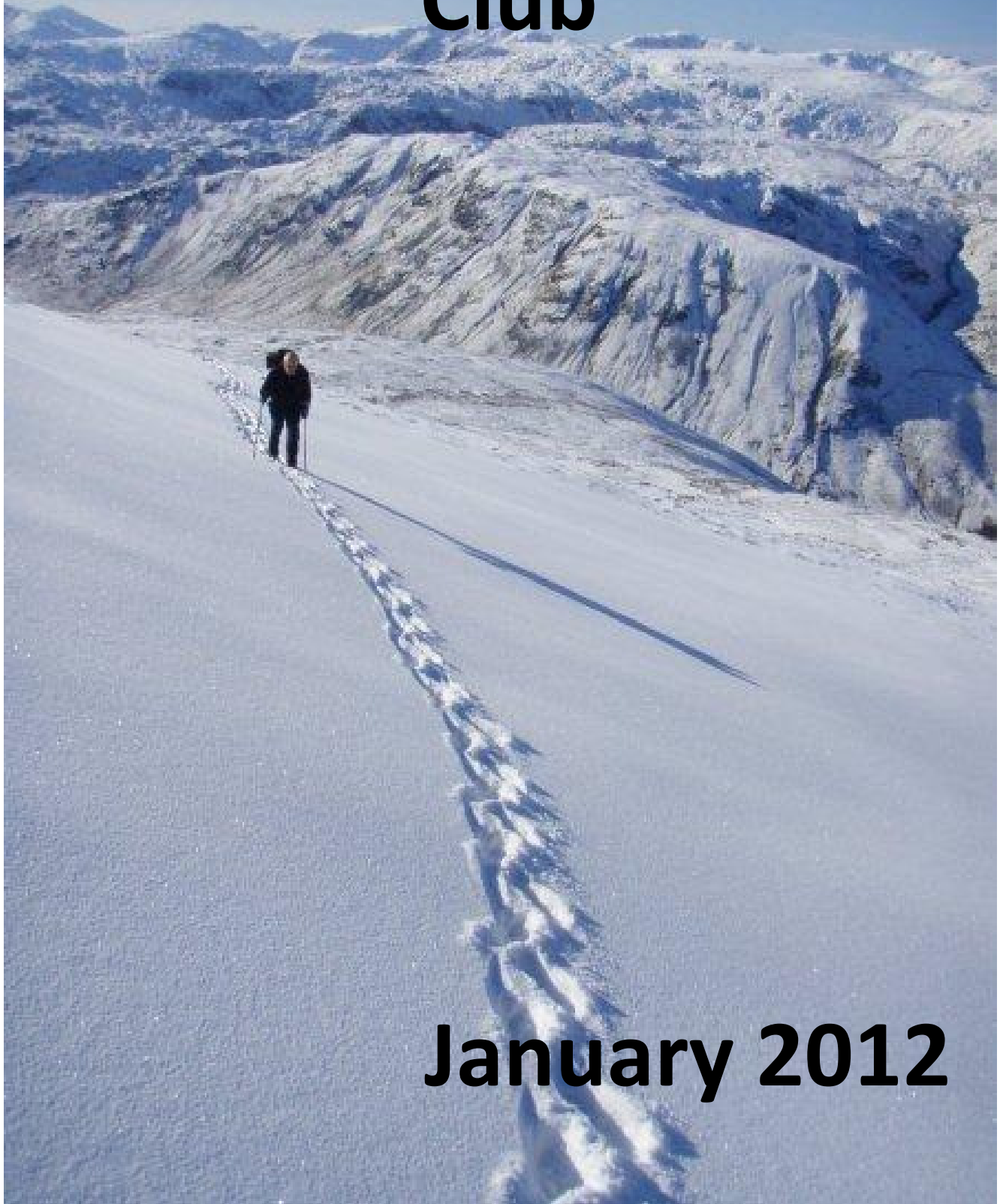


Fylde Mountaineering Club



January 2012

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John Wiseman - El Roque Nublo, Gran Canaria

Editorial

A Happy New Year to everybody and I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas despite the unbelievably wet weather up north.

