

# TALKIN TARN

## Country Park

Discover Carlisle's Hidden Treasure

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# Management Plan

## 2010-2015



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# Introduction & Site Descriptions



## **Executive Summary**

This plan shows Carlisle City Council's intentions for Talkin Tarn Country Park and what can be expected in terms of maintenance and development over a five year period. It is intended primarily as a working document for City Council staff for managing the park. It however provides background information suitable for any interested parties to help them understand the past, present and the future direction of the park. A Phase 1 Habitat Survey has been undertaken in 2009 by James Hallam (student placement at the time) which adds larger scale maps, photographs and compartmental detail to the management plan. This is in itself a large document and thus has been added as an appendix item.

## **Vision**

**“To provide a sustainable and accessible Country Park. Working towards Carlisle City Council current priorities while balancing the needs of providing quality opportunities for social, recreational, and learning activities, within an area of high wildlife and landscape conservation importance.”**

The plan is divided into logical sections covering all aspects of park management and each section offers some action points. These are looked at in more detail on the action plans (tables at rear of document). The sections are as follows;

### **1. Site Description**

Covers basic information about the site including location, brief history, strategic context, vision, staffing and finance.

### **2. Conservation**

This looks in detail at each of the main habitat areas in the park how they have been managed and how they are currently managed and the key species that inhabit them. It also considers sustainable management operations.

### **3. Education**

Education in a variety of forms is integral to the site. This section considers the educational & interpretive facilities and how these can be maintained and developed. It also considers how marketing can be used.

### **4. Recreation**

Recreation is an important aspect of the Tarn. Country Parks were originally set up as ‘gateways to the wider countryside’ this section looks at the facilities required by the public, the potential of the park for further recreation and how people access this information and the Tarn itself.

### **5. Tearoom, Gift Shop & Takeaway**

The tearoom, gift shop and takeaway are managed as an integral part of the site involved in all aspects from events and schools to catering for training groups and meetings. Its wide range of services help to maintain year round service and cater for a wide customer base. It has a large influence over sustainability of the Tarn effecting issues such as waste production, fairtrade, energy and water use. The section also looks at staffing and opening hours.

### **6. Health & Safety**

This section highlights the wide variety of health & safety issues effecting management of the Tarn and the responsibilities of the Council in meeting regulations for these.

### **7. Action Plan Annual**

This is a plan of work that happens at the park at least once every year. It gives a brief description and location of the work with timescales and who is responsible to ensure the work is completed.

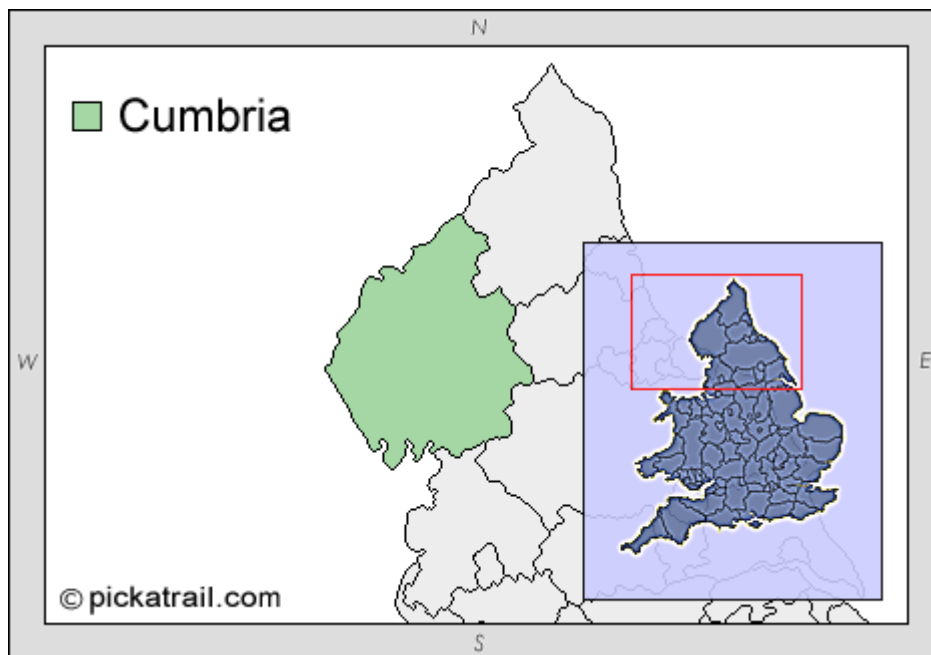
### **8. Project Plan 5 years**

This gives an overview of the key projects planned or proposed for further investigation/development over the next five years.

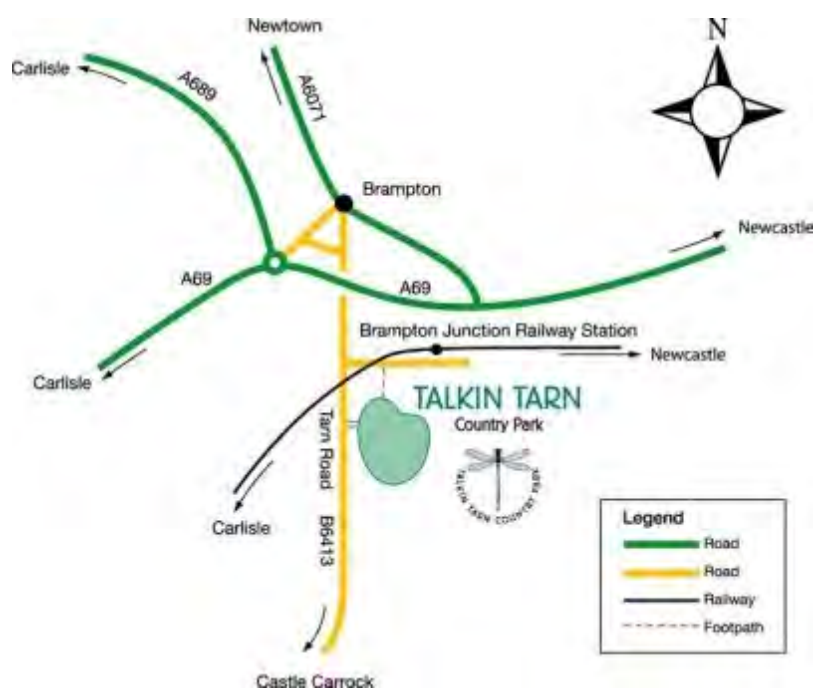
## **Location & Access**

Talkin Tarn Country Park is located in the East Cumbria countryside, 12 miles east of the sub-regional centre of Carlisle. The Park is open throughout the year and is accessed by tarmac road from the B6413 Brampton to Castle Carrock road, 2 miles south of Brampton. Grid Reference NY544590 (car park)

