally people do get lost, and the less-well used permissive paths are neither always obvious nor easy to follow.
- Some wayfinding signage would be beneficial as enhancing user enjoyment.
- The visitor surveys in 2019 and 2022 both recorded footpaths as the preferred improvement.

Footpath improvement and maintenance, with some kind of legacy, should be a core part of the project.

*"People really want to see improvements to footpaths."*¹

*"It would be useful to understand where the circular walking routes are and how long they are when you arrive"*²

*"A map would be great, I parked at the rugby club and walked down, from this information I see I am missing a lot! Signposts are a must for people to get the full benefit"*³

*"As an 88-year old I would like more seats and or picnic tables"*⁴

*"A slightly expanded path network (not necessarily gravelled paths) to allow young people to find multiple routes through the wood without leaving the key boundaries – this together with some orienteering type-markers could allow us to teach navigation, as well as play wide games."*⁵

¹ The Evaluator 2022, *Walkmill Data Driven Decisions*, p12

² Survey Respondent

³ Survey Respondent

⁴ Survey Respondent

⁵ 1st Hensingham Scouts, Leader

Messages for communication



Management Aims

The strategic aims for the project are set out on page 32. Interpretation can deliver messages:

- So people can learn about the heritage of Walkmill Wood.
- To engage and inspire people, in particular the local community, to value the heritage of the site.
- To inspire local people to get involved in conservation.
- To support the resilience and sustainability of Partner Organisations (WCRT, WAG, MPC).
- Water management is necessary.

Audience Interest

- Knowledge about the heritage of the site is low, but people on the whole want to know more.
- We have evidence specifically for interest in animal and plant species, and their identification (for formal learners and young people attending uniformed groups).
- Pupils at the Moresby Primary were more keen to learn more about the history of the site than its natural heritage, which they felt they were already aware of.
- Some members of the local community want to know more about the history of the site.

Stories inherent in the resource – natural and cultural.

- The site was a busy colliery – a pit and open cast.
- The name Walkmill refers to an earlier mill.
- The village of Moresby Parks was built as a mining colony
- It was connected to the national rail network via a mineral railway.
- There were fatalities here.
- We can get some idea of how it worked from the documents available.
- On nationalisation, a reduced operation kept it open for a decade.
- In the 1960s, the buildings, dumps and ponds were abandoned.
- In the 1970s-90s the site was demolished and landscaped, and the spoil removed.
- Woodland was planted here, and the public footpath network has been maintained by the County Council since then.
- The wildlife and woodland have colonised the site.
- The woodland now relies on the continued support of the community.
- Management of the landscape is a continuing partnership.



Aims for Interpretation

People who engage with interpretation should:

Learning objectives

- Understand that you have free access to the entire woodland.
- Understand that footpath routes and some other parts of the site are accessible.
- Understand that being in the community woodland is good for you
- Understand that this was once the site of a colliery.
- Understand that Moresby Parks was originally a mining village for the colliery.
- Understand that this evolving landscape will thrive if managed well.
- Understand the different species to be found in the woodland now.
- Understand the importance of water and landscape management.

Behavioural outcomes

- Visit the site.
- Visit more often.
- Explore the site more.
- Clean up after their dogs.
- Respect the natural heritage - wildlife, vegetation and habitat.
- Want to support the ongoing management of this site and others like it.

Emotional outcomes

- Feel that this site is well managed.
- Feel that the site is free and accessible.
- Feel that this site is partly wild.
- Feel that the management regime is worthwhile.
- Feel that you can be on your own or get away from it all here.
- Feel well after engaging with the site.
- Want to look after the site and its heritage.
- Want to engage more with the natural and cultural heritage in their area.
- Want to spend more time outdoors.



Interpretation Concept

The Interpretation Plan has been designed to match the themes developed for activities - Shaping, Sharing and Sustaining the woodland.

A story for Walkmill Community Woodland

Walkmill Community Woodland helps us to understand that we walk hand-in-hand with nature. We have power and influence over it and vice-versa. Our relationship with the woodland heritage is continually evolving - we depend on each other, and can't exist without each other. We need to understand and work with the woodland heritage to co-exist and survive.

Central theme

Today nature occupies Walkmill Community Woodland, instead of the miners of old. This is your woodland. If you look after it, it will look after you.

Interpretation Theme 1



Theme 1 - Shaping the woodland

Walkmill Community Woodland has been changed and shaped by people for hundreds of years. Walkmill Community Woodland was once scarred, moulded and tipped for coal fuel. Recolonisation of the land by plants and animals now demonstrate the health and wellbeing benefits of the woodland.

Stories:

- Once farming land, a 'Walk Mill' was built in the 1800s to process wool for the farmers at Sands Close.
- Moresby Pit was sunk to work coal seams and surface deposits in the late 1800s.
- Moresby Parks was built to house miners that worked in the colliery.
- The mine operation left great marks on the landscape including a railway, and slag heaps.
- After the colliery shut in the 1960s, the land and 80 years' worth of waste lay abandoned for decades.
- Cumbria County Council and British Coal remediated the site for the benefit of the local community.
- Attempts at remediating the site in the 1970s were partially unsuccessful
- The remains of the mine buildings, processes and shafts meant the site was entombed beneath clay and landscaped, creating its present form.
- The site is a recovering landscape that is being reclaimed by nature.
- Only a few features are now left to mark this place as industrial.
- There are accessible and maintained public rights of way and footpaths through the wood.
- A Wilder Walkmill project has increased the flood resilience and natural capital value of the site through carefully-designed interventions.

Interpretation Theme 2



Theme 2 - Sharing the woodland

People and nature share the woodland. Memories of its mining past help us to understand and appreciate the difference it made to the local community. New and different memories and experiences are being made at the woodland today.

Stories:

- The community in Moresby Parks village and in West Cumbria have strong links to mining, especially Moresby Pit.
- Relatives of those miners can help us to understand what it was like to work in the mine
- Relatives of those miners can help us to understand what it was like to grow up in the miners' village
- Children of the miners remember playing in the abandoned mining landscape.
- We can come face-to-face with wildlife in the woodland
- We can trace the pathways of people in the past and see how new pathways have been created by both people and wildlife.
- The old routes have left traces, and the footpaths through the wood are like the deer paths through the woods.
- The new and upgraded paths are there to help the local community navigate around the site.
- This is a community woodland, owned by and managed for all the local community.
- Experiences of Walkmill Community Woodland volunteering allow different perspectives to be shared and allow reflection on working life and how work in the past by miners compare to the work that is done today.
- You can join in the Walkmill Community Woodland events and activities and share the benefits of being here

Interpretation Theme 3



Theme 3 - Sustaining the woodland

People need to work hard to manage and maintain the woodland. The benefits the woodland provides to people and nature, and the woodland's future, rely on our continued support and efforts.

Stories:

- This is your Walkmill Community Woodland, and walking in the community woodland is rewarding.
- The site was converted to woodland in the 1990s, paid for a woodland grant scheme.
- The local community needs people to help manage the woodland so it works well for nature and wildlife.
- The local community needs people to volunteer to complete the works that enable continued access to the woodland.
- Volunteering is rewarding and good for wellbeing.
- There are lots of different ways to support nature, and this community woodland.
- We can learn about climate and environmental change from this woodland in a recovering landscape.



Resources to support interpretive content

The interpretation will draw on a body of historic documents and images, and also artefacts from the local area that help to bring the former colliery to life. Co-creation with target audiences will generate new content and images to connect the buried colliery with the community today. The following sections provide a summary account of the available resources, and where more resources are sought.

What documentary resources can we draw on?

- The archaeological report from Durham University provides an over arching narrative and routes into historic documents/archive collections.
- The habitat survey provides information on the conservation value of the site.
- The various archive collections relating to the site while it was a colliery are thought to cover its corporate history. Plant lists and the historic maps/plans (see below) illustrate the working of the pit.
- Durham Mining Museum account summarises the facts and figures: tonnage taken, numbers of employees above and below ground, names of seams worked
- The list of fatalities and accidents provides names and ages of those killed, and is also a glimpse into working conditions and practices at the time
- Transcripts from contemporary newspaper or report articles support the accounts of the fatalities and accidents, and the community response to these.
- Moresby Parks village itself is a mining colony with surviving features
- Personal collections / archives from the local community, including colliery tokens.

What image resources can we draw on?

- There are a very small number of historic images that show the colliery - i.e. the pithead postcard.
- There are very few, photographs of either the colliery or the site post-operation. The archive collection at Carlisle includes a small set of black and white photographs of the site, taken after the mine was abandoned and the buildings were demolished, but before the first phase of landscaping was carried out.
- Historic maps help to illustrate the site history (Tithe 1839 and first OS 1862 pre-date the pit at Walkmill, but show the Walk Mill; OS 1900 shows the mine and coke ovens, spoil heaps and railway; OS 1946 shows a much busier operation with aerial cables, a large opencast pit, and a mud lagoon).
- Archive sources (CRO(W) and NMM Durham) include small-scale plans of the site as well as larger-scale drawings associated with proposals for buildings such as pithead baths, toilets and an explosives store.
- DMM has between 3 and 6 abandonment plans in its archive.
- The Beacon Museum has offered the use of original artefacts.
- Maps donated by the Coal Board.
- Copies of original newspaper articles help to bring to life the historic accounts of accidents and life in the village.

What we need more of

- There are very few historic images available.
- We need target audiences to work with the project team to co-create interpretation and engage them with the heritage through this activity, making it relevant to their motivations and interests
- We need images of conservation and other volunteers contributing to the site.

Concept design



Design Process

Interpretation development will follow the following process:

- Co-creation
- Content development
- Design work (concept through to production)
- Artwork production
- Production and manufacture
- Installation or rollout

Design Principles

- **Hierarchical** - to support different levels of engagement across the site.
- **Sensitive to the site** - it is now a recovering landscape, with semi-natural woodland developing out of the plantations put here in the late 1990s. Interpretation needs to blend in and reflect the environment.
- **Environmentally friendly** - All materials should be should be sustainable in order to support the key messages.
- **Co-created and co-designed** - With target audiences to ensure objectives are delivered and to ensure that the local community voice comes through.
- **Sensory** - Encourage interaction with the surrounding through sight, sound, touch.
- **Light-touch** - Being as visual as possible to communicate ideas, rather than overly using words.
- **Provoke conversation** - Using visual queues and quotes to encourage people to have a conversation with others in their group (including their dog!).
- **Management and Maintenance** - outputs should be easy to maintain and manage, and need to have a 10-year lifespan.



White out

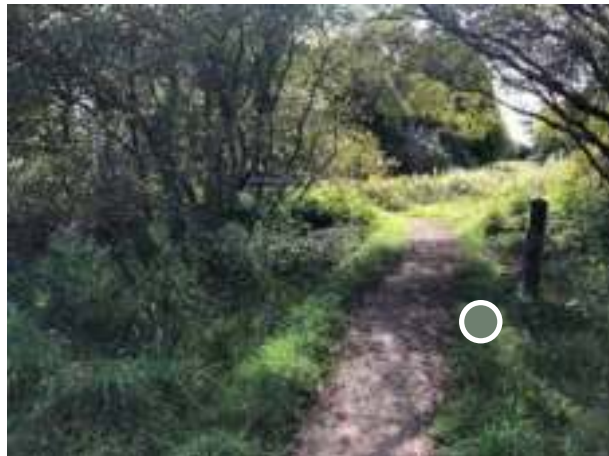


Mono

Graphic approach - palette



Core colours based on the landscape and slightly adjusted to brighten/darken tone.



Core colours



C00 M10 Y10 K85



C52 M30 Y85 K10



C58 M35 Y53 K20



C20 M45 Y85 K12



C18 M18 Y27 K00



C46 M18 Y00 K00

Accent colours



C12 M75 Y33 K00



C00 M15 Y80 K00



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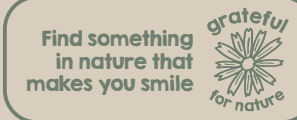
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Re sa cor aboresequam quos





Interpretation structure materials

Charred Douglas fir timber cut to size, with routed messaging then infill clear varnished.

This technique is used in architectural cladding, where structures need to be low maintenance and last for 20+ years.



