

Landscape in a changing climate: Cumbria and the North West

Conference Agenda

Thursday 9 October 2025 10am – 4:30pm

Castle Green Hotel, Kendal

09:30	Registration
10:00	Welcome and Introduction by Adrian Lythgo, Chair of North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee
	Session presentations: How the changing climate drives our thinking • Long term planning for the impacts of Climate Change on water systems Adam Lechmere, Head of Sustainability, United Utilities • How the Environment Agency is innovating to combat the threat of climate change Christine Dulake, Senior Advisor, Environment Agency • Benefits of regenerative agriculture for climate and sustainable business Lee Truelove, Head of Regenerative Farming, First Milk • Response of Cumbria headwater catchments to climate change: geomorphology, extreme events, impacts and response Professor Jeff Warburton, Department of Geography, Durham University • Impacts of climate change on rail infrastructure: working with the landscape to mitigate impact Michael Norbury, Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, and Olivia Devan, Senior Asset Engineer, Network Rail
	Q&A discussion
12:00 – 13:00	Buffet lunch

	Session presentations: Changing climate: shared challenges and shared solutions • Impacts of climate change on flood risk for Cumbria Richard Knight, Area Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Manager in Cumbria, Environment Agency • How Forestry England is changing its growing and felling practices in response to climate change Gareth Browning MBE, Beat Forester and Wild Ennerdale Partner, Forestry England • Ensuring Natural Flood Management investment mitigates floods Dr Nick Chappell, Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University • Use of natural processes in land management to secure water resources John Gorst, Lead Catchment Partnership Officer, United Utilities • The Upper Duddon Landscape Recovery Project: partnership working and landscape benefits Professor Dominick Spracklen, School of Earth and Environment, University of Leeds
	Q&A discussion
14:45	Coffee break
	Workshops: Improving resilience place by place Using maps of specific communities at risk of flooding in Cumbria, we'll divide into groups to: 1. Share knowledge and experience of what's being done in the catchment. 2. Explore what interventions in the landscape might be possible. 3. Identify possibilities of how we might collaborate to improve flood risk and delivering wider benefits such as infrastructure, peat, biodiversity, and water quality. If you are attending from outside Cumbria, there is a discussion group for you looking at what role the RFCC could play in enabling and facilitating better collaboration.
	Round up, next steps
Close 16:30	Closing remarks by Kate Morley, NW RFCC representative for Conservation