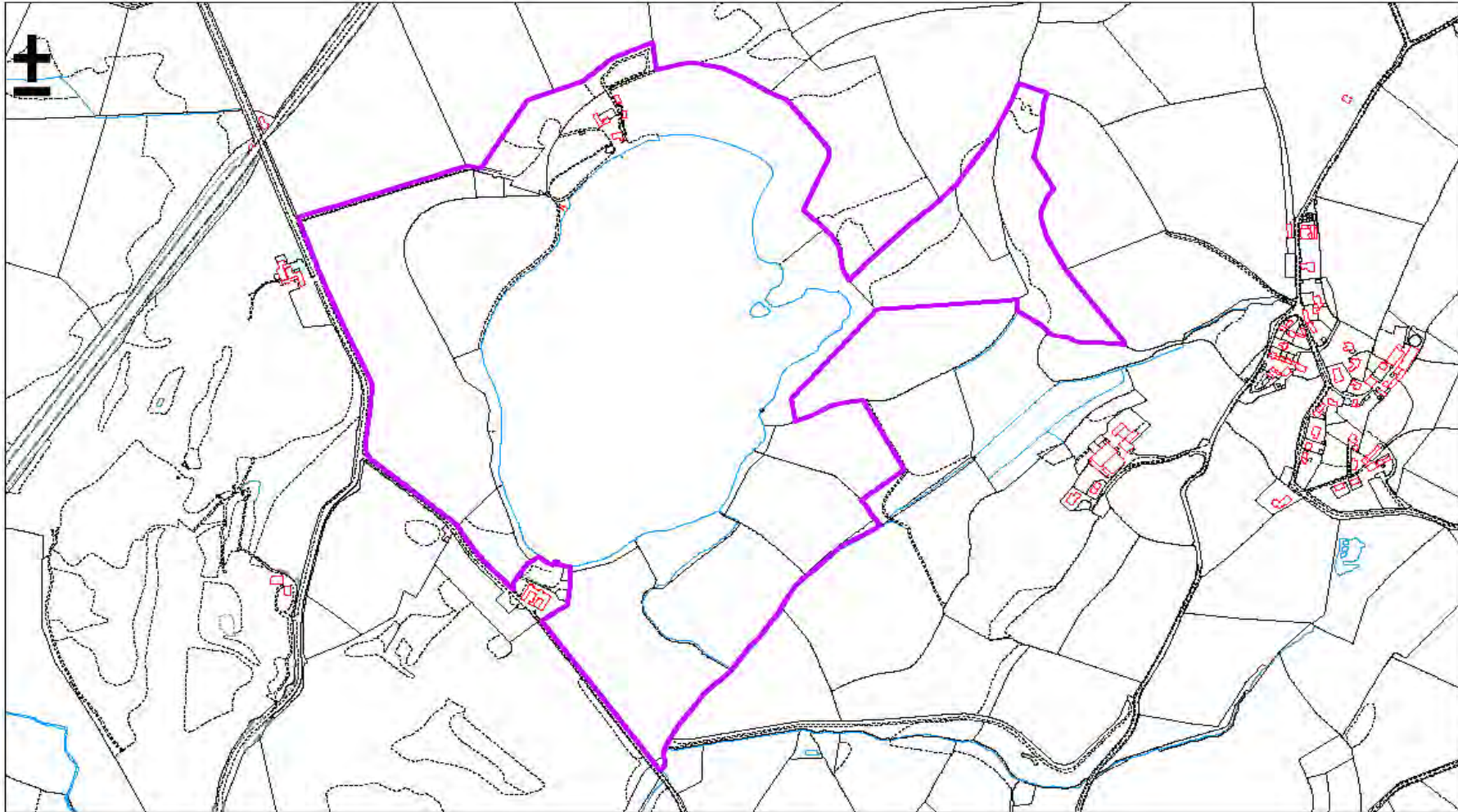
Map 1 Talkin Tarn's Location in England



Map 2 Talkin Tarn's Location Within North Eastern Cumbria



## Map 3 Talkin Tarn Country Park – With Boundaries Marked In Purple



Scale: 1:5,500

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Talkin Tarn

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**Map 4 Phase 1 Habitat Compartment Map**  
(small version for example only. Full A0 sized version held in site office)



## **Tenure**

Freehold in perpetuity

Talkin Tarn became a country park in 1972, while then the property of the former Cumberland County Council (now Cumbria County Council). Talkin Tarn then became the property of Carlisle City Council on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006.

## **Site Description**

Talkin Tarn itself : 65 acres.(26 hectares)

Surrounding land : 116 acres.(47 hectares)

Entire Site: 181 acres (73 hectares)

For the purposes of clarity, this excludes the old hotel area of 1.596 acres in its entirety;

The Park comprises 26 hectares of open water, 8 hectares of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland and smaller areas comprising of 0.75 hectares of Scots Pine plantation, 2.5 hectares of wet heath and 2.25 hectares of marshy grassland. There is also grassland currently let to local farmers for sheep grazing. 40 hectares is designated as a County Wildlife Site because of the sites ancient semi-natural woodland and lowland wet heath habitats. (see section on county wildlife site)

## **Geology**

The Tarn and surrounding landscape is glacial formed. An east travelling glacier, shown by the elongated eastwards rolling hills surrounding Talkin Tarn. Some of the hills may have risen above the moving glacier, while others will have been entirely engulfed by it. As the cold, hard top of the glacier was grinding away, it was actually melting underneath and materials were being deposited as it travelled. The weaker shales in the bedrock would have been gouged out, filled in, gouged out and filled in several times over a long period and as deglaciation started that is when the outwash gravels would have run all over the area forming the current landscape. Among the rocks found were Skiddaw slate and Penrith sandstone. These are both stones from the west of Talkin Tarn and this indicates that the ice has passed over these areas and dragged these stones with it. Among the stones are jagged bits and rounded bits, which is typical of glacial outwash material.