Charring and routing



Interpretation graphic materials



NovaDura/EcoDura or equivalent for graphic panels:

- UV & Weather resistant
- Long term signage solutions
- 10 year warranty
- Outstanding print quality
- Anti-graffiti
- Vandal resistant
- Anti-bacterial
- 100% recyclable

Interactive elements to potentially include:

- Stone, metal, brushed steel or coreten steel inlay





Interpretation outputs - overview

IP.1 Village signage

Purpose:

- Provide orientation and encouragement
- Provide links with the village

IP.2 Arrival signage

Purpose:

- Provide orientation and encouragement
- (South entrance only) Show what the site used to look like

IP.3 Wayfinding discs/similar on routes

Purpose:

- Orientation

IP.3 Interpretive 'posts with purpose'

Purpose:

- Wayfinding
- Encourage people to look at/engage with the plant and tree species.
- To provide additional interpretation/engagement over and above wayfinding function.

IP.4 Bridge messaging

Purpose:

- Wayfinding disc locations
- Interpret wellbeing messages

IP.4 Interpretive interventions

Purpose:

- In-depth interpretation/engagement.
- Each should provide a playful element, or active engagement, and meet interpretive objectives.
- Each to have an interactive element that communicates the main story
- Each to have a gratitude/wellbeing activity

Location-specific objectives:

- Bench 1: Interpret historic and modern water management at the site
- Bench 2: Interpret the relationship of species to habitat at the site and the role of volunteering.
- Bench 3: Interpret the habitat at and remediation of the site, furtive species, and ongoing management.
- Bench 4: To provide bench seating, and to interpret the transport of coal and people in and out of the site
- Bench 5: Interpret the site's industrial archaeology and history, and its role now as community woodland.

IP.4 Tactile trail

Purpose:

- To provide engagement with the 'furtive' wildlife of the woodland

IP.4 Interpretive benches

Purpose:

- Encouraging visitors to think about something while sat down
- Interpreting recovering landscape. Then and now. Possibly using quotes from the mining past and quotes from now (to link in with the oral history project).



Interpretation outputs - village signage

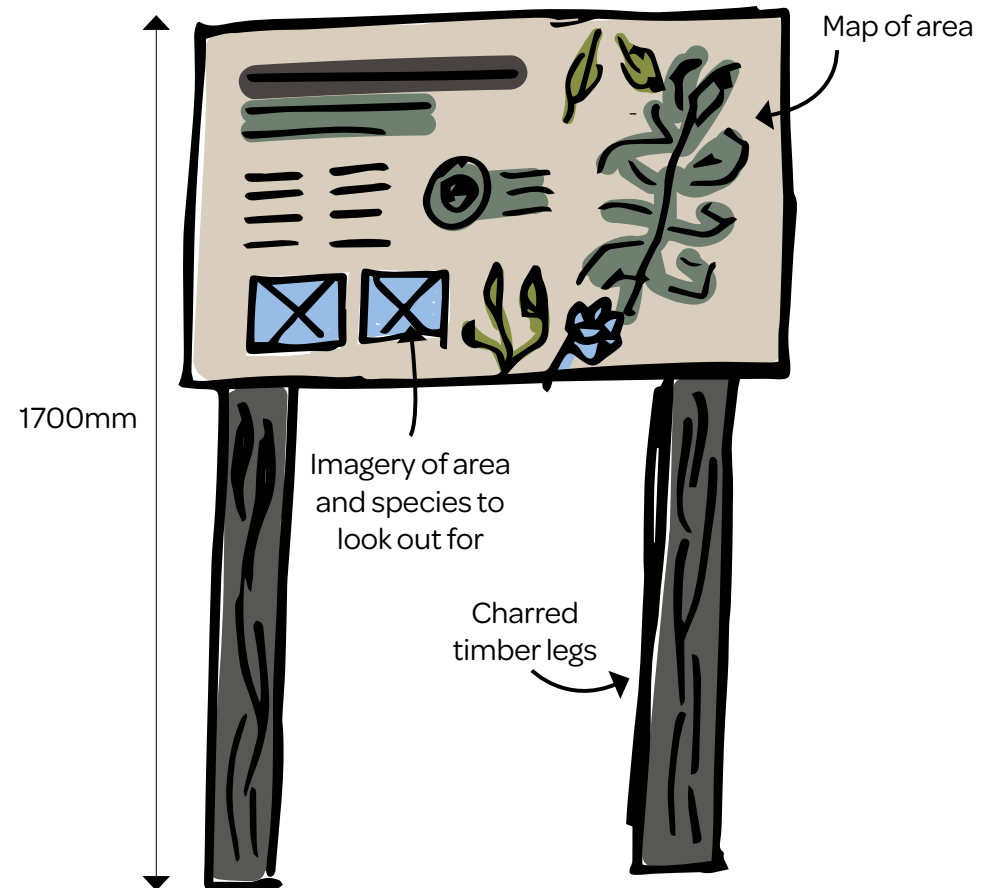
IP.1 Rugby club (at north route in from village)

Stories

- This is a community woodland, owned by and managed for all the local community.
- There are accessible and maintained public rights of way and footpaths through the wood.
- You can join in the Walkmill Wood events and activities and share the benefits of being here
- This is your Walkmill Wood, and walking in the community woodland is rewarding.
- Volunteering is rewarding.
- Moresby Parks was built to house miners that worked in the colliery not far from here.



Rugby Club upright panel /
North entrance upright panel





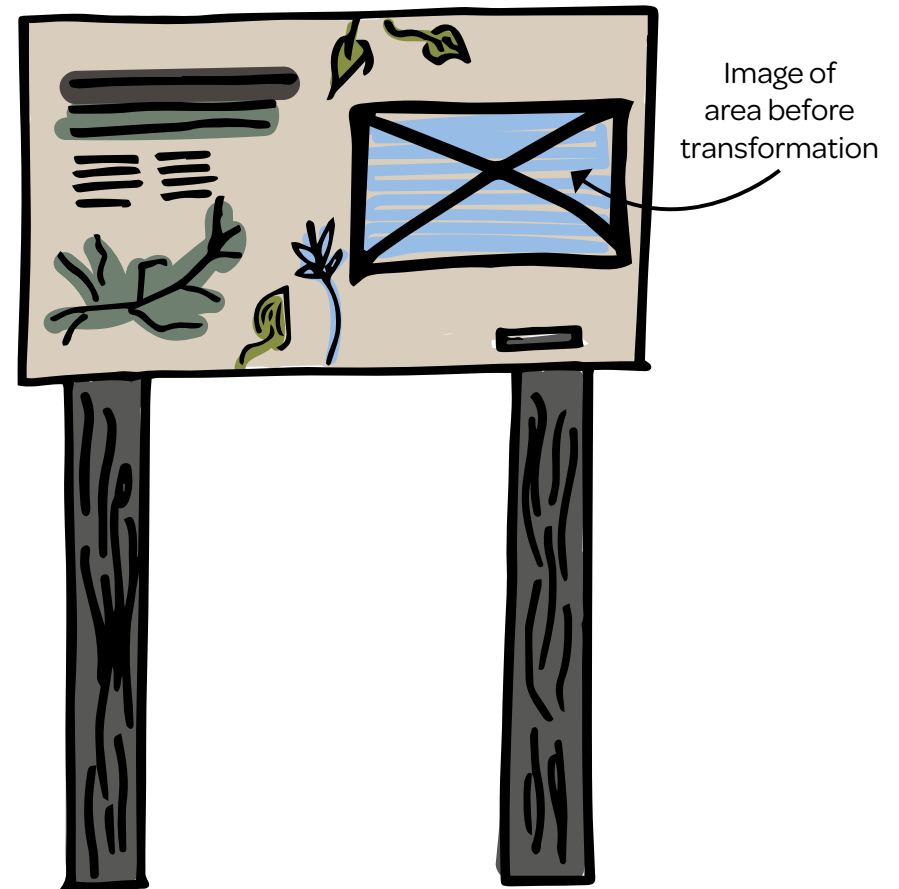
Interpretation outputs - village signage

IP.1 At junction (from south route in from village).

Stories

- The site is a recovering landscape that is being reclaimed by nature.
- Only a few features are now left to mark this place as industrial.
- There are accessible and maintained public rights of way and footpaths through the wood.
- The mine operation left great marks on the landscape including a railway, and slag heaps.
- We can trace the pathways of people in the past and see how new pathways have been created by both people and wildlife.
- Volunteering is rewarding.
- Moresby Parks was built to house miners that worked in the colliery not far from here.

Junction upright panel / South entrance upright panel





Interpretation outputs - arrival signage

IP.2 Arrival signage locations



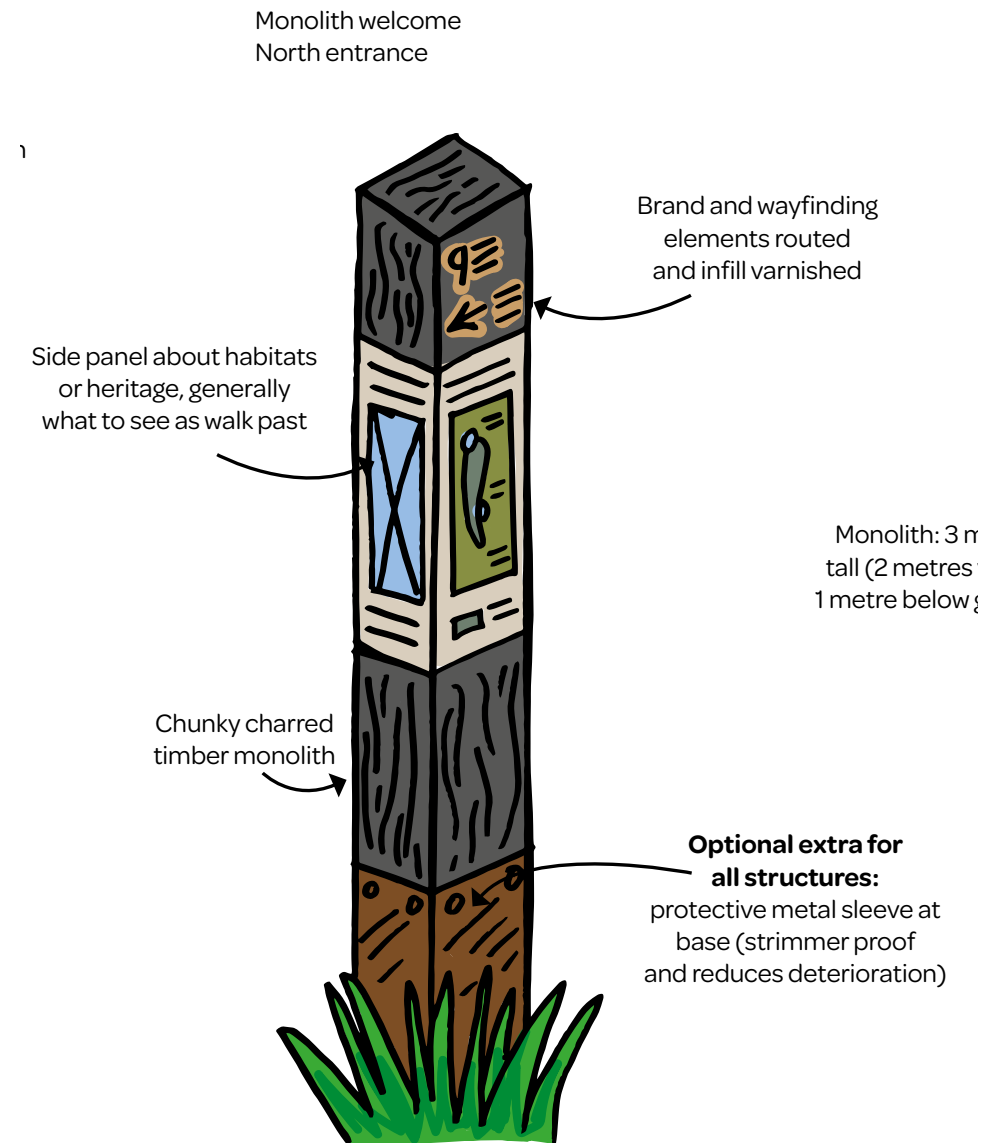
Interpretation outputs - arrival signage



IP.2 North entrance: Map-based orientation focus.