This is a slightly smaller edition than the last few due to the absence of articles from our most prolific contributor Martin Bennett – he had to run out of words eventually I suppose. I am sure that Martin will have found some more words in time for the next edition but in the meantime sit back and enjoy articles on Gran Canaria, Whitby and a record breaking hut to hut trip.

Hopefully the weather over 2012 will be better than in 2011 and we will all be encouraged to get out in the UK more this year but club members are kicking off the year with ice climbing, Morocco and Turkey. If you've got any suggestions for other club meets then let your committee know.



This is always a time of year when we remember friends/family who are no longer with us but let us also remember our current members who are going through illness or injury and who would welcome contact from their club colleagues. So best wishes to Dave Westby and any of our other members who are not feeling 100%.

And finally for Nick Dalzell an instructional video -

http://www.ehow.co.uk/video_4955106_wearing-helmets-indoor-rock-climbing.html

Hope that your speedy recovery has continued Nick.

Caroline

Ladies Meet December 2011

The “beloved skyline of great hills” looked especially magical under snow by the light of a full moon as we reached Stair after another excellent theatre production in Keswick. The snow was soft and abundant on the Causey ridge the following day, making the scrambly bit quite a challenge, and providing knee deep fun whenever we stepped off the path.



Back at the hut, the decorating sub-committee had surpassed themselves, and the feast was prolonged and delicious. As well as a quiz, a round of “Hi Harry” was too much for some of us, leading one member to hide under the table in despair. Ownership of the five gold rings was as hotly contested as ever, but we managed a sweet rendition of Silent Night.

Rain that night washed away most of the snow, and enthusiasm for the hill was lacking on Sunday. Some rushed home, some did their Christmas shopping in Keswick, and some walked gently round the lake. We were commended by Santa, giving out mince pies and selection boxes on the launch, for having ice axe and crampons (on the hill, not on the launch).



The next Ladies Meet will be at the end of March, at Little Langdale. All women members and their guests most welcome- please book with Mary Aspin.

Angela Lovett

Working Weekend Stair

14 – 15 October 2011

There was a good & select group this weekend although some of the regulars were away on holiday. Thanks therefore go to Caroline Webb, Mike Howe, Geoff Brindle, John Wiseman, Dave Earle, Chris Peed, Nick Hepburn & special guests Melissa Bock & Sam who came all the way from Australia which shows some commitment. And me of course.

The main work done in the garden was – Grass cutting & weeding of the two areas near the cottage, the terraces & the verge bordering the road; the stream was cleared out; the west facing wall was washed down with anti mould stuff to clean it up; leaves were collected from the car park for compost; new signs have been put up stating – No Fires Please; the

picnic bench is on its last legs so has been moved down to the lower area by the bottom fence; adjacent to this was a dead sheep so grave digger Earle set to work to bury it

Inside the cottage the cupboard previously used for tools was thoroughly cleaned & varnished so plates & pans etc can be stored in it; a good clean of the cooker & fridges; a new fold away table was made to fit, exactly to the millimetre, to the existing one to be used on party weekends; the worst of the rotten barge boards under the roof were covered with plastic sheeting to hopefully stop further decay & make it look better; some of the doors had expanded so they did not shut right – these were taken off & sanded down; the Toilets & Showers were given a good clean; as was the Drying Room; all pillows were replaced with the same as those in Little Langdale; finally lots of rubbish was taken to the tip.

I provided a veggie meal on Saturday evening for everyone as usual – soup, a chilli & pudding. .This time it was hot pie with a choice of hot or cold Ambrosia custard (Birds did not get a look in). Mike Howe wants recognition for cleaning the custard pan Caroline burnt. *(Ed – well he ain't going to get any 😊)*

Thanks to those who helped. I'm already taking bookings for the next working weekend; in fact I'm always willing to take bookings for them.