## **Hydrology**

The Tarn has a maximum depth of 15 metres. Under the water it is shallow for several meters around the edges gradually deepening before it then drops off very deeply to a big hole. The water level has become shallower over time and if you look inland, you can see flat levels of ground around the Tarn that used to be the shoreline, when it was probably full of run off water from the glaciers. The water will have lowered over time due to the water seeping through the ground, evaporation and natural run off. It has settled down over thousands of years to the level it is today. The Tarn is now thought to be fed by underground springs from the north Pennines as well as 2 inlet streams. A map of water depths is available from the site office.

## **Climate**

The Pennines form a natural barrier to east-west communications, but there are the Tyne gap linking Carlisle and Newcastle and the Aire gap linking Lancashire and Yorkshire. The Lake District in Cumbria includes Scafell Pike (978 metres), the highest mountain in England, and Windermere, the largest lake. To the north and NE, there is further low ground (below 60 metres) in the Vale of Eden and the Solway Plain, close to Carlisle. The range of topography and altitude found in NW England provide a climate of great variety, and the region includes both the coldest place in England (Cross Fell in the Pennines) and the wettest place in England (the

Lakeland fells around Seathwaite in Cumbria). The higher parts of the Lake District are particularly wet, with an average of over 3200mm of rain each year. More sheltered areas of Cheshire and the Eden valley in Cumbria are drier with less than 800mm per year. These areas benefit from the 'rain shadow' effect of the high ground of N Wales and the Lake District respectively (sourced from the Met Office website) The Tarn itself has a small weather station and this is used for writing of wildlife reports and to assist with conservation research such as monitoring of blue green algae.

## **Soils**

After the glacier melted 12,000 years ago, the tremendous outwash, of gravels and sands formed the hills surrounding the Tarn. This is why much of the soil around the Tarn is sandy with boulders and very low in nutrients.

## **Wayleaves**

A file of maps showing the wayleaves across the site is held in the site office. It contains maps of public sewers, electricity cables, mains water pipes, BT cables and gas pipelines. The site however is not on mains sewers and propane gas for the tearoom is supplied in bottles.

## **Brief History**

Historically the Earl of Carlisle was the 'Noble Proprietor' of Talkin Tarn, he was based at Boothby Manor House, Brampton with Boothby Estates administering the Tarn plus surrounding woods and farmland. The Talkin Tarn Amateur Rowing Club (TTARC) was formed in 1859 and at some point after this took on the lease for the Tarn site from Boothby Estates. TTARC, the second oldest rowing club in Northern England, opened the site for public use employing a boatman to operate pleasure craft and undertake management of the surrounding land. For the majority of this period Boothby Estates was run by North Cumbria Labour MP Wilfrid Hubert Wace Roberts (28<sup>th</sup> Aug 1900 – 26<sup>th</sup> May 1991) who had succeeded his father, Charles Henry Roberts, 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Carlisle. In 1975/6 TTARC relinquished the lease of the site, with the Tarn and approximately 65 acres of adjoining land being sold to Cumbria County Council who created the country park which exists today.

TTARC discontinued the provision of pleasure boats and became purely a user of the Tarn.



Between 2006 Cumbria County Council officially handed control of the Tarn over to Carlisle City Council only retaining ownership of the former Tarn End Hotel, which was sold in 2009 for private development. The site has been used for many different activities over the years, the most notable of these being Rowing, Wrestling, Curling, Sailing, Swimming and Ice Skating.

## **The Legend of the Tarn**

Talkin Tarn was in the midst of a storm when an outsider came to the village looking for shelter. She was turned away from every door. But the villagers hadn't realised that the stranger was a witch and as she walked down the hill, she turned and said: "May you be flooded". And so there was a flood and the Tarn was formed. The full legend can be found in the site office.

## **Strategic Context**

Talkin Tarn is working towards the strategic Corporate Plan from which Carlisle City Council's current priorities are Local Environment & Economy (2010) Talkin Tarn comes under the Local Environment Directorate, Neighbourhood and Green Spaces Team. Key aims for Talkin Tarn from the Local Environment Action Plan are;

- Review the structure of the Neighbourhoods and Green Space team to move towards area based service delivery – including O&S Task Group and links with key partners.(April 2011)
- Develop a volunteer plan with Friends groups and partners to increase engagement in parks and green spaces.

As a Country Park it has achieved Green Flag status in 2010 and also meeting other environmental plans such as;

## **Biodiversity Action Plans**

Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP's) provide a framework for achieving the conservation of biodiversity based on the targeting of resources towards priority habitats and species. BAPs also provide a means for the involvement in conservation of a wide range of organisations and members of local communities.

Three types of Action Plans have been developed which set priorities for nationally important and locally important habitats and wildlife - Species Action Plans, Habitat Action Plans and Local Biodiversity Action Plans. These are described further below.

Two types of documents have been produced about the habitats within the UK:

Broad Habitat Statements provide summary descriptions of all habitats found within the UK and are identified in the Broad Habitat Classification. For example, natural habitat types such as broadleaved woodlands and rivers and streams, through to urban settings. In addition to a general description of the habitat type these Statements identify the current issues affecting the habitat and the broad policies, which can be put in place to address these.

Priority Habitat Action Plans provide more detailed descriptions for 45 specific types of habitats such as native pine woodlands, upland oak woods and lowland wood pasture and parkland. They set out detailed actions that can be taken by a number of agencies in order to safeguard and enhance these habitats.

