

# **URSWICK TARN MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016 / 2017**

**Prepared by the Tarn Working Group. November 2016 and supersedes all previous management plans**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Landing, The Croft and the Hagg are owned by Urswick, Bardsea and Stainton Parish Council.

Urswick Tarn lies 3 miles south of Ulverston. It is in the Parish of Urswick, Bardsea and Stainton and the District of South Lakeland. (Grid ref: SD270745)

Urswick Tarn is a 6 hectares marl lake in a limestone catchment.

It is 35m above sea level. This plan also includes land areas known the Hagg, Croft and the Landing.

The Tarn and these areas contain Open Water, Reed bed, Reed Fen, Scattered scrub with trees and grassland.

The Tarn is immediately surrounded by private gardens and farmland. The open spaces are used by people for active and casual recreation.

The Tarn is quite deep, 40m at the deepest point, according to the N.W.W.A. survey. It has steeply sloping sides.

The Tarn has areas of diverse and interesting flora and fauna and the surrounds are currently used for a variety of activities, such as fishing, boating/sailing, walking, dog walking and bird watching.

Fishing and boating activities are currently licenced by the Parish Council.

Recreational activities are controlled by the current byelaws.

## **OBLIGATIONS AND CONSTRAINTS**

As common land the Parish Council have the right to give and refuse permission for any activities on the Tarn and it's surrounds.

Before any works on the Tarn or surrounds begin, the Tarn working group will, when necessary, contact and consult all relative agencies and their representatives.

## **The Landing**

This is not a natural area having been the site of a rubbish tip.

This area comprises of a large grass area with picnic tables and a memorial bench seat.

A large area of trees and scrub.

There is a catwalk in the Tarn. This has 4 fishing pegs, not including the one on the edge of the tarn which is used as a viewing point.

The four fishing pegs, which are on the edge of the catwalk, have become dilapidated and will be replaced (when funds are available) by 4 large professional pegs that will be sited between the reeds.

## **The Croft**

A small area with a covering of reeds which is used for viewing the tarn.

It has a large fishing peg which is reached by a jetty. This can be used for launching boats.

## **The Hagg**

This is an area of past grazing and is a rough tussocky grassland with a small amount of invading scrub. This area, although slowly, will regenerate into woodland. This must be kept clear of trees and scrub. This is an inevitable process in the absence of grazing or cutting.

The Tarn working group will investigate the viability of reinstating grazing.

Management of saplings and invasive scrub will continue.

## **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

### **THE LANDING**

To maintain the viewing point and make more accessible for all users.

To maintain the catwalk to the right of the viewing point and to renew the four fishing pegs when funds are available.

There was a catwalk to left of the viewing point which has disappeared over time. This will be reinstated when funds become available.

### **THE TARN**

To use careful stewardship to encourage wild life on and around the Tarn.

To monitor and manage the reed beds around the Tarn to enhance habitat.

### **THE HAGG**

Clear saplings and scrub to maintain and enhance grassland habitat on the Hagg.

### **THE CROFT**

Keep reeds clear of the jetty and fishing/viewing peg.

Manage the colonising willow trees.

Maintain and enhance grassland habitat.

### **OTHER**

To arrange a timetable for the working party to complete activities.

To maintain, subject to the current byelaws, the existing recreational activities.

To meet all legal obligations regarding management of common land.