Jobs for the future include: Replace the rotten window above the Fire Exit door from the main dorm; Build some outside seating in the angle created by the kitchen & Porch walls, The electrical appliances need a 5 yearly safety inspection, Paint the Dormitories, Paint all wood work, Finish panelling in the new pipe work above the work tops in both the Gents WC & the Kitchen, Paint the external walls, Maybe tile the floor of the Porch because the paint we've used only lasts a few months before it gets damaged, Stain the remaining Kitchen units to match the area with the Microwave on, Acquire a new picnic bench for outside the front of the cottage.....plus lots more I have not thought of yet!

Andy



Walking and climbing on Gran Canaria

All sun seekers out there will already know that Gran Canaria has a pleasant winter climate. Add some rock action and superb mountain views and the scene is set for a good week or fortnight's winter break.

Last November Hal and I booked ourselves a 10 day stay, courtesy of Ryan Air (cost £120 each). This was on the strength of an article by Pat Littlejohn about trad climbing on the island. Links from his website provided enough interest to consider combining a bit of sport and trad climbing. Very fortuitously and just before departure, a sport climbing guide was published so we ended up taking a minimal rack.

From the air Gran Canaria looks mainly a scrub-like desert and at ground level the scenery isn't much to shout about either. It's not really until you get up into the valleys and on the mountains that it starts to look promising and above 5000 ft the views can be spectacular.

We mixed and matched cragging with walking and sightseeing, finding places to stay along the way. These came in at between 10 and 27 euro at night per person. However, be warned, unlike Spain not every town has a hostel (or bar for that matter), so you need to give some thought to logistics. Most people stay in the capital or the over-developed tourist spots in the south (which has the better weather). This is fine but you can end up doing a lot of driving up windy roads. Petrol is tax-free and less than a euro a litre, but beer and wine aren't that cheap, being similar to back here. Menu del Dia varied from 6 euro to 13 Euros.

The trad climbing looks not dissimilar to Morocco in both the landscapes and the commitment required. Unfortunately, the only information currently available is in the form of rough topos on the internet or at the bar in Ayacata. The sport climbing was a little better than we expected. We thought the routes would be a bit mickey mouse, but many were 15 mtrs or so and the odd ones 20 mtrs. The rock is of a dark volcanic type, offering both crack and face climbing. The grading is typical for Spain, fair but firm and with few give-aways. There is an active local climbing community who appear to be very competent and often take over the crags at weekend. The rock can

be loose in places and the hollow sound of some sections made me wonder if the bolts would hold. First day out and in a fit of enthusiasm, I had a look at 6B+ thinking it would just be like its 6A+ neighbour but a touch harder. Mid way up I realised I had taken the looser of two variants and some tenuous moves started to kick in. Maybe the bolts were fine, but I started thinking that perhaps this was really not one to fall off. Who says sport climbing can't be exciting?

Whilst there are some easier routes if you are prepared to search them out, you will get the most out of this place if you are operating in the 6's since all the easier lines we did, supposedly as warm ups, were fairly full-on (hard 4's anyone?). Having said that there are plenty of good solid lines with superb views in wonderfully secluded places, and there is enough left for another visit either this or next year.

Anyone interested in walking might best get hold of a Sunflower Guide to the island and talk to John and June Wiseman who have been twice. I have a climbing guide and info about places to stay if anyone is interested.

Dave Wood



Views to be had



More views to be had



Local climber working on an 8a...



....and if all else fails

Sir Alec Emmott's Tales

An old farming friend from Blacko has been trying to tempt me to record his life story; he always amazes me with his incredible memory. Last night he told me this one.