Local Action Plans are in preparation or being implemented across Great Britain. Each Action Plan works on the basis of partnership to identify local priorities and to determine the contribution they can make to the delivery of the national Species and Habitat Action Plan targets.

## **The Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP) has 39 Species and Habitat Action Plans**

Covering over 700 individual actions designed to conserve and / or enhance a range of threatened species and habitats of both local and national importance.

Specifically, the objectives of the Cumbria BAP are essentially three-fold, to:

- Implement national biodiversity targets at the local level.
- Address local priorities not identified in the UK plan.
- Engender greater awareness and understanding of Cumbria's biodiversity and

wider participation in its conservation.

Our management of Talkin Tarn will take into account the relevant habitat and species action plans which are appropriate to the site, These are primarily the red squirrel.

### **County Wildlife Site**

The site is a County Wildlife Site (CWS). These are areas of land recognised as being at least county, sometimes national, importance for their nature conservation value; this is defined by the presence of important, distinctive and threatened habitats and species. County Wildlife Sites is a non-statutory designation that has been used to recognise high quality wildlife habitats in each county; some sites may be of similar quality to SSSIs. County Wildlife Sites, therefore, play a vital role in the conservation of the UK's natural heritage by providing essential wildlife refuges, stepping-stones, corridors and buffers linking and protecting other designated sites and open spaces both in towns and the countryside. (source Cumbria Wildlife Trust) The report sheet produced by Cumbria Wildlife Trust is held in the site office. It states the guidelines for selection of Talkin Tarn as; H1.1.1: Site in Ancient Woodland Inventory semi-natural canopy, H4.1:Bog and mire indicative of listed NVC communities, H4.3:Bogs>0.5ha with 3+listed indicator species and H4.4:Bog sites>10ha with dwarf shrubs cover >25%.

### **Transfer Aims**

Original Aims for the park were quoted in the committee report to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee 26<sup>th</sup> August 2004 entitled 'Proposed Transfer of Talkin Tarn from County Council to City Council'

2004 Overall objectives:

- To retain public ownership and access of the Talkin Tarn estate by transferring it from the County Council to the City Council.
- To provide enhanced facilities for the public through a general refurbishment and upgrade of the buildings.
- To improve public access and comply with Disabled Discrimination legislation by upgrading appropriate footpaths and car park.
- To improve the ecological and environmental aspects of the estate.
- To bring forward proactive management which promotes various Carlisle City Council corporate objectives in relation to, leisure culture environmental and educational themes.

The management plan will aim to update these objectives in the context of where the Tarn is now 5 years later and what Carlisle City Council's priorities are for the next 5 years. A vision for this is outlined below.

Current Carlisle City Council Priorities (2010) are; Local Environment & Economy

Action

Apply for LNR Status

Apply for Green Flag Award

Apply for Natural England Country Park Status (accreditation)

## SWOT analysis

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape</li> <li>• Long established history of public use</li> <li>• Integrated management between all entities of the park</li> <li>• Partly self funding</li> <li>• Positive group usage (rowing &amp; sailing clubs)</li> <li>• Environmental education programmes</li> </ul>              | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue green algae</li> <li>• Lack of conservation management at present time</li> <li>• Lack of survey data</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge on visitors</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge of visitors on what happens and why</li> </ul> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water sports development</li> <li>• Better woodland management</li> <li>• Enhanced wild play facilities</li> <li>• Areas for additional woodland planting</li> <li>• Increased public involvement</li> <li>• More regular events</li> <li>• Enhanced wildlife conservation focus</li> </ul> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of public knowledge on country parks and their purpose &amp; subsequent management</li> <li>• Blue green algae as result of nutrient build up</li> <li>• Not entirely self funding</li> </ul>                                 |

### Vision

**“To provide a sustainable and accessible Country Park. Working towards Carlisle City Council current priorities while balancing the needs of providing quality opportunities for social, recreational, and learning activities, within an area of high wildlife and landscape conservation importance.”**

### Management Plan Review

The plan is intended to be a rolling programme that can be regularly updated and modified. The annual review should be a fairly quick and straightforward process. The annual review will provide an opportunity not just to create the annual plan for the forthcoming year, but also to evaluate successes and failures over the previous twelve-month period.

The five year work plan will need revision and extending so that the vision behind the plan is always considering the long term.

- Habitat and species management will need to be reviewed in light of changes of status, legislation and guidance especially through the BAP process.
- Recreational Management should continue with regular review of users and current trends
- Education Management and provision will need to keep pace with changes in national curriculum and other guidance notes.
- Changes within Carlisle City Council priorities

In the main a major rewrite should not be necessary until the end of the plan period in 2015.

### Staffing & Responsibilities

Full job descriptions are kept in the site office. Currently on-site staff are as follows;

Country Park Manager, (CPM) responsible for overall management of the site, including the safety of staff and visitors. Based on site 9am – 5pm Mon- Fri 37hrs/week

Tarn Supervisor, (TS) responsible for the day to day practical management of the site and running of volunteers, environmental education activities and the running of events. Based on site 8am – 4pm Mon- Fri 37hrs/week

Tea Room /Gift Shop Manager, (TM) responsible for management of the tea room and gift shop and its staff. Based on site in the tea room 5 days/week (9am – 4pm) 34hrs/week

Cook, Based in the tea room and responsible for preparation of food, 5 days/week (9.30am – 4pm) 30hrs/week

Casual Staff, assist in the running of the tea room, food preparation and serving of customers. Hours vary.

Placement Student (bursary supported) working with the Tarn Supervisor and Tarn Manager in the day to day running of the site as part of a sandwich degree. Working with the team on set days each week for a full year, which includes working two Sundays/month to lead the volunteer team. Treated as a member of staff.

Team Meetings are held to discuss any issues and pass on information once every 2 months on a weds early evening. This timing works well to be able to involve as many staff as possible. A list of action points are distributed after each meeting and progress is checked at subsequent team meetings.

Team Appraisal Jan 2010

A team appraisal is held annually (1<sup>st</sup> one in Jan 2010) to ensure objectives are set for the park to work towards the corporate plan.