Stories

- This is your Walkmill Wood, and walking in the community woodland is rewarding.
- There are accessible and maintained public rights of way and footpaths through the wood.
- The old routes have left traces, and the footpaths through the wood are like the deer paths through the woods.
- The site is a recovering landscape that is being reclaimed by nature.
- Stick and flick.



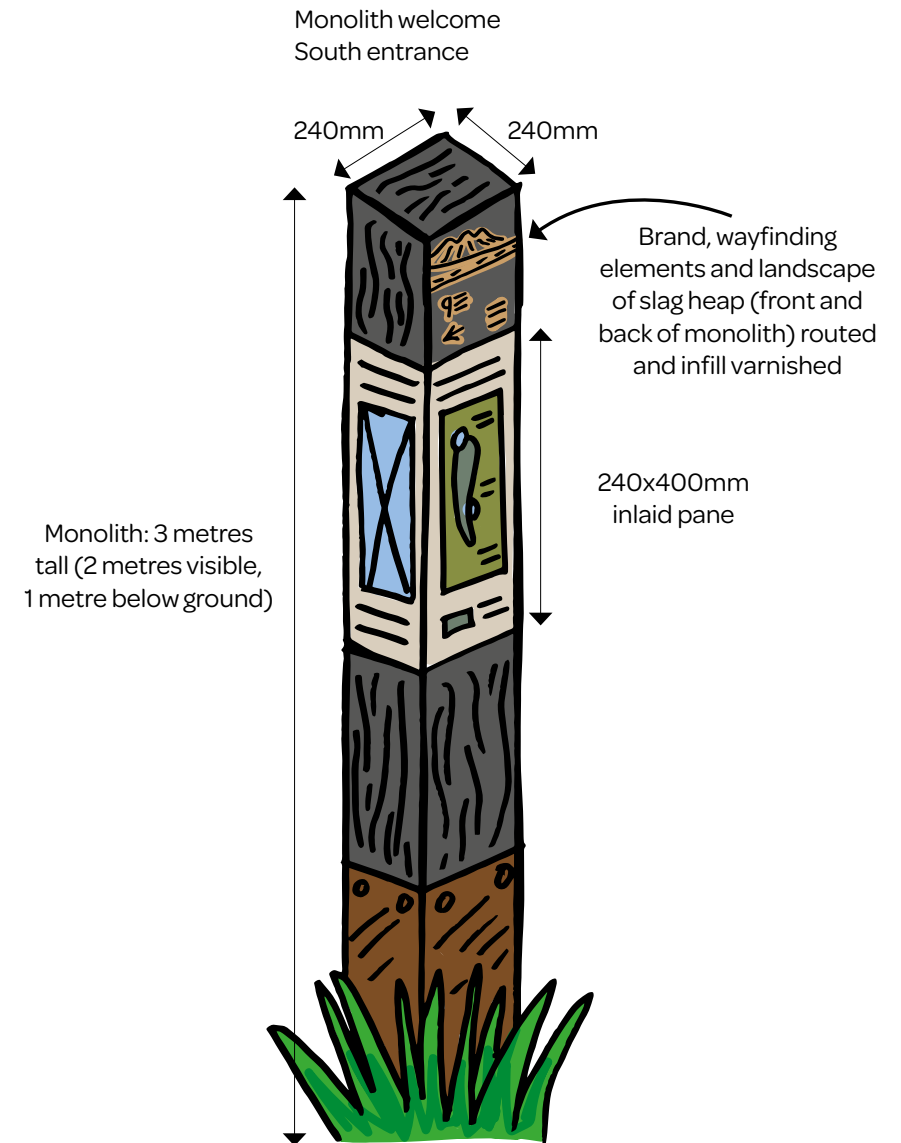
Interpretation outputs - arrival signage



IP.2 South entrance (car park - next to picnic bench)

Stories

- Moresby Pit was sunk to work coal seams and surface deposits in the late 1800s.
- The mine operation left great marks on the landscape including a railway, and slag heaps.
- After the colliery shut in the 1960s, the land and 80 years' worth of waste lay abandoned for decades.
- Cumbria County Council and British Coal remediated the site for the benefit of the local community.
- The site is a recovering landscape that is being reclaimed by nature.
- Stick and flick

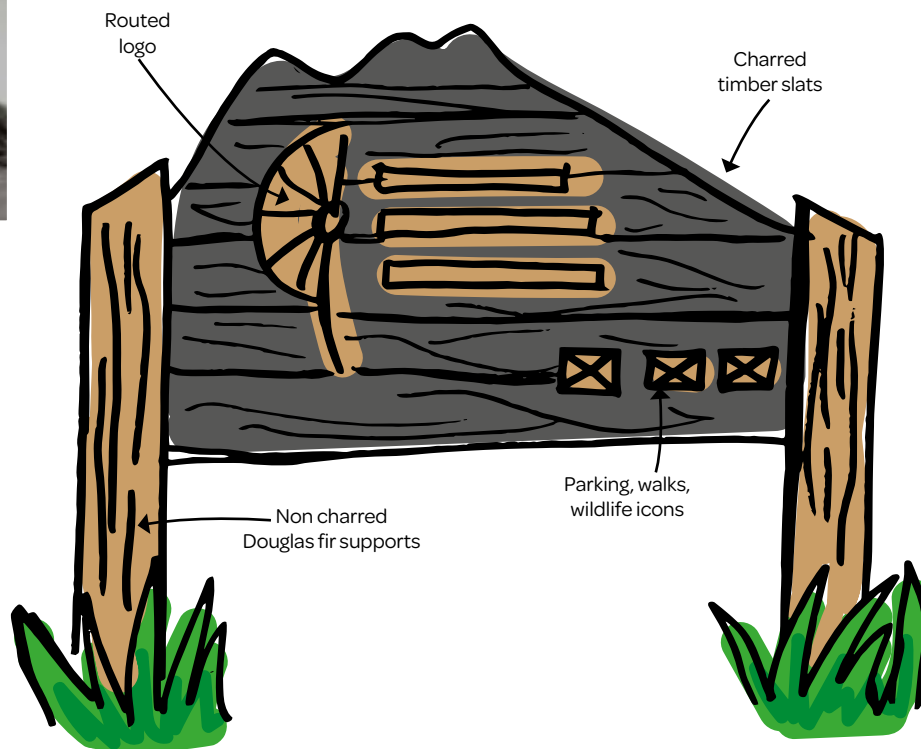




Interpretation outputs - arrival signage

IP.2 Threshold sign (sign saying Walkmill Community Woodland). Themed sign.

Charred timber slats shaped at the top to loosely reflect the shape of the old slag heap



Slatted structure with corten steel



Entrance to Walkmill Community Woodland

Proposed area for threshold sign

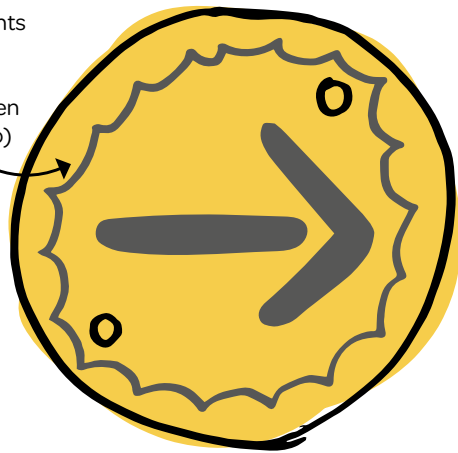


Interpretation outputs - wayfinding signage

IP.3 Wayfinding discs/similar on routes.

x100

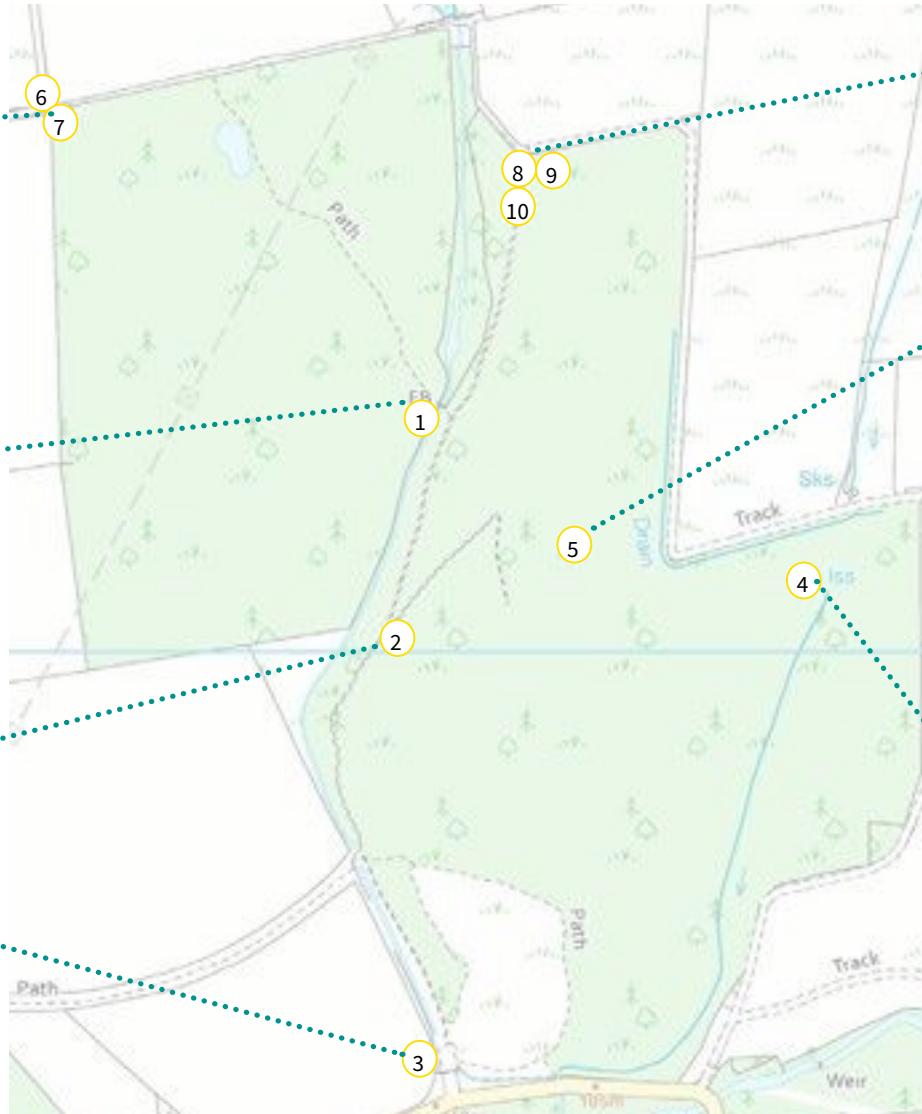
Decorative elements
to reflect the
Walkmill tokens
(bottom right token
of Walkmill photo)





Interpretation outputs - Interpretive 'posts with purpose'

IP.3 Interpretive 'posts with purpose' locations. NB numbers 6-10 are 'sculptural bollards'





Interpretation outputs - wayfinding signage

IP.3 Interpretive 'posts with purpose'

Two types of post - x 5 wayfinding with stories - Focus on plant/tree species
x 5 way-preventing (bollard function)

Post 1:

- Alder tree
- This is a community woodland, owned by and managed for all the local community.

Post 2:

- Rye grass
- We can trace the pathways of people in the past and see how new pathways have been created by both people and wildlife. The old routes have left traces, and the footpaths through the wood are like the deer paths through the woods.

