



Lake District
National Park

07/09/2023

Subject: 2023 Joint Call for Sites

To whom this may concern,

As of today, you are invited to submit expressions of interest in the Cumbria wide 2023 call for sites process, run jointly by Cumberland Council, The Lake District National Park Authority, Westmorland and Furness Council, and The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. This call is for the submission of information on land that could deliver Biodiversity Net Gain or habitat restoration through a change in land use or management. This is a public call for sites meaning that anyone who owns, or has an interest in land, can put sites forward for consideration before it's close on the 17th October.

As required by the Environment Act 2021, a demonstrable 10% Biodiversity Net Gain is mandatory on all new eligible developments from November 2023, creating a need for offsetting sites to be ready to sell Biodiversity Units to developers. Across Cumbria, it is key to ensure that developers can discharge their legal duty and purchase Biodiversity units on the local market, rather than turning to National Biodiversity Credits as a last resort. This sale of Biodiversity Units provides gains for nature and an additional, diversified income stream for landowners and farming tenants as an incentive.

With regard to habitat restoration sites, there are four protected catchments within Cumbria that are in an unfavourable condition due to phosphorous pollution. We are seeking sites within their catchment areas where projects could be delivered to reduce the amount of phosphorous entering the site. This will aid the restoration of the Habitat Site.

- Esthwaite Water Ramsar
- River Derwent and Bassenthwaite Lake Special Conservation Area
- River Eden Special Conservation Area
- River Kent Special Conservation Area

Whilst there is currently no national or local nutrient credit scheme available in Cumbria to deliver restoration following the Government announcement on 30th August 2023, suitable sites could potentially be included within future Restoration plans and strategies. The partnership will work together to identify funding opportunities to deliver appropriate projects.

If you have interest in this call for sites, please submit an expression of interest for each site through the following web address: <https://arcg.is/14aHWD> or alternatively email Nature.recovery@lakedistrict.gov.uk for a Word document or to be mailed a hard copy.

For more information and to find the expression of interest link, please visit our website here: <https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/planning/call-for-sites>

Yours sincerely,

Leanne Parr – Catchment Nutrients Officer
and Nicholas Hall – Natural Environment Advisor
Email: Nature.recovery@lakedistrict.gov.uk