Objectives from Jan 2010 are;

- Continue to develop further opportunities for quality volunteering activities at Talkin Tarn as part of a wider Green Space volunteer network. Aiming to achieve 900 quality volunteer hours/year.
- Enhance visitor experience through using a wide variety of interpretive media with the aim of accessing a broad selection of the community. A key focus at this time is on conservation management of the site. Increase audience by 10%.

Priorities are;

- Develop a measureable quality rating and increase the percentage of high quality volunteer hours.
- Increase quantity and effectiveness of consultation
- Staff and volunteer skills audit to ensure making the most out of the team
- Provide more in-house training for staff and volunteers

A Staff Newsletter is written by the Park Manager on months when there isn't a team meeting to ensure information is passed on regularly and staff updated on any procedural changes.

Induction is carried out for all staff members. This covers council procedures and courses as well as on-site procedures.

Training for staff is identified through the appraisal process. A matrix of staff training that has been completed is held in the site office and updated as necessary.

Action

Investigate options for overlap of staffing cover and alternate weekend working.

## **Site Administration**

This is carried out by on-site staff as follows;

Bookings (All)

Enquiries (All)

Initiating Invoices (CPM)

Ordering Materials (TM, CPM)

Budget Monitoring (CPM)

Phone Messages (All)

Email Enquiries (CPM, TS, TM)

Website Updates (CPM, TS)

Visitor Enquiries (All)

Banking Up (TM, CPM)

Carlisle City Council Finance Team carry out final invoicing for which a fee is paid internally annually.

A copy of office procedures are given to all staff as part of induction, which is required by audit.

## **Finance**

The site is funded by Carlisle City Council. There is a separate Business Plan. Originally approved in 2005 prior to take over it was updated by the new manager in 2006 (for 2006-2008 period) and then updated again in Dec 07. It was due for a further update in 2010, however due to a major upheaval within the department and major changes to budgets this will be reviewed in 2011 when there is a better idea of expectations and budgets. The Business Plan describes the various income streams for Talkin Tarn and looks at constraints and opportunities. It also looks at expenditure such as staffing costs and also services that the Park offers which add value in other ways such as through voluntary person hours.

Any additional income from site facilities such as the tearoom or car parking charges goes back into running the site. (ring fenced) A budget is allocated to the site annually. From this sub budgets are allocated for example to buildings maintenance, cleaning, staffing, internal charges for finance & administration. Other budgets are allocated based on past experience of site needs and running costs for example electricity and water bills.

Most small projects can be funded from site budgets if managed carefully. For larger projects funding will need to be sort either from council or external funding bids. In the five year project plan larger projects that require additional funding have been noted. There is no guarantee that funding will be found for these.

Predictions on income are also made in the budget to help offset costs.

The tearoom is self funding with a projected budget of income and expenditure. Any shortfall must be met by the City Council. Any profit is ring fenced goes back into the running of the Tarn.

In 2010/2011 a saving of 15% needs to be made from site budgets with an additional 13% saving in 2011/12.

## **Customer Service**

We recognise that things can go wrong and that we can only put them right if customers are able to let us know. A compliments, concerns and suggestions system has been set up to collate information. Forms are available from the office and on the table top folders in the tearoom. Forms can be given back to staff or put in a special box in the tearoom. The site manager deals with responding to forms handed in as soon as possible. These are often discussed at team meetings as ways to promote discussion for improvements. If people feel they do not want to use this method then they can speak to the Green Spaces Manager whose contact details are provided on the form. Or they can use the Carlisle City Council customer contact centre. Staff attend a one day 'Welcome Host' training course led by Cumbria Tourism focusing on good customer service. Additional courses are also provided internally through Carlisle City Council such as communicating effectively and dealing with difficult situations.