Post 3:

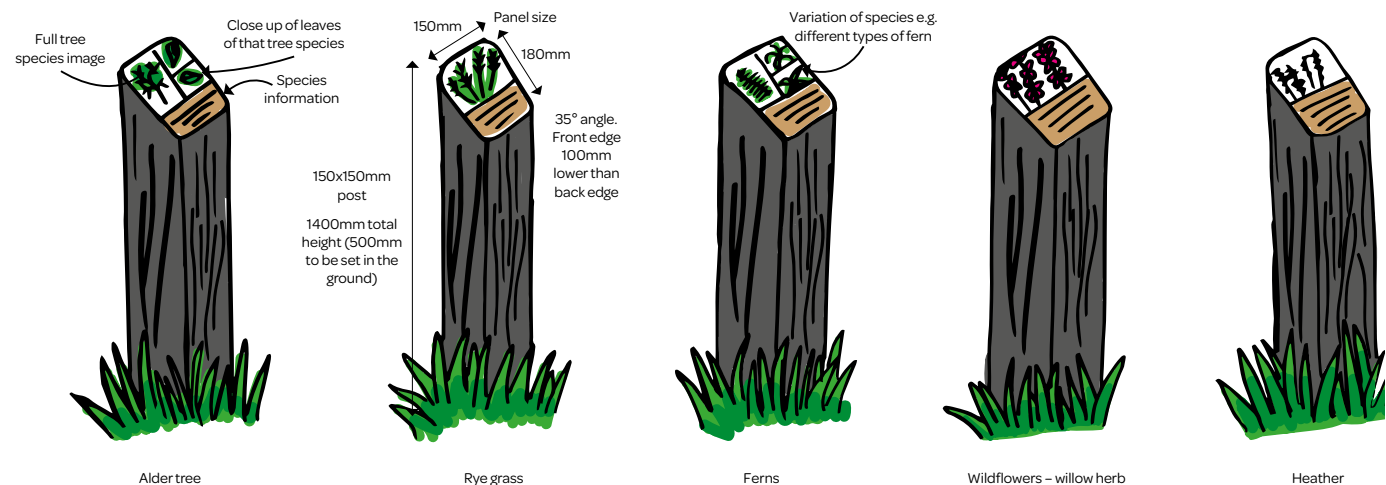
- Ferns
- The community in Moresby Parks village and in West Cumbria have strong links to mining, especially Moresby Pit. You can join in the Walkmill Wood events and activities and share the benefits of being here

Post 4:

- Wildflowers - willow herb
- We can come face-to-face with wildlife in the woodland:

Post 5:

- Heather



Interpretation outputs - bridge messaging



IP.4 Bridge messaging locations

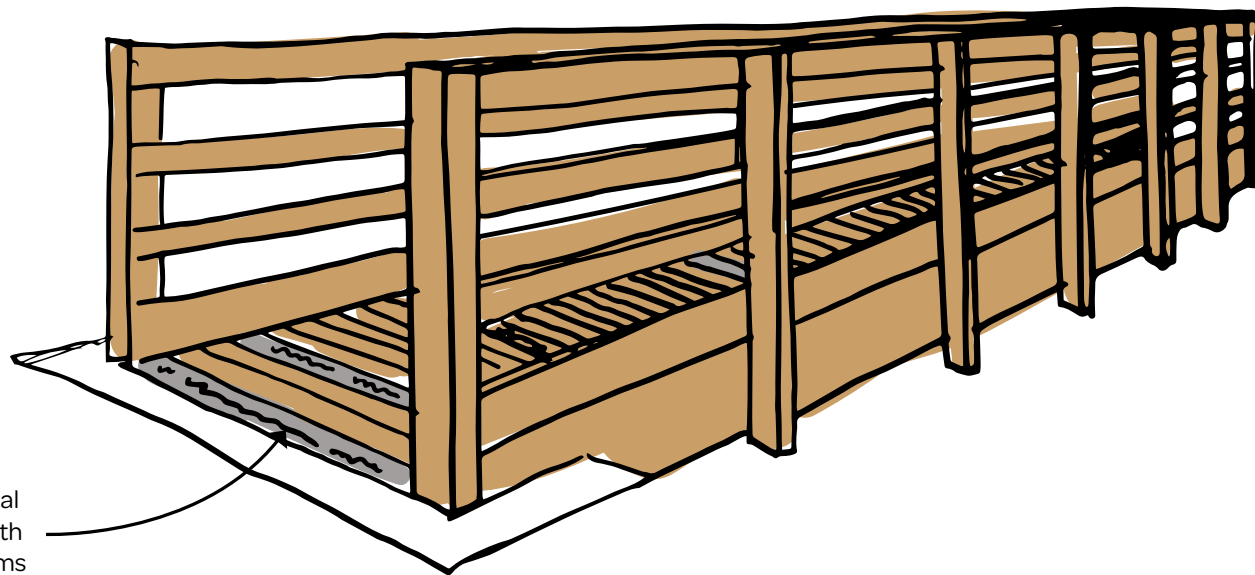




Interpretation outputs - bridge messaging

IP.4 Bridge Messaging

Stories - Focus on benefits of nature
on wellbeing messaging - to tie in
with wellbeing messaging on main
interventions



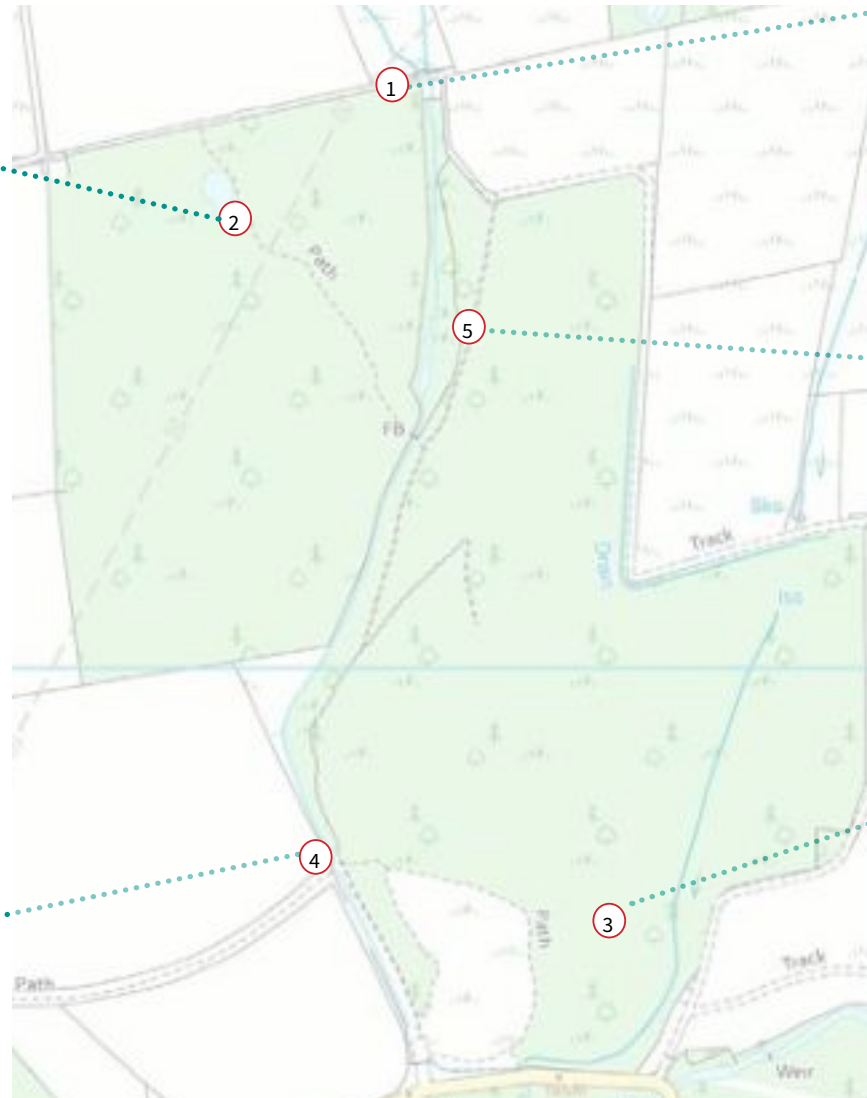
Laser cut metal
bridge slats with
stories or poems





Interpretation outputs - interpretive interventions

IP.4 Interpretive interventions locations





Interpretation outputs - interpretive interventions

IP.4 Dam wall and new pond

Stories

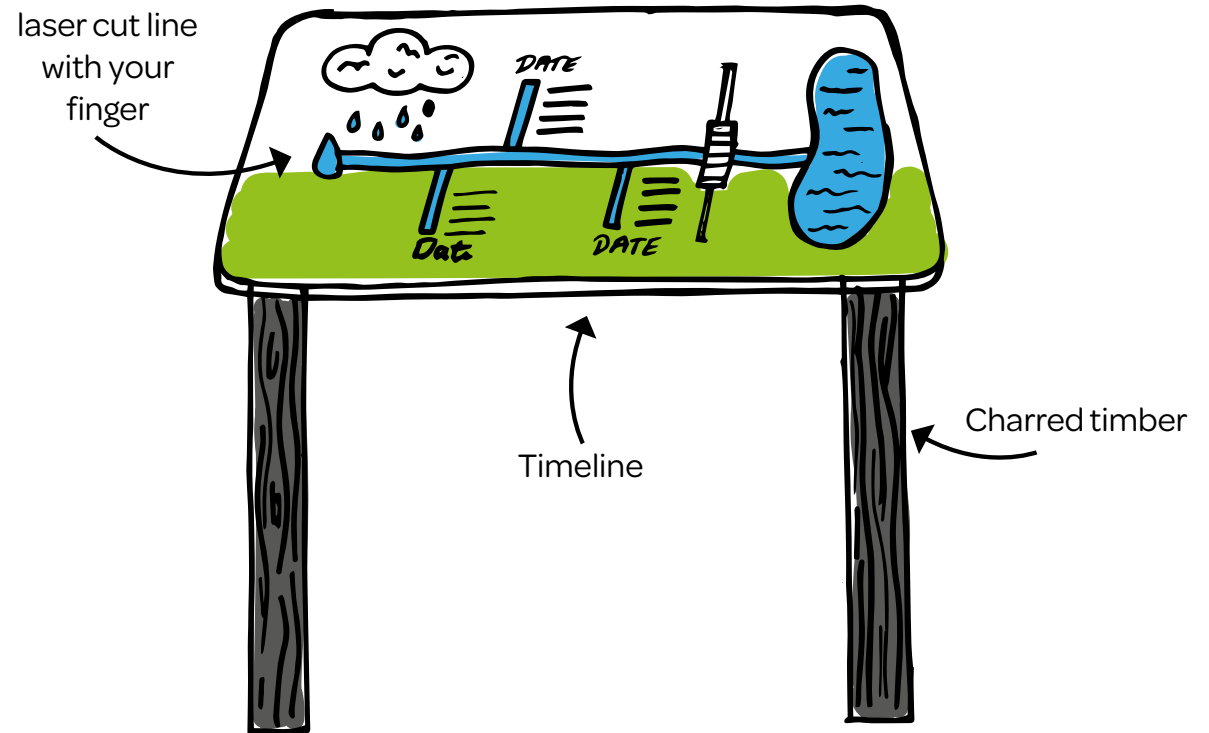
- This wall is one of only a few features are now left to mark this place as industrial.
- The Walkmill Wood project has increased the flood resilience and natural capital value of the site through carefully-designed interventions.
- The community in Moresby Parks village and in West Cumbria have strong links to mining, especially Moresby Pit.

Interactive

- Location of entry point of the historical watercourse and damming.
- Modern approach to water control/storage story can start here too - river restoration and flood control.
- Include a gratitude/wellbeing activity prompt e.g. can you hear the sound of the water? how does it make you feel?