“Tha nors me n’ Billy Piper ‘ad just picked up a beast up fri Fisburn auction, when I ‘ad me farm on Surry Rord, ‘n wi called fer a pint afore we unloaded it. Well, we gets chattin’ tut landlord, does ta nor Cyril Longford ‘e ‘ad pub at time, ‘n wi tells ‘im we’re just ‘avin some refreshment afore wi drops beast off. Straight off Cyril wants to nor what wiv getton in’t waggin. So a tells ‘im wiv getton a big bull. He’s reight tickled ‘n bets us 4 paind that we’ll net fetch it in. Well me ‘n Billy’s airt like a shot – this beast’s[†] reight well behaved ‘n we ‘as nor trouble getting it in. As yer can imagine this caused all sorts ‘o merriment in’t pub ‘n forks wer cumin fri allova, ‘n o’ course at one point beast ‘ad call o’ nature ‘n peed ovut floor. Well the blook at ballroom across rord wanted us t’ tek it across theer but it wer time t’ git back tut farm ‘n git unlorded. So landlord chuckles ‘n gives us t’ 4 paind n’ wi gits on us way. Anyroad, next day a calls in pub on mi way ‘ome ut night, landlord’s laughin’ tellin’ me that is cleaner ‘ad bin complainin’ thet some clumsy buggar ‘ad spilt a

reight lord a beer on't floor 'n it 'ad tekkon 'er ages t' dry it up! A laughs
'n sez that it could a bin a lot wuss, it cudda bin a lord 'a bull sh*t."

So what was the name of the hostelry in question?

Yes, you've got it, The Derby Hotel, Nelson. Sadly now boarded up!

The dialect N.E. Lancashire now sadly dying out!

†Beast is pronounced 'bee ust'.

Whitby

In the year of our lord 2011.

August 21st off we went to Whitby to walk the walks and enjoy the first weekend of the folk festival. The crew for this great event were Kevan and Glynis E. Dave E. Tom K and Me. Arriving midday Friday we did the tourist thing, out along the pier then up the 199 steps to the cliff top etc with an ice cream at some point in the proceedings. We wandered back via the chip shop for our fish and chip teatime treat at the digs. Digs on Friday night were the excellent Backpackers hostel by the river. Out again for a few be vies and then back for a good night's kip.

Saturday the Backpackers was booked up so we had to move to the YMCA at the top of the hill by the Abbey. We moved in at 10am after the previous occupants moved out, which meant we were setting off late for the day's wanderings. Down the hill over the bridge to the bus station and transport to the Flask inn, the start of our day's walk. Off across the fields down to the beach along the sands to Robin Hood's Bay. A beer in the pub halfway up the hill and join the Cleveland way





along the cliff top with it's beautiful views high up and out across the sea with the birds dancing in the air above. Back to the Abbey and our home for the night. After a meal it was out on the town and the folk festival. Squeeze boxes, fiddles, pipes and guys singing through bushy beards outside and inside pubs. Beer in the Middle Earth.

Sunday breakfast in the YM' then pack-up and leave before 10am. Staying at the YM' meant we could visit the ruins of the Abbey for free! So we did. Well worth a visit, lots of history and playing an important part in Christianity in this country. It's here that the powers that were evolved the formula to determine the date of Easter. Worth a visit

even if you have to pay! Then it was off to the day's business. Kevan and Glynis did their own thing, Tom Dave and I drove to Grosmont (pronounced Growmont). We visited the engine sheds and all the goings on 'behind' the scenes at the NYMR. On to the NYMR puffer down to Goathland, a trip we've done before (don't care it's nice). A quick look at the Mallyan Spout waterfall then back along the old horse drawn railway track to Grosmont. There we met up with Kevan and Glynis again. Back to the cars and home.

Clive



NYMR Puffer

Hut to Hut in 10 minutes

This year I celebrated my three score years and ten. My family bought me a wonderful present, a trial flying lesson from Carlisle Airport over the Lakes. The deal was a one-hour flight in a Piper PA28 Archer and I could take two passengers. I took my two grandchildren, Ben and Abbie.