## **Information Technology**

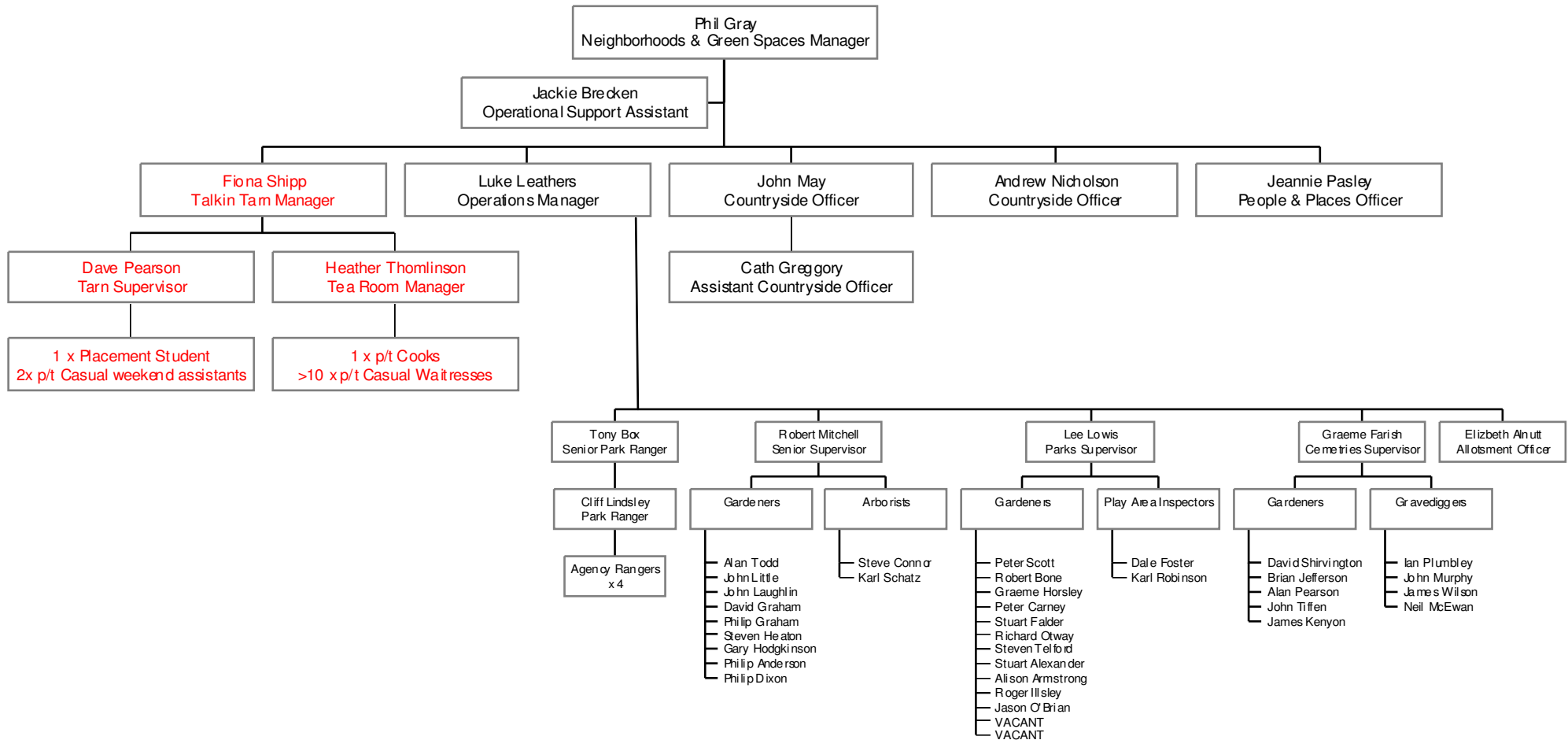
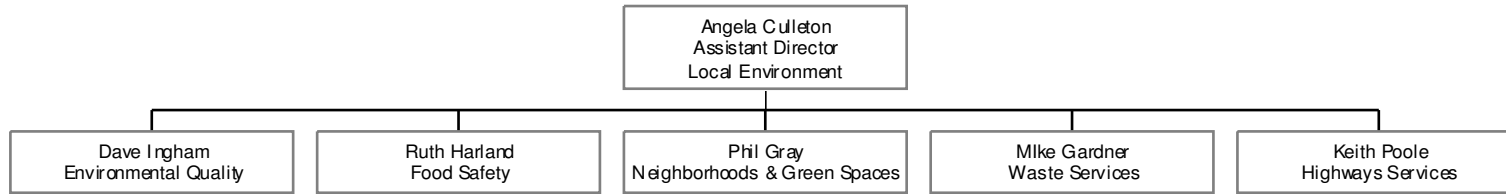
The Tarn is connected to internet and email on a dial-up system linked to the council's internal system. The tearoom has an independent wifi system available to the general public to use for free while in the tearoom. The site has website pages on the Carlisle City Council website located at [www.carlisle.gov.uk/talkintarn](http://www.carlisle.gov.uk/talkintarn) The web address [www.talkintarn.org.uk](http://www.talkintarn.org.uk) has additionally been purchased and is linked to take you directly to the Tarn's web pages. These pages are updated regularly by the Tarn Manager and Tarn Supervisor. In 2009 the web pages had 2,500 hits, and in 2010 they had 5,500 hits. Showing that are pages are becoming more popular and an important point of contact with our visitors or potential visitors.

Podcasts are currently being developed by site staff to help with the new Environment and Land Based Diploma's. There is potential for more use of modern IT equipment at the Tarn and this should be explored further. The main constraining factor is the speed of the phone link to the Tarn which is dependant on BT improvements in Brampton. This could be overcome independently but was costed out at £40,000 in 2008 to provide a broadband service to the Tarn. This is not currently deemed viable due to the high cost. See also the section on Moodle under Education for our school specific interactive website.

### Action

Identify new areas of IT potential for development

# Local Environment



# Conservation



## **Habitat Management**

### **Woodland**

The quality of woodland is recognised by the Park's inclusion in Cumbria Wildlife Trust's list of Wildlife Sites. Moreover, nearly 10 hectares of the woodlands are included in Natural England's records of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands.

This indicates that woodlands have been a major resource of the site for a very long time. The considerable amount of mature to very mature beech and sycamore along the northern Tarn edge is evidence that planting has taken place in the more recent past, probably dating back to Victorian times. The main woodland was extended by planting Scots Pine at the eastern edge of the main block in 1954, while two new woodlands have been planted away from the main block, the first one along the south end of the Tarn some 25 to 30 years ago and a second in 1984 on the sandy bank in the east of the site. A woodland management plan was drawn up in 1995 by Cumbria County Council. It covers a 10 year period and was the basis of a Woodland Grant Scheme which was approved in 1996. The English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) is the Forestry Commission's suite of grants designed to develop the co-ordinated delivery of public benefits from England's woodlands. The aims of the EWGS are to:

- sustain and increase the public benefits given by existing woodlands and
- help create new woodlands to deliver additional public benefit.

A woodland vegetation survey of the Park's woodlands was carried out in October 2006. From this it is clear that the woodlands in the Park most closely resemble oak woodland types, and as such they are covered by the Habitat Action Plan for upland oak woodlands. The woodlands are included in the National Woodland Inventory (administered by the Forestry Commission).



The city councils arboriculture team carry out any major tree works on site. Smaller scale works are carried out by site staff. The Tarn Supervisor is trained in Quantitative Tree Risk Assessment.(QTRA)

A new draft woodland management plan was drawn up in March 2007 by the former East Cumbria Countryside Project. Please refer to this and the woodland survey for detailed information on the sites woodland and potential future management. Updates were added to this plan in 2010 and a new 5 year programme of woodland management begun. A woodland improvement grant was also applied for in early 2011.

#### Action

Start tree planting programme as proposed in plan.

### **Hedgerows**

The hedges provide nesting and feeding sites for birds, small mammals and invertebrates. They also act as corridors, linking to the wider countryside as well as within the park, which animals can move along relatively safely, in an otherwise open landscape.

The site contains only a few hedgerows, condition described below. The majority of which currently have little management apart from occasional pruning. There is potential for new lengths of hedgerow to be planted further linking areas of existing woodland. See page 9 of woodland management plan.