Dam wall and new pond

Follow the laser cut line with your finger



841x594mm (A1) lectern base with additional panel on top with cut out lines and details to provide tactile interactivity



Interpretation outputs - interpretive interventions

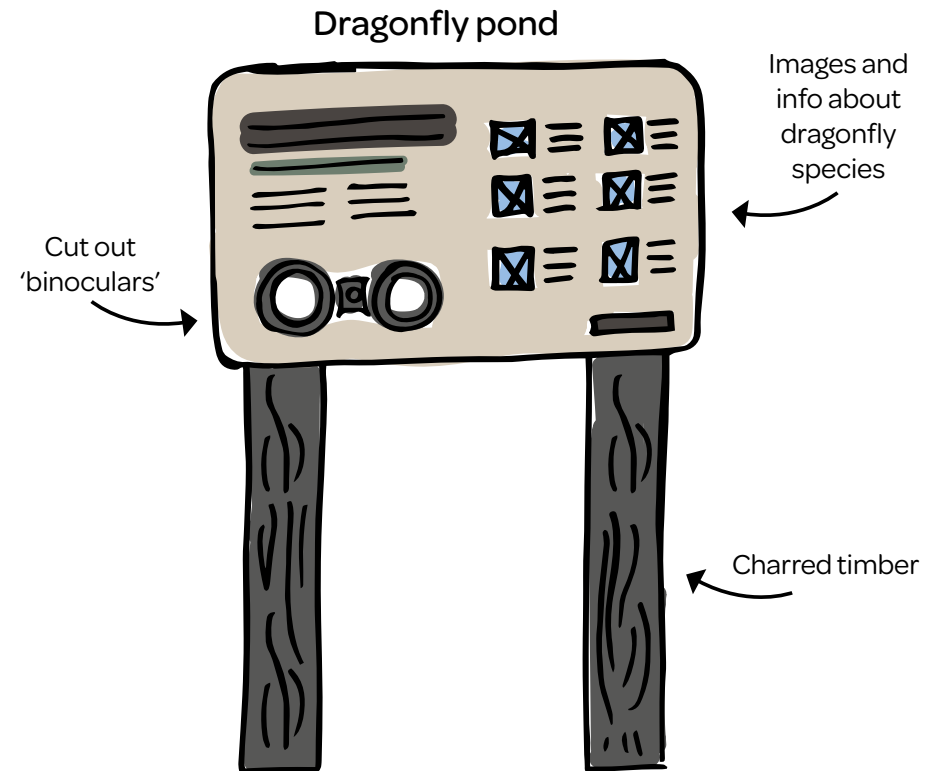
IP.4 Dragonfly pond

Stories

- Info about dragonflies
- Info about habitat management
- We can come face-to-face with wildlife in the woodland
- You can join in the Walkmill Wood events and activities and share the benefits of being here
- This is a community woodland, owned by and managed for all the local community.
- The local community needs people to help manage the woodland so it works well for nature and wildlife.
- Volunteering is rewarding
- We can learn about climate and environmental change from this woodland in a recovering landscape.
- Dragonfly guy - meet the expert

Interactive

- What can you see through here?
- What you can spot in the pond?
- Include a gratitude/wellbeing activity prompt e.g. Imagine whizzing over the water like a dragonfly. How fast can you run?



841x594mm (A1) standard upright panel would have circular cut outs to view the pond through, giving the impression that the visitor is looking through binoculars



Interpretation outputs - interpretive interventions



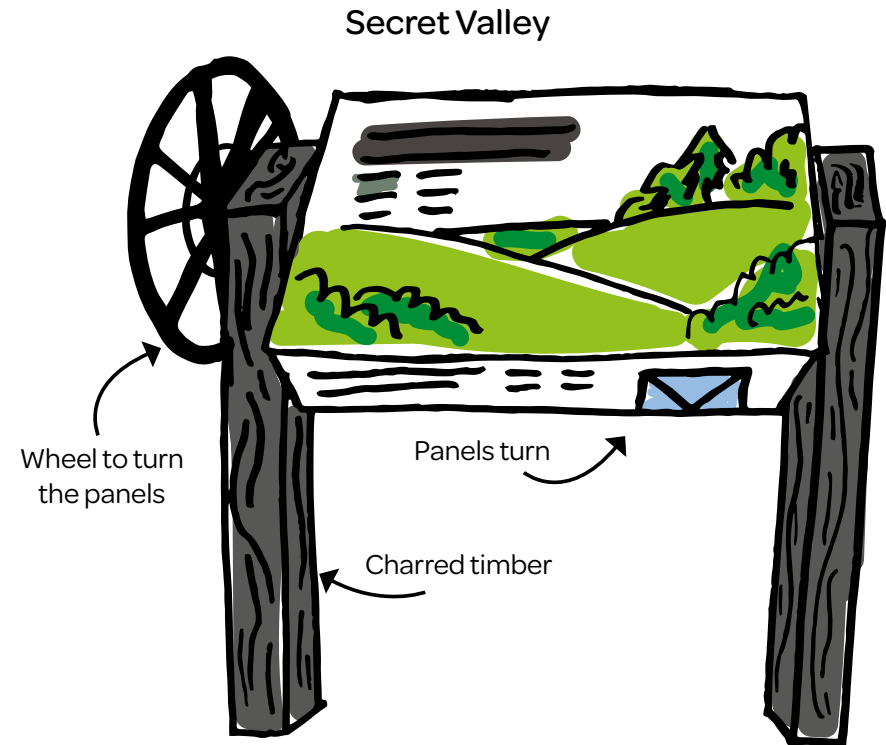
IP.4 Secret valley

Stories

- The old routes have left traces, and the footpaths through the wood are like the deer paths through the woods.
- The site is a recovering landscape that is being reclaimed by nature.
- Furtive species and the habitat they want to be in.
- The remains of the mine buildings, processes and shafts meant the site was entombed beneath clay and landscaped, creating its present form.

Interactive

- Turn the panel to see the habitats.
- Include a gratitude/wellbeing activity prompt e.g. Imagine calling this home. Can you make a den somewhere in the secret valley?



3 off 841x350mm panels. Wheel turns the panels to show habitats, animals and birds





Interpretation outputs - interpretive interventions

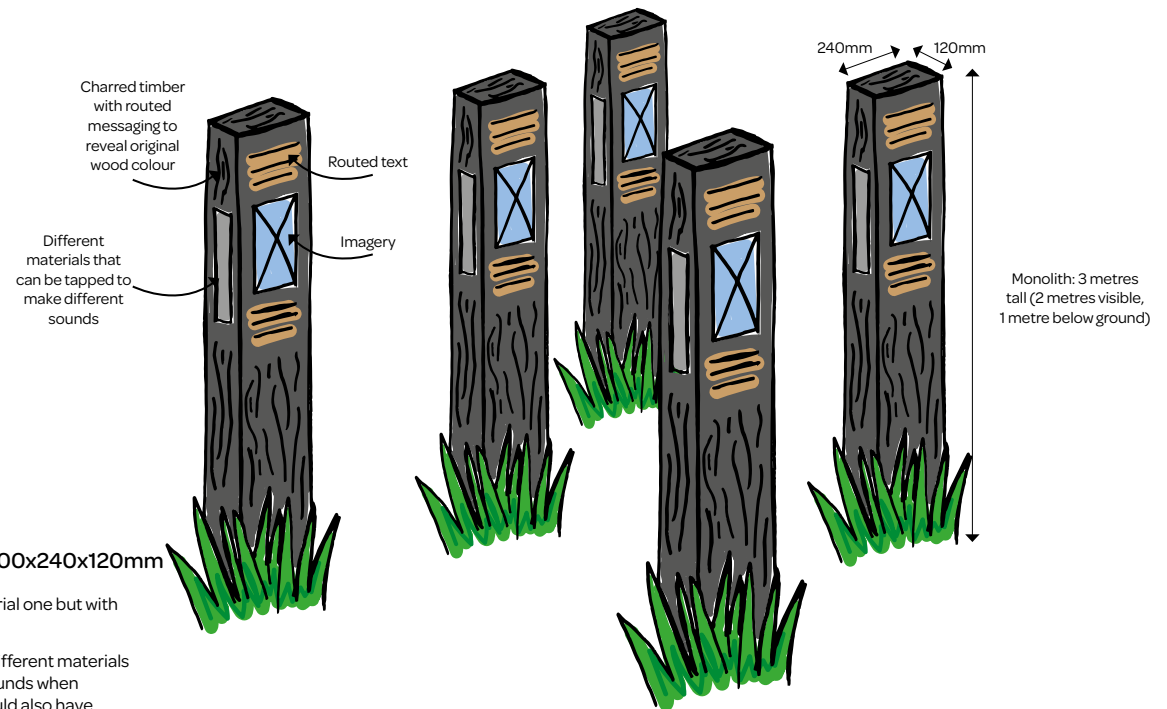
IP.4 At the junction of railway with miners' path

Stories

- Moresby Parks was built to house miners that worked in the colliery.
- Relatives of those miners can help us to understand what it was like to grow up in the miners' village
- The mine operation left great marks on the landscape including a railway, and slag heaps.
- The remains of the mine buildings, processes and shafts meant the site was entombed beneath clay and landscaped, creating its present form.
- The site is a recovering landscape that is being reclaimed by nature.
- Only a few features, like the weighbridge, are now left to mark this place as industrial.

Interactive

- Sensory aspect - sounds including miners clogs, woodpeckers, railway sounds
- Include a gratitude/wellbeing activity prompt e.g. Imagine the sounds of the miners of old. What can you hear today?



Railway junction 3000x240x120mm

Same structure as memorial one but with different finish and use.

Each timber could have different materials that produce different sounds when tapped. The materials could also have different shapes drilled and cut into them so the sound is different if you have two of the same material on one post.





Interpretation outputs - interpretive interventions

IP.4 Memorial - At the dams

Stories

- Moresby Pit was sunk to work coal seams and surface deposits in the late 1800s.
- Moresby Parks was built to house miners that worked in the colliery.
- After the colliery shut in the 1960s, the land and 80 years' worth of waste lay abandoned for decades.
- The remains of the mine buildings, processes and shafts meant the site was entombed beneath clay and landscaped, creating its present form.
- The site is a recovering landscape that is being reclaimed by nature.
- The community in Moresby Parks village and in West Cumbria have strong links to mining, especially Moresby Pit.
- Relatives of those miners can help us to understand what it was like to work in the mine
- This is a community woodland, owned by and managed for all the local community.
- Experiences of Walkmill Wood volunteering allow different perspectives to be shared and allow reflection on working life and how work in the past by miners compare to the work that is done today.

Interactive

- The viewpoint of the only photograph of the colliery.
- Possible outline of buildings so they can be 'seen'. The below modern photograph is not the same perspective as the historic photograph (wrong direction).
- Include a gratitude/wellbeing activity prompt e.g. What is special about Walkmill today? What are you thankful for?



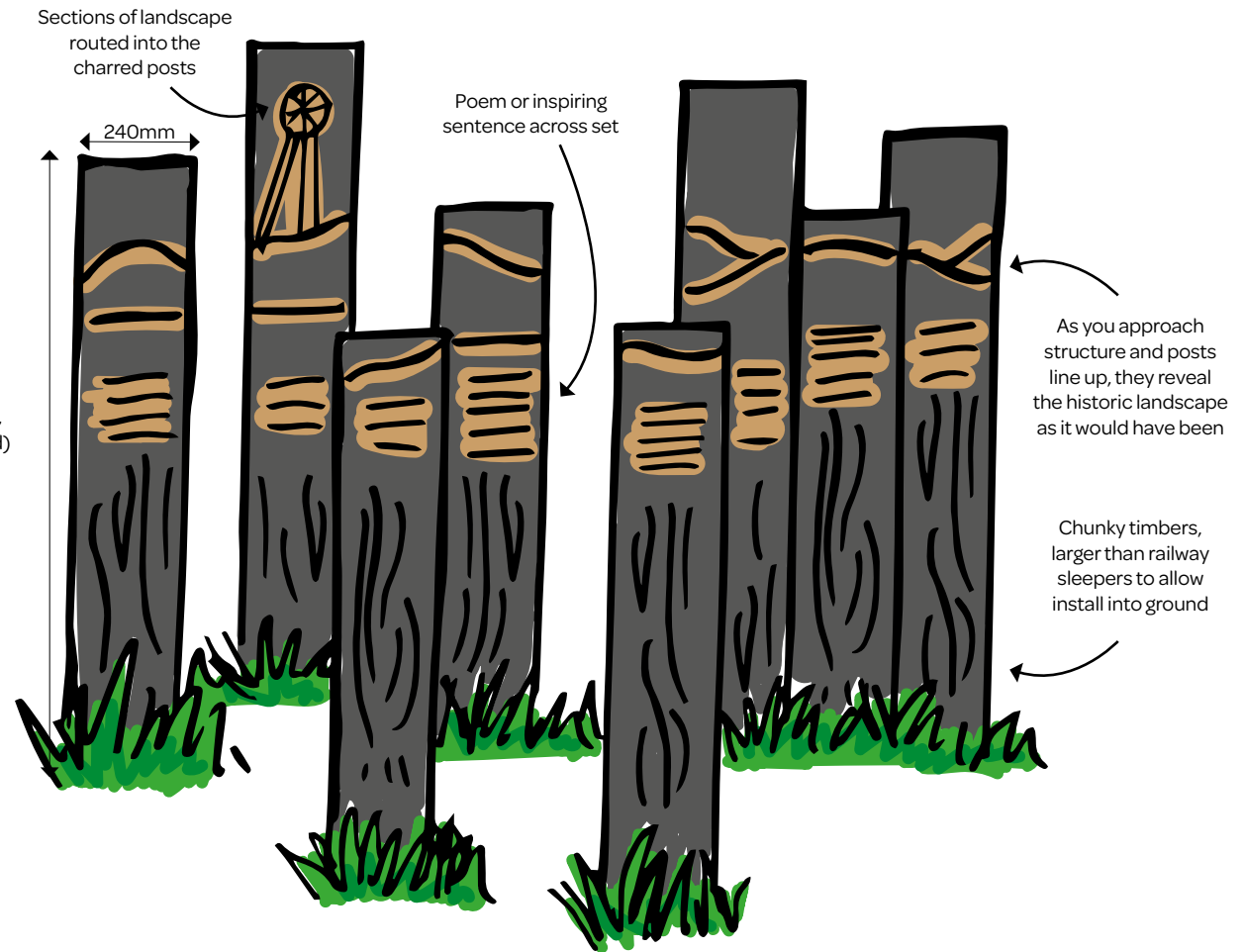
Interpretation outputs - interpretive interventions

Memorial 3000x240x120mm

Charred timber posts each with a routed section of landscape of the area and the old mining wheel. When stood from a certain angle the sections of landscape on each post will be visible as one landscape. The posts could also feature a poem that works together across the landscape, or individual prose on each post to inspire and encourage contemplation of the area.



