

Notes of meeting with Cumbria Wildlife Trust - 26th January 2012

Present

D Harpley (DH)	Cumbria Wildlife Trust
D Westfield (DW)	Urswick Parish Council
G M James (GJ)	Urswick Parish Council

1. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the current relevance of the 1996 Management Plan for the Tarn and to see if it should be updated in any way. DH had been involved in the production of the plan and was therefore well placed to comment on any changes that may be needed.
2. GJ said that there was a balance that had to be struck between the conservation of the fauna, flora and habitat of the Tarn and the human recreation requirements such as being able to access and see the Tarn.
3. The 1996 plan was reviewed and it was agreed that a lot of what was set out in the plan had been achieved by the Tarn Association and in particular the proliferation of the reed beds which was an urgent requirement in 1996. The beds were now very well populated but the amount of aquatic vegetation has reduced to the extent that it is virtually non-existent. This is probably due to water quality.
4. DW asked why there was very little wildlife on the Tarn in comparison to, say Ormsgill reservoir which has plenty of ducks and swans. DH said that it was probably the water quality which was affecting the Tarn. The tarn is a marl lake and as such should have calcium rich water but the chances are that it now has a significant content of phosphates and nitrates from farm fertiliser which has run-off from the catchment areas. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to take some water samples from the tarn and the supplying water sources to ascertain the level of phosphates/nitrates. This should be compared with the levels in other lakes/tarns such as Ormsgill reservoir.
5. A walkabout was done and at The Croft it was agreed that the reeds should be removed to allow access to the Tarn for boats (photo1). DH explained that an excellent way to manage reeds is to cut them in the summer when they are green which weakens the regrowth. However at The Croft they need to be removed. It was explained that the path to the fishing peg needs to be strengthened with stone so that is walkable when the Tarn level is high.
6. At The Landing it was explained that the UPC wished to make the area more accessible and the Tarn more visible for the villagers and general public and that we wished to increase the size of the car park towards the south. There were some trees

that are to the right of the fishing pegs (see photo 2) and it was also agreed that the fishing peg reeds could be cut to make it better for the fishermen and that the pathway should be strengthened with limestone (photo 3).

7. It was recommended by DH that we didn't fence the area at The Landing as this was a natural hazard and it was up to each individual to be careful when near the water.
8. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to mow the area with a low cut as a walk down to the tarn and a higher cut on either side.



Photo1. The Croft boat launching area and fishing peg



Photo 2. Trees to be removed



Photo 3. View of catwalk, which is under water when the Tarn level is high