Hedgerow 1 (H1) Entrance drive – Mature hedge manage one side only

Hedgerow 2 (H2)Tarn road – Planted approx 2005 shaded by mature trees, growth stunted  
Hedgerow 3 (H3)Tarn road – Planted approx 2003 shaded by mature trees, growth stunted  
Hedgerow 4 (H4)Hell Beck – Planted approx 2002 good growth, needs de-tubing  
Hedgerow 5 (H5)Boundary field – Planted approx 2003 good growth some de-tubing already done (2008) but evidence of rabbit damage.  
Hedgerow 6 (H6)Tarn End – Manage one side only. Mature Hedge to be trimmed back annually

#### Action

Explore further planting options for wildlife corridors  
Maintain existing hedgerows

### **Verges**

The site has two main roadside verges running along Brampton to Castle Carrock road and the road to Talkin village, both these are narrow and steep with standard trees. No management work is currently carried out apart from removal of occasional dangerous trees next to the highway. It is debateable whether or not these standard trees are owned by Carlisle City Council as they are out of the boundary fence.

#### Action

Survey verges for any notable species  
Clarify verge tree ownership

### **Boundaries**

The site has a variety of different boundaries these are marked by fencing, ditches, and stone walls. These boundaries need to be maintained.

Fences are donated on maps as F1 with designation of either (W+B) for sheep fencing with barbed wire top strand or (W) for wire only or (PR) for post and rail.

Inflows are donated on maps as IF1

Outflows are donated on maps as OF1

#### Action

Clarify through plans exact boundary of Tarn land  
Survey & maintain boundary annually

### **Grassland**

Both the grazing licence and the countryside stewardship scheme at the Tarn are managed for the city council by a company called Capita (current contact Charles Stevens)

#### Action

Carry out baseline survey of grassland areas NVC level 2

### **Grazing**

Areas, Entrance Drive to Tarn field, Tarn End to Sluice Wood, Hell Beck to Roman Wood and Farlam Meadow are currently managed under a grazing licence in line with countryside stewardship requirements. See file in site office..

### **Countryside Stewardship**

Countryside Stewardship was introduced as a pilot scheme in England in 1991 and operates outside the Environmentally Sensitive Areas. Payments are made to farmers and other land managers to enhance and conserve English landscapes, their wildlife and history and to help people to enjoy them. The scheme has now closed to new applicants and has been superseded by

the Environmental Stewardship scheme. Farmers with an existing agreement, which lasts for 10 years, receive an annual payment on each hectare of land entered into the scheme. The CS agreement at the Tarn ends in 2011/2012.

### **Grasscutting**

Areas that are not grazed are either left, managed on a regular grass cutting or strimming regime. Or a hay cut is taken with a reciprocating mower in late summer and where possible cuttings are removed. See annual action plan for regime.

### **Farlam Meadow**

This individually distinct piece of grassland shows a wide diversity of habitats. The outer dry areas of the field are managed by sheep grazing under a grazing licence based on countryside stewardship requirements for grazing levels. The middle of the field which is generally slightly lower lying has a wet flush that runs through it. This has caused a change in vegetation. The edges of this expand and recede depending on current water levels. At times there are also small open water pools. A raised bank within this area has a few standard hawthorns and willows taking advantage of the drier conditions. These appear not to be self seeding at present but this situation should be monitored to prevent self seeding and consequent saplings starting to dry out the area. As the meadow raises up towards the woodland it gradually dries, again giving a change in species towards predominant meadow sweet and then bracken and gorse. This top end of the field has been fenced off for many years and not been grazed giving an indication of what some areas may turn into from a vegetation point of view if the grazing is removed. The meadow has potential for further expanding its diversity for wetland species in particular but before this can happen baseline data needs to be collected and trials undertaken. A vegetation survey was carried out in 2007. A copy is held in the site office.

A public footpath runs along the edge of Farlam Meadow. This path has had stepping stones laid in approx 2004. It currently enters/exits the field via metal kissing gates in the top and bottom corners. The official line of the public footpath has been unofficially altered to reduce damage to the field's vegetation and to assist the public in keeping their feet dry.

On walking through this area small mammals have regularly been spotted and this would be a good area to carry out a survey. This could provide information on suitability of this area for other species higher up the food chain that may be using this area that are spotted less frequently. A small area of old fence exits in the central area of the field. This has long since fallen down and requires removing.

#### **Action**

Survey baseline quadrat with current grazing regime

Study quadrat that is removed from grazing for a set period of time (1 year)

Aquatic and marginal vegetation analysis and survey of aquatic invertebrates in existing open water pools next to path. Survey with emphasis on recording ordonata (dragonfly & damselfly) species in their larval form.

Trial a new small area of open water in meadow if deemed appropriate as result of above survey. Site and size to be identified on the ground. All suitable vegetation that is removed should be replanted for bank stabilisation works around Tarn edge.

Clear vegetation from stepping stones annually

Apply for formal footpath change of location in line with current situation.

Carry out small mammal's survey.

Remove old central area fence line.

Manage Gorse area with rotational cutting

### **Entrance Drive – Tarn End Field**

This field is grazed by sheep under a grazing licence and under countryside stewardship scheme. The field is divided into two by a stone wall. The field is very undulating and thus popular with children for sledging in the winter. It has also been used on a number of occasions for cyclo-cross events, lastly in Sept 09 organised through Border City Wheelers. The area next to the entrance drive is used a couple of times a year as a car park for the Regatta or similar other big event. All use of field other than for grazing is agreed in advance with grazing licence holder (Currently Mr Routledge). Running parallel to the entrance drive are a row of standard trees planted within large metal sheep guards. These are still fairly young with a mix of beech and oak and there are some gaps that need planting. There is also a row of older standard trees of a variety of species running along parallel to the Talkin village road. A few of the trees are memorial trees, which have associated plaques. No formal record is kept of these.