Monolith: 3 metres tall (2 metres visible, 1 metre below ground)



Interpretation outputs - tactile trail

IP.4 Tactile Trail round Secret Valley

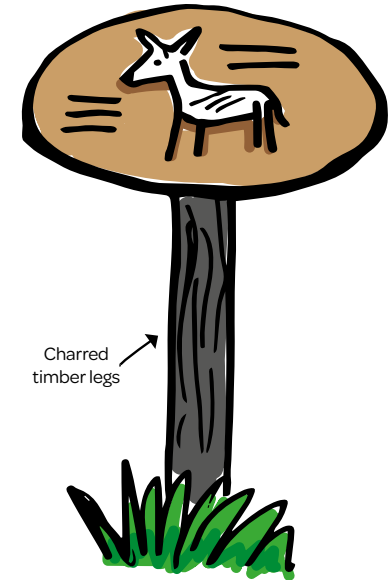
Purpose

- Engage visitors (local families with young children) with wildlife.
- To be a trail around the new footpaths that are being created.

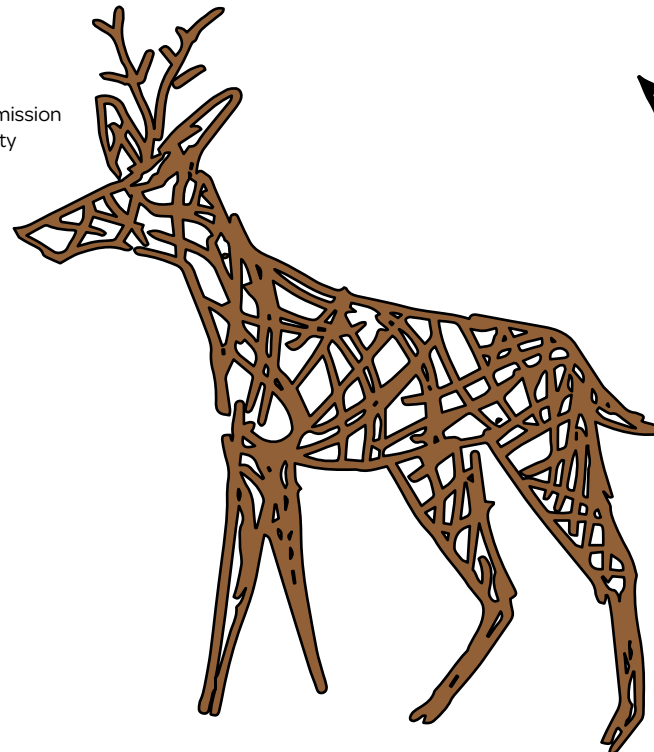
Stories

- Furtive species and the habitat they want to be in.
- Lizards
- Adders
- Grasshopper warbler
- Deer
- Butterflies

Nature trail could have textured animals/species for visitors to take brass rubbings from



Co-creation commission could have a variety of outputs





Interpretation outputs - interpretive benches

IP.4 Interpretive Benches

Note that red circles are existing bench locations installed by a local volunteer.





Interpretation outputs - interpretive benches

IP.4 Existing bench modification

Purpose

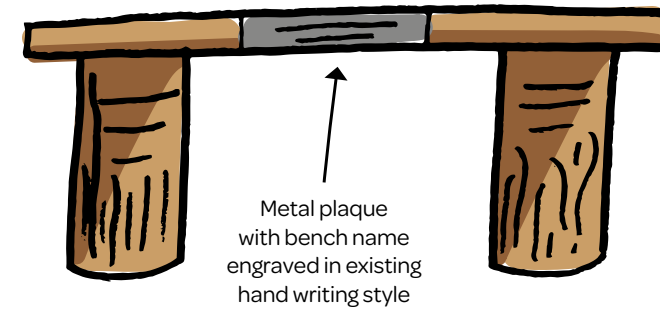
- Upgrade x 12 existing plain benches
- Retain existing structures
- Use plaque or similar to cover marker pen name
- Can include a heritage design that can be co-created

Stories

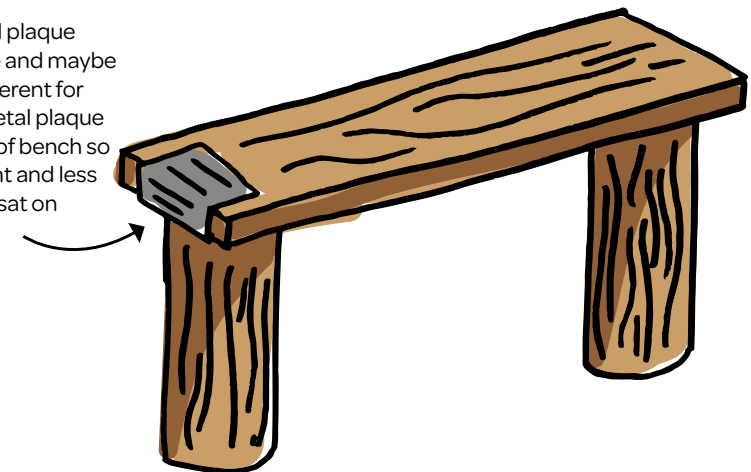
- Retain all existing names provided by B Mossop



Existing bench update



Folded metal plaque with bench name and maybe a symbol (different for each bench). Metal plaque situated on end of bench so more prominent and less likely to be sat on





Interpretation outputs - interpretive benches

IP.4 Interpretive Benches

Stories

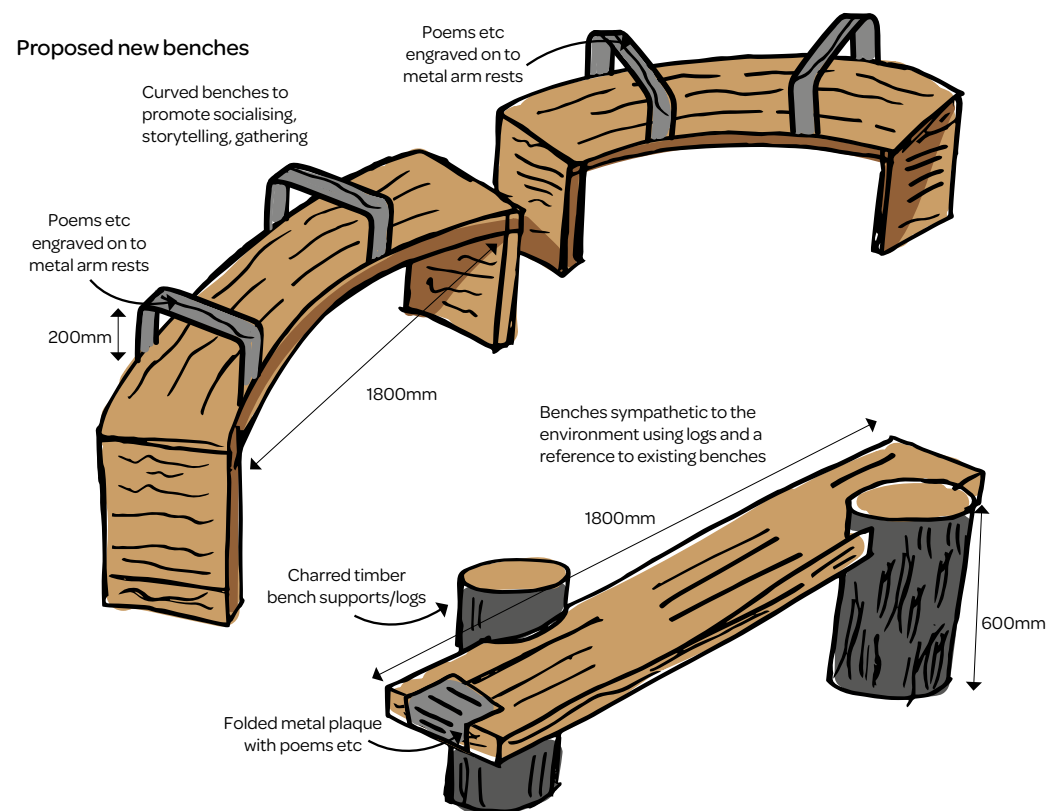
- Experiences of Walkmill Wood volunteering allow different perspectives to be shared and allow reflection on working life and how work in the past by miners compare to the work that is done today.

Location-specific stories (1)

- Good 360 view around
- wide open gathering space
- storytelling area,
- communal story sharing vibe
- Relatives of those miners can help us to understand what it was like to work in the mine

Location-specific stories (2)

- good view over woodland valley to car park
- open cast area
- reclamation and restoration
- what we're doing today (sharing this woodland as a community)
- Children of the miners remember playing in the abandoned mining landscape.



Managing Activities and Interpretation

Managing Activities and Interpretation



The Wilder Walkmill Project Board

The project “*will be delivered by an established partnership between Moresby Parish Council (MPC), Walkmill Activity Group (WAG) and West Cumbria Rivers Trust (WCRT)*”¹

The project board comprises a sub-committee of the Moresby Parish Council, with co-opted representation from West Cumbria Rivers Trust, the Walkmill Activity Group. Moresby Parish Council and West Cumbria Rivers Trust have developed a Business Plan (Appendix 7 to this document) setting out roles and responsibilities for projects carried out jointly. This arrangement has the advantage of using established governance agreement whilst having the flexibility to bring in additional expertise as required.

“The Project as outlined in this NLHF bid is vital to the success of the business plan. The project will not only deliver a backlog of maintenance, but will improve the environment and help to mitigate flooding downstream. The team work involved in researching the flora, fauna and history in order to develop a sensitive management plan, followed by the learning of practical skills and safe working practices will set up a viable Friends Group who will be able to maintain the woods into the future.”

(Moresby Parish Council Chair)

The present Walkmill Activity Group does not have a formal constitution. A successor group will become a formally constituted group as part of this project to ensure good governance and sustainability going forward, and a Terms of Reference (Appendix 7 to this document) has been developed to allow a ‘Friends of’ group to adopt the site and volunteer management by the close of the project.

The project board members - MPC, WAG and WCRT - are described over the following pages.

Managing Activities and Interpretation



Moresby Parish Council

“Moresby Parish Council is the civil parish and woodland leaseholder following a Community Asset Transfer from CCC in 2021. MPC has worked to improve site access and has experience managing other public access amenities. MPC formed in 1940 and is managed by 11 parish councillors, with a variety of expertise from the project management, farm advice and nuclear industries. The Council also manage Moresby playing field and play park and the allotments.

