**Clear Access and Clear Waters Cumbria 2022**

This year’s team – **myself - Mike Mills, John Crosbie, Sean McGrath and Mike Hayward** have had an interesting time, however progress is so SLOW and convincing other stakeholders to embrace change is like “watching gloss paint dry” or watching “Test cricket matches”

My grateful THANKS to all the team for their diligence and patience to support potential improvements with relationships and access/egress with Riparian Landowner, Fishing interests, National Trust, United Utilities, Rivers Trusts, Lake District National Park and British Canoeing – Places to Paddle department.

**Ennerdale** **A summary from Mike Mills**

Angler's Inn launch site - still an ongoing situation. The Kent Carriage Gap bollard, controlling access on the track to the lake shore, is in place and the National Trust has granted access to Copeland C.C. and Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project, which both supported our BC appeal to maintain the site for canoe access.

Unfortunately, they have been reluctant to allow individual paddlers access on the grounds of liability etc. We still have to meet up with them to talk - our delay not theirs. The lake is still accessible with a 250m carry/trolley via the other car parks.

**Lake District National Park – Rydal Water & Grasmere Access & Lake Dist Access Forum (LAF)**

Ben Seal (BC Head of Access & Environment) attended a meeting with myself and the *Cumbria and Lake District Local Access Forum* (LAF) Chairman on 11 October 22 to discuss the position taken by United Utilities and land owners regarding the ‘banning’ of SUPs on UU reservoirs and all paddle craft on Rydal Water (with signage on the latter endorsed by LDNPA).

It was agreed that Ben would draft a position paper for potential adoption by the LAF. This paper was not available for the LAF meeting on 31 October, however, the LAF agreed to continue to promote access on water within the LDNPA (despite being outside the statutory remit of LAFs).

Peculiarities of riparian and lakebed ownership on Rydal were noted as well as the CRoW access land providing access to the water. It was agreed that Ken Taylor (an access consultant and occasional paddler and myself) would form a sub-group to continue to work with the landowner and LDNPA to attempt to resolve the issues which appeared to be more related to the behaviour of individuals rather than the craft used on the water.

Subsequent contact and the resultant correspondence received from UU has been inaccurate and contradictory regarding paddle sports on UU reservoirs. It is intended to challenge these statements and continue to work towards an improved understanding. However, we must be wary of “waking a sleeping dog” with the possible result of worsening rather than improving the situation.

John Crosbie, Birkett Wood Farm, Ormathwaite, Keswick, CA12 4PQ

Landline: 017687 73040 Mobile:    07831 645353 Email:     jpgcrosbie@tiscali.co.uk

**Eden Rivers Trust – “Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges Partnership”**

A refreshing partnership between Cumbria Canoeists and ERT – the only Rivers Trust who has supported the BC “Clear Access, Clear Waters” Strategy – sharing space.
**About the Access to Eden: Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges project**Access to Eden will break down the physical, social and cultural barriers that prevent people from accessing the natural heritage of Eden and build the bridges needed to give them the confidence to enjoy our blue and green spaces. We will remove barriers for Eden’s special wildlife, connect habitats and promote nature recovery.

Working together, our partnership will break barriers and build bridges for people AND nature in the Eden. The funding received is to develop the project, pilot some of the projects and submit a delivery bid. If the delivery bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund is successful, delivery will run for a further **4 years and will total c. £2.4 million.**

The project is led by Eden Rivers Trust. Partners and beneficiaries signed up to the project:

Access the Dales Brampton Angling Association Carlisle City Council Carlisle Waverley Viaduct Trust

**Cumbria Canoeists the support group partner of the British Canoeing Cumbria**

Cumbria County Council Cumbria Wildlife Trust Eden District Council Eden Rivers Trust Eden Spring to Sea 4 Eden North Pennines AONB Partnership Penrith and Eden Refugee Network Settle Carlisle Railway Yorkshire Dales National Par

**Lazonby Estate – Eden Signs**

Had phone conversations with Estate Manager, from Edwin Thompsons, who designed signs with legal advice. “Dialogue is so important” he tells me and has ignored all my emails, invitations and contact. **Eden Rivers Trust has them on their target list for the BB&BB Project**.

Signs still up and are to be ignored.

**Ainstable Parish Council Car park at Armathwaite & partnership Access/Egress facility (steps/ramp) for water users** – a small group of us are working with the A PC and Eden Rivers Trust, to design a suitable and environmentally suitable access/egress facility. The car park plans have been submitted with the facility marked, just off the foot path and this will be a phase 2 (2023) planning application.

Funding – Canoe Foundation £7K and Eden rivers Trust “Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges” project some £££ too. Thanks to Mike Fletcher and Stuart Mair – former Civil Engineer. Job in progress.

**United Utilities SUP Ban on Reservoirs Nationally**British Canoeing have been in long discussions, however, NO Progress or withdrawal

**Bowston Weir removal – Mike Hayward**

Thanks to Mike Hayward for all his time, energy and correspondences – sadly as British Canoeing were asked by South Cumbria Rivers Trust, for us to withdraw our (planning application) concerns at the last-minute Mike has resigned from further work with British Canoeing and CC. last info on the weir removal

Hi Mike, Mike and Liam,

I hope this finds you all well and that this update is of value.  More will follow if you would like them.

The weir has been removed and all work completed on Wednesday 27th July.

The Biodiversity Group lost it’s battle to save the habitats (there is some very ‘interesting’ and concerning stories behind that!!) . . . but we have some plans for habitat restoration for Spring’23.

In discussion with Cumbria Wildlife Trust Andy Gilham and I agreed to monitor changes to the area through the autumn and winter to see how high flows and floods impact on the whole area before we finalise anything. Today was the first high flow and I walked the area and took a series of photos from what will be ‘fixed’ vantage points for ongoing reference. Each update will be related to the Bowston Gauge datum points.

I appreciate that canoe and kayaks will be interested in higher flow information in advance of your own recce’s. So I hope this is of interim value.

Once this high flow has returned to normal I will do a set of photos of the rock ramp/cascades - we agreed we would do that after the first high flow as we expect some parts to have moved.

Best wishes and happy paddling

**Canoe Foundation –** Funding – Promised £7K plus for the Armathwaite Access/Egress facility build on Eden.

**Halton Safety Project** – withdrew funding as BC new Facility Officer has stated that BC have no interest above the Halton weir or concerns for safety of life – I withdrew my time and energy and funding from Canoe Foundation.

NEW BC Paddlers CODE:

[The Paddlers Code | Respect, Protect, Enjoy.](https://paddlerscode.info/)

RESPECT PORTECT ENJOY

Video: https://youtu.be/cH0SQPj9VNo