We tried three times throughout August and September to get airborne but each time it was cancelled due to crap weather. Then on Sunday September 18th we struck lucky, although the weather was not marvellous it was acceptable.



We drove to the airport on Sunday afternoon for our 5pm adventure. We met Alan my instructor for the flight. He briefed us on how all the controls and thingies worked and then off to meet G-RNCH our aeroplane. We taxied out and had to wait whilst two RAF four engine Hercules flew over us and the airfield whilst Alan chatted to the pilots as they passed over us. With the air now clear we sped down the runway and up into the wide blue yonder. Once up there I had a go at flying straight and level, 2000ft past Skiddaw and into Newlands. Alan took over and we circled Stair. Around Cat bells over Derwent Water and back over the col and down Newlands again. Fortunately Stair hut is not visible from the air, at least whilst the leaves are still on the trees.

Next we flew over Derwent Water over Watendlath past the Langdales over Blea Tarn then Little Langdale to see No. 2 from the air. This must be a record, hut to hut in 10 mins! Over Loughrigg down Thirlmere past St Johns in the Vale. Turn to starboard over to Ullswater. All this at 2000ft with the hills each side of us. It was my turn again and I flew us back to the airfield. My attempt at doing a landing approach left something to be desired. Alan took over and brought us back to earth safe and sound.



I expected to fly over the hills but we flew amongst them. It was a fantastic experience. If you get a chance have a go (you don't have to have reached your dotage). According to Ben and Abbie it was, 'boss' (Scouse for jolly good)

Clive

Above and right:
Little Langdale



Approaching Newlands



Stair from the air

Landscape Designation Project

Date: 2 December 2011
Our ref:
Your ref:

To all consultees

Dear Consultee

Lakes to Dales Landscape Designation Project



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3 Millsands
Riverside Exchange
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This letter is being sent to all people and organisations who have contributed to the consultations on Natural England's proposals to vary the boundaries of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks to let you know the decision of the Natural England Board at its meeting of 28 September 2011; to provide feedback on the results of the further consultation; and to set out the next steps. The relevant Board Papers including consultation analysis and maps are at http://www.naturengland.org.uk/about_us/ourpeople/neboard/meetings/september2011.

Results of the Further Consultation

The further consultation took place between 14 April and 1 July 2011. The consultation asked whether:

- the Orton Fells should be included in the Yorkshire Dales National Park,
- two areas should be added to the proposed extensions to the Lake District National Park, and
- five areas should be added to, and one deleted from, the proposed extensions to the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

It also asked for comments on the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report and Equality Impact Assessment.

In total, 804 consultation responses were received. The 'Orton Fells' question was directly addressed by 551 consultees. A large majority (475, of which 146 live in the Orton Fells) agreed that the Orton Fells should be included in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, whereas 57 consultees (of which 13 live in the Orton Fells) disagreed. There was also some support from statutory consultees (Allerdale BC, Craven DC, Bandleyside PC, Grassington PC and the Yorkshire Dales NPA) but also strongly held objections (Cumbria CC, Eden DC, Asby PC, Crosby Ravensworth PC, Hawes & High Abbotside PC, Gosforth PC). The Lake District NPA objected on the basis of its view that the Orton Fells should form part of their National Park. We also received a number of 'in principle' objections (considered below), which, though they did not refer specifically to the Orton Fells, can be taken to be objections to inclusion of the Orton Fells in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

With regard to detailed boundary proposals, the results suggest very strong support for the additions to the Lake District National Park and generally to the additions and deletion considered for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, with relatively few people objecting. This pattern is also true for residents of the relevant extensions to which these additions and the deletion relate. In relation, specifically, to the additions to the proposed western extension to the Yorkshire Dales, there is very strong support from the majority of consultees overall, but also a substantial number of objectors, many of whom are local to the area.