“Moresby Parish Council is committed to continuing to support the Walkmill woods for the benefit of Moresby villagers and the wider community. The development phase of the project has already shown our commitment to getting the whole community involved. From pilot volunteering works, we have moved to regular sessions timetabled for those in Monday to Friday 9 to 5 type jobs, those on shift work and those who have more time on their hands to engage with volunteering. There isn't just manual work required, and we have set up groups to research the local history and also carry out the wildlife surveys required to underpin the project plan. The open day events and other publicity has been designed to bring in as broad a cross section of the community as possible, and this will continue through the delivery phase and beyond.

“The minimal maintenance carried out and the proposed sale of the woods by Cumbria County Council was driven by budget cuts and focussing the remaining budget on statutory services. The local government reorganisation and formation of the Cumberland Council will not change the financial landscape, so the community has to find an alternative way forward. The NLHF bid is a critical component of the plan to improve the woodlands and keep them sustainable in the future. Not getting the funding for the Development Phase will stop the momentum we have built up in getting a viable and sustainable Friends Group based on community volunteers, and “undermine its foundations for future sustainability, and will potentially lead to an untenable financial burden falling

on Moresby Parish Council as the leaseholder e.g. the safety of the trees on the site as detailed in the Forestry Commission Woodland Management Report would have to be dealt with to mitigate liability, the costs of this could run to £10,000's of pounds. The NLHF bid will deal with all these issues leaving MPC with a well maintained and 'up to date' site to do ongoing maintenance for. If the project were not to go ahead the cost and insurance liabilities would be potentially unbearable by MPC and could lead to the lease being defaulted upon and this well loved and vital community resource being lost to the Community.”

(Moresby Parish Council Chair)



Managing Activities and Interpretation

WCRT

West Cumbria Rivers Trust Limited is a charity established to “*deliver environmental projects for the public benefit ‘on the ground’ in keeping with the ‘wet feet’ tradition of rivers trusts across England and Wales.*”¹

The charity, based in Keswick, is one of the project board partners. WCRT has been involved in conservation management of a neighbouring site along the River Keekle, into which the surface water from the present site drains.

An MOU between Moresby Parish Council (MPC) and West Cumbria Rivers Trust (WCRT) sets out the detail and mechanisms by which WCRT will hold and administer funds for and on behalf of MPC for projects at Walkmill Community Woods to enable the site to be improved for the benefit of people and wildlife by delivering habitat improvement works and community engagement on the site.

Where WCRT have obtained the funding for the site they will be responsible for providing the personnel and services needed to deliver the obligations of the project to project funders.

WCRT were invited to support this project by MPC, and have since been deeply involved with the NLHF application. They have also co-authored the business plan and terms of reference (Appendix 7)

¹ Charity Commission for England and Wales Register of Charities 2022

Managing Activities and Interpretation



Walkmill Steering Group

As of September 2022, a constitution has been created for a Walkmill Steering Group, until now the Walkmill Sub-committee of MPC. This constitution will also define the relationship between all parties involved in the A Wilder Walkmill project.

“The Walkmill Steering Group aims to:

- 1. Create a secure environment for people and wildlife in which everyone can enjoy open access to the benefits of Walkmill Community Woodlands. This is to be achieved through liaison with the Moresby Parish Council, the West Cumbria Rivers Trust, residents and users.*
- 2. Work in partnership with Moresby Parish Council and West Cumbria Rivers Trust to deliver the outcomes of the National Lottery Heritage Fund’s ‘A Wilder Walkmill project’; ensuring that all developments, activities and uses of the park are carried out in such a way as to encourage and promote environmental sensitivity.*
- 3. Enable and encourage informal, and formal, activities for those of all ages from the local area.*
- 4. Work in partnership with Moresby Parish Council and West Cumbria Rivers Trust to consult the local community on the project and future developments.*
- 5. Work in partnership with Moresby Parish Council and West Cumbria Rivers Trust to secure additional funding that meet the needs of the local community use of the Wood.*
- 6. Encourage and promote good environmental practice.”¹*

¹ Constitution for Walkmill Steering Group

Walkmill Community Woodland Activity Group

The Walkmill Community Woodland Activity Group (WAG) has campaigned to preserve the woodland as a community amenity and is continually developing a group of volunteers for community activities and maintenance. WAG currently has 85 individuals who would like to be kept informed of developments and over 30 unofficial members ready to help and provide their time and/or expertise with fundraising and participation in conservation work.

This is not yet a formally constituted group but the plan is for a “Friends of Walkmill” Group to be developed in the delivery phase of the project.



Project management structure

Project delivery

The Project Board will assume oversight over the delivery of the Activity and Interpretation Plans. A combination of new and existing staff members will assume responsibility for day-to-day delivery. Where it is proposed to allocate these roles to existing WCRT members of staff, their CVs are provided separately.

The new roles have been refined since the Round 1 submission presented anticipated roles. The new staff roles now reflect the scope and scale of the project activities where revised since that stage. The picture is now clearer what is proposed in the way of staff training, audience engagement and volunteer development details, and how those can best be allocated amongst the proposed positions.

See over for summaries of each of the positions.

Recruitment

Staff will be recruited using local, national and specialist recruitment partners.

Apprenticeships will be advertised via Whitehaven Academy, Workington Academy, Lakes College and West Cumbria Works, through the Cumbria Future Leaders Early Careers service (<https://www.cforlp.org.uk/cumbria-future-leaders/>), the Job Centre, Copeland Work and Skills partnership, Inspira, Phoenix Enterprise Centre, Copeland Borough Council Works and Skills Programme, Countryside Jobs service, and local newspapers. The LANSS service will be used once that is available.

Roles and training

The job descriptions are written for individuals who already possess the requisite skillset and do not require significant training. The exception is the Apprenticeship role, for which training is a core component.

It may be beneficial to provide some additional training in specific areas (First Aid, safeguarding, for example) via WCRT.

For some activities involving species monitoring and/or specialised conservation tasks (see Appendix 4 for volunteer role descriptions), training for the volunteer participants and the project team will be arranged via partner organisations, who have confirmed their support in this regard.



Project management structure

Project Staff

Delivering the project needs a team of staff, comprising the following roles:

1 x Project Manager 1FTE

- Providing day to day project management
- Controlling project finances and reporting
- Coordinating and supporting project staff and volunteers team during delivery phase
- Ensuring successful delivery of the project plan
- Managing capital works

1 x Volunteer Co-ordinator 1FTE

- Managing volunteers and programme
- Arranging work parties and supervise volunteers day-to-day
- Work with partners to recruit from local community and user groups
- Managing health, safety and welfare of participants
- Recruited from within WCRT (see CVs provided separately)

1 x Apprenticeships Co-ordinator 1FTE

- Advertising for and recruiting apprentices for Countryside Worker level 2 Diploma
- Managing apprentices and programme day-to-day, including schedules and progress reviews
- Delivering training sessions
- Providing practical support for apprentices
- Providing pastoral support for apprentices
- Providing academic support for apprentices
- Supporting apprentices to engage with Askham Bryan college (York) including travel

1x Learning and Outreach Manager 0.6FTE

- Engaging the local community, in particular schools and young people
- Managing and delivering curriculum-linked sessions to schools in Copeland
- Managing the education budget
- Developing and delivering INSET Training for school staff
- Deliver Forest Schools programme at Walkmill
- Recruited from within WCRT (see CVs provided separately)

1 x WCRT Director 0.1FTE

- The existing post within WCRT with the same role description to provide project oversight.

1 x WCRT Administration and Communications Officer 0.1FTE

- Using an existing post within WCRT with the same role description to deal with staff administration, and to help develop the project communications (including website).

8 x Apprentices 1FTE

- to deliver parts of the capital works programme and management and maintenance programme
- receive training via externally-accredited courses
- work alongside apprentices employed by project partners

Staff structure

The relationships among the new staffing roles (see Appendices 2: Staff Job Descriptions and 3: Apprenticeship Job Descriptions) are illustrated in the staff structure chart overleaf.



Project management structure

Project volunteers

WCRT has extensive experience of volunteer management on similar sites, and volunteers are crucial to the delivery of WCRT's work and this project in particular.

There will be permanent roles developed during the project that are intended to carry on into the future to sustain conservation activities at the site, and contribute to the sustainability of the successor organisation.

The Volunteer roles (see Appendix 4 - Volunteer role descriptions) will comprise the following:

1. Conservation (corporate, green gym and regular local resident volunteers)
2. Learning (Intergenerational social history research and collection, Family Fun Events Days, Co-Creation 2, Formal learning sessions volunteers)
3. Research (Intergenerational social history research and collection volunteer)
4. Friends of Group (including volunteers for Project Progress events and final celebratory event)
5. Citizen Scientist volunteers

Volunteers will be recruited through advertising with:

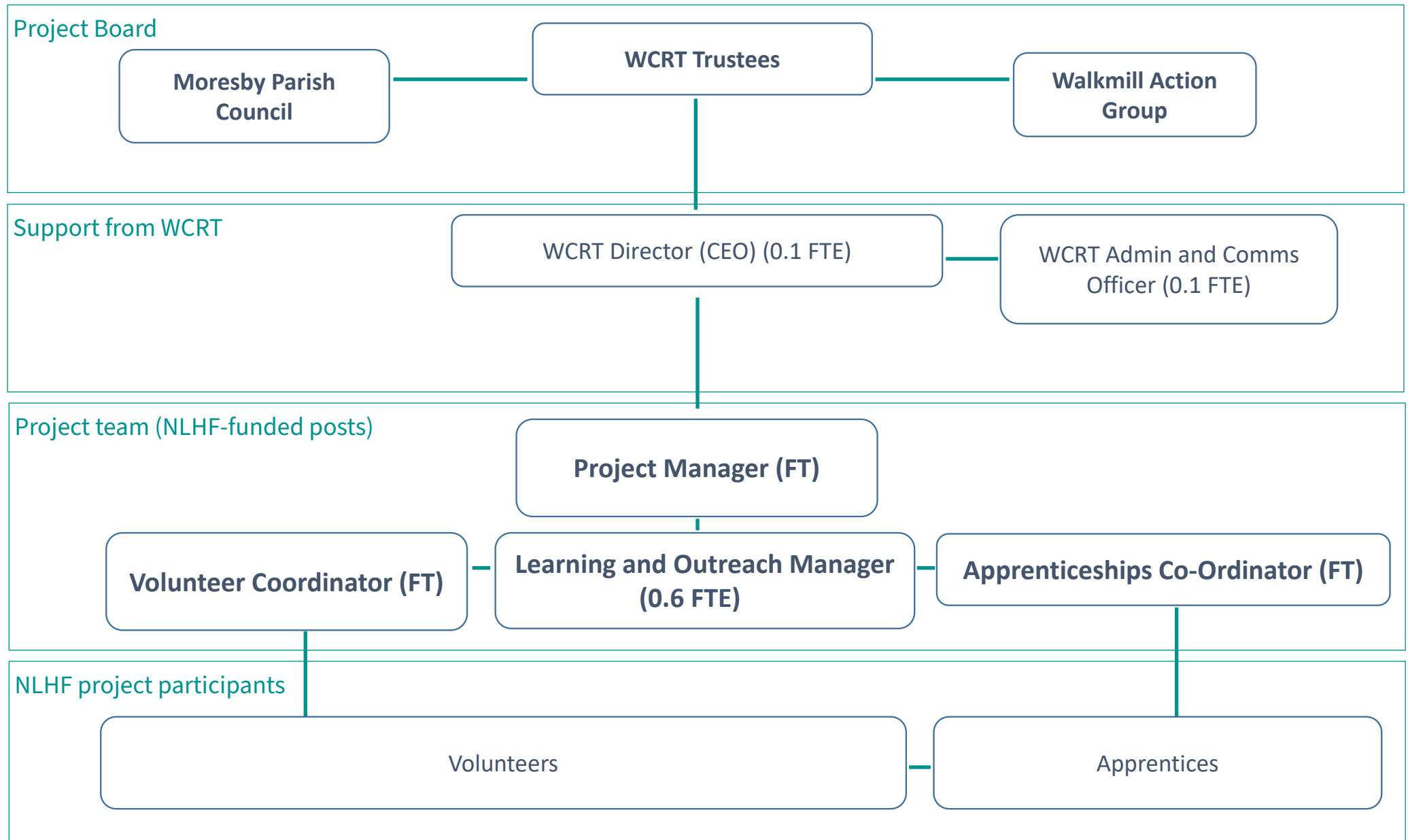
- Local community channels
- Cumbria CVS
- Other volunteering groups in the local area, e.g. the Outdoor Partnership
- WCRT Youth Panel
- Schools and Colleges in Copeland
- Moresby RUFC noticeboard

Training for volunteers will include:

- **Induction**
The first point of contact for all new starters will be the Volunteer Officer. All new volunteers will receive an appropriate induction, including an organisation (WCRT) induction and equality / diversity training.
- **Specific/specialist training**
Specific training for each volunteer role is included in the individual role descriptions (see Appendix 4).