Relatively few statutory consultees addressed the boundary questions in detail, but we have summarised comments from all consultees in the Natural England Board paper and annexes accessible from the link given above. Many consultees also made additional suggestions to further change the proposed National Park boundaries. The majority of these suggestions had also been raised during the previous consultation. The most substantial of these are: objection to the proposed western extension to the Yorkshire Dales; proposals for the inclusion of areas to the north of the Orton Fells (around Reagill and Sleagill), Tebay village and the Hutton Roof area in the Yorkshire Dales and proposals to include an area to the north of Sizergh Castle in the Lake District.

Many consultees, and in particular statutory consultees, focussed on wider issues of principle regarding the desirability of National Park designation, rather than the specific questions asked in this consultation. The two National Park Authorities, Allerdale BC, Craven DC and Lancaster CC were broadly supportive. South Lakeland DC and Copeland BC adopted a neutral stance, although the former raised detailed concerns. Cumbria CC, Eden DC, Lancashire CC, North Yorkshire CC and Richmondshire DC objected to the proposals in their entirety. Parish Councils also provided a range of views. Most of these issues had already been raised during the first consultation, and we have reviewed our analysis to incorporate any additional points raised. Again details are available via the above link to the Board Paper and Annexes. In some cases, the circumstances have changed, for instance the abolition of Government regions, and some new issues have arisen, such as in relation to the Localism Bill.

Natural England Decision

All the issues raised and alternative boundary suggestions received, were taken into account by the Natural England Board. The Board concluded that it remains desirable to designate the proposed areas as National Park. This decision was also informed by the Strategic Environmental Assessment, revised as a result of the consultation, and an Equality Impact Assessment.

With regard to detailed boundaries, the Board considered that in many cases there were strong arguments both for and against alternative suggestions, but overall concluded that, with one exception, the proposals put forward for consultation in 2011 represent the most appropriate, pragmatic boundaries. The exception to this is the boundary of the southern extension to the Lake District National Park, where new evidence was submitted which has led us to conclude that a small area (54 hectares) to the north of Sizergh Castle should also be included within the Lake District National Park.

Having reviewed the original evaluations (in November 2009) and the analysis of responses to the two statutory and public consultations (in March 2011 and in September 2011), the Board determined that:

- the boundary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park should be varied to the north, to include parts of the Orton Fells, the northern Howgill Fells, Wild Boar Fell and Mallerstang; and to the west, to include Barbon, Middleton, Casterton and Leck Fells, the River Lune and, part of Firbank Fell and other fells to the west of the river; and
- the boundary of the Lake District National Park should be varied to the east, to include an area from Birkbeck Fells Common to Whinell Common; and to the south to include an area from Helsington Barrows to Sizergh Fell, and part of the Lyth Valley, including the small new addition of land North of Sizergh Castle

These variations will not take effect until and unless confirmed by the Secretary of State.

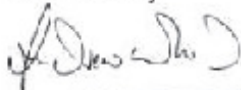
Next Steps

Following this decision, Natural England is drawing up Orders to vary the boundaries of the two National Parks. These Orders will then be submitted to the Secretary of State and placed on deposit for public inspection for a period of 28 days which we anticipate will commence during February 2012. Any person may comment in writing during this period to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State must give consideration to all objections, and may hold a public inquiry. A public inquiry must be held if a County or District Council with land in the National Park or proposed extensions objects and does not withdraw its objection.

We have also updated the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report as a result of the further consultation and are producing the SEA Statement which will be placed on the project website at www.naturalengland.org.uk/lakestodales.

We will contact you again to give notice of the start of the 'Deposit Period' and the locations where the Orders can be inspected. If you would like to discuss this with a Natural England officer, please contact the Project Lead, David Vose, on 07900 608492 or david.vose@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Wood
Executive Director Science and Evidence



Martin Dale and Nick Hepburn enjoying Northumberland cragging