Project management structure





Project management structure

Key project partners

Askham Bryan College

Askham Bryan College is a specialist land based college in York. Their York campus offers a full range of subject areas and levels including Apprenticeships, Level 1-3 Diplomas, Foundation, Top Up and BSc Honours Degrees.

They will support the project's 8 Apprentices through regular Progress Review meetings held with the participants and the Apprenticeships Coordinator, provide well-planned vocational training and theory delivery by block release model, and support theory learning in the workplace using various learning materials.

Copeland Wellness Service / Copeland Primary Care Network

Copeland Wellness Service works on behalf of the Copeland Primary Care Network (PCN), 7 GP surgeries in north and central Copeland. In north Cumbria, the PCNs are part of Integrated Care Communities (ICCs) which brings together community, mental health, social care, pharmacy, hospital, third sector and voluntary services in their local areas. PCNs build on existing primary care services and helps Practices support their patients with some shared back room services to work more efficiently.

They will support the project team to offer social prescribing and green gyms, and refer their users to activities offered at Walkmill by the project team.

Moresby Primary School

Moresby Primary School is a village primary based in Moresby Parks, under 1km from the site.

They will bring their students to the site for formal learning and co-creation sessions, and will be involved closely off-site in developing interpretation and engagement activities from the research, consultation and co-creation. Their students will also take part in conservation monitoring.

Whitehaven Academy

Whitehaven Academy is part of the Cumbria Education Trust (CET), a multi-academy trust for primary and secondary schools in Cumbria. It is located a little over 2km to the south-west of the site on the outskirts of Whitehaven.

They will bring their students to the site for formal learning and co-creation sessions, and will be involved closely off-site in developing interpretation and engagement activities from the research, consultation and co-creation. Their students will also take part in conservation monitoring.

Moresby Parks residents

Many, but increasingly few, of the local community living in Moresby Park are descendants of the colliers who worked at the pit here. The terraced housing opposite the RUFC, as well as some other properties, was built to house miners in the late 19th century.

Local residents will be involved in most of the activities, but significantly they are taking on some of

the long-term management of the site via a Friends of Group.

Rosehill Theatre

Rosehill is the cultural hub for West Cumbria. They mentor local artists and create work with local children, and regularly work in partnership with local schools and organisations.

They have committed match funding to the project, and will support the co-creation activities through staff time and support, and use of the space.

1st Hensingham Scouts

This group is one of the largest and most active Scout Groups in West Cumbria. They have been very active during the development phase, including pilot events.

They will be working closely with the project team to carry out species monitoring at the site, so they can gain skills and so that future iterations of the Conservation Management Plan are based on the best available data.



Project management structure

Stakeholders

These have been identified from the activity descriptions, where each of their roles are explained in detail:

- Active Cumbria Walking for Health
- Allerdale Borough Council
- Beacon Museum
- British Trust for Ornithology
- Bumblebee Conservation
- Butterfly Conservation
- Copeland Borough Council
- Copeland Red Squirrel Group
- Cumberland Bat Group
- Cumbria Amphibian and Reptile Group
- Cumbria Badger Vaccination Project
- Cumbria Nuclear Solutions Ltd (CNSL)
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust
- Eden Rivers Trust
- Groundwork
- James Fisher Nuclear Ltd
- Lake District Mobility
- Lake District National Park
- Lake District National Park Young Rangers
- Lakeland Wellbeing
- Moresby Rugby Club (RUFC)
- Pit Crack
- Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Network, Whitehaven
- South Cumbria Rivers Trust
- TCV
- The Outdoor Partnership
- WCRT Youth Panel
- Whitehaven Record Office

Risk management (Activities & Interpretation Programme)



Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation (actions you will take)	Who will lead this	Tick if now resolved/ completed
Failure to recruit people with right skills to staff positions	Medium	High	Advertise widely in appropriate professional sites	Project Director WCRT	
Loss of key staff or volunteers during the delivery stage	Medium	Medium	Activities to be shared across project team as far as possible	Project Team	
Failure to recruit to apprenticeship positions	High	High	Promote the positions as early as possible and through most effective channels locally and nationally	Apprenticeships Coordinator	
Loss of apprentices during the delivery stage	Medium	High	Apprentices need to be fully supported by the officer, and any needs or issues that arise taken into account as soon as possible.	Apprenticeships Coordinator Project Team	
People do not want to or are unable to contribute to the oral history project	Medium	Medium	Careful early planning and consultation needed to ensure that the activities are designed to remove the barriers to participation	Learning and Outreach Manager	
Oral history project fails to generate the quantities of usable material envisaged during project development phase	Medium	Medium	Careful early planning and consultation needed to ensure that material generated is likely to be usable, and that it is recorded in a usable format (images, video, transcription).	Learning and Outreach Manager	
Insufficient volunteers to support Friends of / WAG legacy	Medium	High	Continue to support existing volunteers so they remain committed to the project	Volunteer Coordinator; Learning and Outreach Manager	
Lack of demand for activities	Medium	High	Effective promotion, monitoring and evaluation to ensure activities meet need	Admin / Communications Officer; Learning and Outreach Manager	
Lack of demand for events	Medium	High	Effective promotion, monitoring and evaluation to ensure activities meet need	Admin / Communications Officer; Learning and Outreach Manager	
Insufficient volunteers to support Activities	Low	High	Work with existing volunteers and key partners (CNSL, Copeland Wellness Service)	Volunteer Co-ordinator; Learning and Outreach Manager	
Failure to reach new audiences	Medium	High	Consultation with target audiences, continue to build and develop relationships with local community and key stakeholders through implementation of Marketing and Communications Plan	Volunteer and Activity Coordinator, Project Team	
Activities not matched to the needs of the community	Medium	Medium	Evaluation to ensure the activities selected via consultation are a genuine fit for the need	Evaluation Consultant	
Inflation impact on interpretation materials / build costs	Medium	High	Costs underwritten by WCRT	Parish Heritage Team	

Measuring success



Evaluation

The performance indicators, targets and measures of success are set out in the evaluation framework for the project¹.

¹ The Evaluator, *Walkmill Evaluation Framework January 2023*



Longer term benefits and legacy

Strand 1

Apprentices: A video diary/podcast will be kept by the apprentices and shared on the project website and social media – as a way to share their learning and as an evaluation tool.

WCRT will seek funding to employ one part time apprentice to manage and maintain the site and run the conservation volunteer group going forward. This post could be held within WCRT should the Parish Council not wish to take on the responsibilities of employing staff members.

Other local organisations have expressed an interest in recruiting individuals with the Countryside Worker qualification.

Corporate volunteering: Participants will be invited to take part in regular volunteering on the site, and/or with WCRT. People will have learnt new skills and have better health and wellbeing and hopefully return to the site to show their families the work they have carried out and visit the site more.

The success of the corporate volunteering activity can be continued by the ‘Friends of’ group on project completion.

Conservation volunteers: Given sufficient supervision, organisation, travel and equipment, there is no reason why the relationships between the Copeland Wellbeing Service, other Green Gym / Social Prescribing organisations and WAG, and the improvements to the site that their users make, cannot continue beyond the life of the project.

Longer term benefits and legacy



Strand 2

Intergenerational oral and social history research and collection: The interpretation generated during the project by young people will help a new generation of local residents to understand how the mining industry shaped their environment and society.

The Records Office will have enhanced their records relating to the Walkmill Colliery and its community.

Project Progress events: Ongoing management of the site will be better supported where better understood by the local community.

The WAG/successor 'Friends of' Group will benefit from experience of running the sessions.

The events should inform the post-project regime management and maintenance plan, in particular what form these sort of regular events should take post-project.

Guided heritage and wellbeing events: Natural heritage resource and ongoing management will be better supported where better understood by the local community.

Support for the work of the WAG/'Friends of' successor group will be stronger.

Links with partners organisations will be stronger.

The events should inform the post-project regime management and maintenance plan, in particular what form and with what frequency these sort of regular events should take post-project.

Family Fun Event Days: Natural heritage resource and ongoing management will be better supported where better understood by the local community.

The long-term health benefits this project aims to support by facilitating greater participation amongst local people will be difficult to measure.

The events should inform the post-project regime management and maintenance plan, in particular what form these sort of regular events should take post-project.

Walkmill Colliery memorial intervention: Local residents will place greater value on the Walkmill Community Woodland.

Interpretation co-creation for families and young people: Natural heritage resource and ongoing management will be better supported where better understood by the local community. Co-creation of interpretation by the local families and young people will help develop the sense of ownership of the woodland by the local community.

Formal learning: Natural heritage resource and ongoing management will be better supported where better understood by the local community. We intend that the project will raise awareness of the site and its management, and that participants will be encouraged to support that management in some form as part of the Strand 3 activities.

All the events should inform the post-project regime management and maintenance plan, in particular what form regular events might take post-project.

Forest Schools: Natural heritage resource and ongoing management will be better supported where better understood by the local community. We expect awareness of the site and its benefits to spread amongst older family members from the Forest School participants.

This long-term nature/wellbeing learning-outside-the-classroom strand may continue past the project close, assuming environmental factors like transport funding and interest are sustained.

The events should inform the post-project regime management and maintenance plan, in particular what form these sort of regular events should take post-project.

Practical Conservation Days: Natural heritage resource and ongoing management will be better supported where better understood by the local community. We expect awareness of the site and its benefits to spread amongst older family members from the Forest School participants.

This long-term nature/wellbeing learning-outside-the-classroom strand may continue past the project close, assuming environmental factors like transport funding and interest are sustained.

The events should inform the post-project regime management and maintenance plan, in particular what form these sort of regular events should take post-project.

Longer term benefits and legacy



Strand 3

Friends of Walkmill Community Woodland Group :

The participants will have progressed from the skills audit to completion of skills plan that enables them to work successfully with the Project Board to deliver the Walkmill Community Woodland Business Plan and Conservation Management and Maintenance Plan.

Skills and experience gained on this project will benefit the project staff but also the wider WCRT, increasing its organisational resilience.

Wilder Walkmill presents an opportunity also to retain skills and experience within WCRT, with existing staff employed on this project and hopefully re-employed elsewhere within WCRT at its close.

Processes, plans and assets developed during the Wilder Walkmill project might be transferred to and adapted for other WCRT projects as templates or comparators, for example the Conservation Management Plan, volunteer management processes, and learning resources.

Relationships nurtured during this project open up potential strategic partnerships to participating organisations, especially the project board.

Regular conservation volunteering: The Friends of Group/WAG will have experience of planning and delivering regular conservation sessions so that they can continue beyond the life of the project.

Support for the work of the Friends of Walkmill Community Woodland group will be stronger.

Citizen Scientist monitoring by volunteers: The WAG/Community Management group will have experience of planning and delivering monitoring so that they can continue to update the Conservation Management Plan appropriately, and plan new programmes, beyond the life of the project.

Support for the work of the WAG/Community Management group will be stronger.

Monitoring by the participants after the life of the project will reduce the ongoing costs.

Citizen Scientist monitoring by local young people:

The WAG/Community Management group will have experience of planning and delivering monitoring so that they can continue to plan new programmes beyond the life of the project, in collaboration with the user groups.

Support for the work of the WAG/Community Management group will be stronger.

Monitoring by the participants after the life of the project will reduce the ongoing costs.

Sharing lessons learnt and legacy: Sharing lessons learned is such a fundamental part of this project that these opportunities have been used to generate a single project activity as part of the activity plan (see Strand 3.5: Sharing lessons learnt and legacy for further details).

The project will increase the resilience of the partner organisations, including other River Trusts. In particular at the end of the project WCRT intends to step back and handover to the Friends of Walkmill Community Woodland group, and the activities support this.

Strategic partnerships will be stronger. Partners will value the project work and the partnerships more highly.