The section of the field nearest Tarn End has a large area of gorse that was cut back in 2002 This is now re-growing. The boundaries of this field are a mix of stone walls and post and sheep wire fencing. There is also a small section of hedge bordering Tarn end. All are in good condition and just require general maintenance. The post and wire fence that borders Top Wood between the overflow car park and the willow hide corner area where the wood ends and the gorse starts, was replaced in 2007. The fence on the overflow car park was partially replaced in 2009. New 12ft gates have been installed in overflow car park 2009 and drive entrance 2006. Both kissing gates by Tarn end have been repaired and widened in 2009.

#### **Action**

Re-cut gorse as required

Replant standard trees that have died in metal guards with native species suitable for this area.

### **Tarn End – Sluice Wood Field**

This field is grazed by sheep under a grazing licence and under countryside stewardship scheme. The boundary next to Talkin Road is mainly stone wall with a section of post and wire fence. There is a new gateway in the bottom corner that was created in 2008. The other boundaries of this field include a hedge row planted in approx 1999 and a post and wire fence parallel to the Tarn ( installed after foot and mouth disease outbreak in late 2001). There is also a ditch know as Hell Beck.

The area nearest Hell Beck on the eastern side of the field is significant for its wet grassland areas and subsequent vegetation. This area should be maintained. Hell Beck and its adjacent new and old hedges provide an important wildlife corridor in and out of the Tarn. It is thought that the otter uses this route. The hedge is growing well and will need to be maintained.

The post and wire fence section bordering sluice wood was replaced in 2009.

This field also contain the old sewerage system for the old Tarn end hotel. This area is fenced off with a post and wire fence to prevent sheep or human injury .

#### **Action**

Maintain hedgerow

### **Hell Beck – Roman Wood**

This field is grazed by sheep under a grazing licence and under countryside stewardship scheme. Areas of post and wire fence in this area require some maintenance and longer term replacement. A shallow ditch runs along the eastern edge of this field running into Hell Beck. This grassland area adjacent also has a significant wet grassland area that should be maintained. The Southern

boundary is a hedge that was planted in approx 2000. It has suffered however from rabbits and has some gaps that need planting up.

Hell Beck itself should be better maintained with a rotational clearance of 50m sections every 2 years to keep the watercourse clear from encroaching vegetation. There is space for this to be done mechanically if required.

This field is suitable for possible woodland planting to link Sluice wood and Roman wood areas. Providing a more viable area of woodland for wild life over time rather than the small islands that are there at present. This should be done on the back slope of this area initially to minimise visual intrusion. Any planting should avoid wet grassland areas leaving a buffer strip between this and the woodland.

Action

Rotational clearance of Hell Beck 50m every 2 years.

Maintain hedgerow.

Set up woodland planting scheme, with possible link with the woodland trust or AONB N. Pennines.

## **Orchid Meadow**

This is located next to the car park and used to be an overflow parking area. However the area is now a species rich wildflower area with no vehicular access. Known particularly for its species of Orchid (northern marsh & common spotted), it is surrounded by mature trees giving it a protected feel. This area is occasionally used for mini-beast hunts with school groups. The area is given a hay cut annually in late summer and the cuttings removed where possible. The southern end which is also the wettest (there is a drain from the entrance drive that runs into this area) is richest in species with the northern end being dominated by thistle. The surrounding mature trees should be occasionally trimmed back on a rotational basis to prevent further encroachment or too much shading of the meadow. A cut path runs along the side of the field allowing public access to this area and a picnic table located on its edge for people to sit and enjoy this space.

Action

Annual hay cut.

Trim back boundary trees if necessary to prevent encroachment.

Path cut from gate every 3 weeks.

## **Open Water**

### **The Tarn**

The word 'Tarn' is derived from the Old Norse '*tjorn*', which was used to describe any small body of water. It means 'a small lake' or more poetically 'a teardrop'. Tarn is a regional term used largely, but not exclusively in the Lake District, which along with many other local names, originated with the Viking invaders who settled in Cumbria in the tenth century.

Tarns are a unique feature of Cumbria, contributing greatly to its beauty as well as being ecologically important. Cumbria has over 3,000 small water bodies, found from the rugged high fells to richer low lying agricultural land. The diversity in size, shape, altitude, depth and water chemistry means that many plants and animals find refuge and thrive in these habitats. They support a huge variety of life, from microscopic forms to large vascular plants and animals, including fish, amphibians and birds. Together, the small water bodies support two-thirds of all freshwater plants (at least 240 plant species are associated with Tarns in Cumbria) and animal species found in the county, and support more invertebrates and rare species than rivers.

Talkin Tarn is a 65 acre (26 hectares) natural Tarn, glacial formed approx 10,000 years ago. It is fed by two above ground inlet streams and it is believed also some underground springs although there is little evidence to support this at present. A plan of water depths is located in the site office. Over time, work has been undertaken on an ad hoc basis to encourage marginal vegetation. The biggest effect on this was the installation of a fence around the Tarn in 2002 to prevent livestock from grassing at the Tarn edges. The lack of subsequent poaching from livestock has allowed the vegetation to recover and spread. Some clumps of vegetation have been transplanted to speed up this process. In 2007 common reed was transplanted from Siddick Ponds in Workington with permission from Natural England and planted into wildlife bay. This has taken well and is now beginning to spread and the individual clumps join together. The reed has also had the effect of protecting the bank from the wave wash. The bank has then subsequently silted up and started to grow further vegetation.

Talkin Tarn was surveyed as part of the Cumbria Tarns Project (2003-2009), initiated by Cumbria Wildlife Trust (CWT) and the Freshwater Biological Association (FBA) as part of CWT's Community Action for Wildlife programme. Aquatic macrophytes in Tarns are indicators of the health not only of the waters themselves but also of their surrounding environment. The health of a freshwater body is directly related to the state of its catchment and this forms the basis for European legislation to protect freshwater systems, the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC).

### **Canadian Pond Weed**

This weed was introduced from North America at the end of the 19th century and rapidly spread throughout the UK. It is a relatively common water plant in still waters in the UK. It can form dense banks of weed that will block waterways and can re-grow vegetatively from any small piece left after removal.

This is a common sight on the Tarn and comes and goes each year in various quantities. It is an important food source for the wildfowl all year, but particularly in the winter when other food is scarce. It is disliked by human water users for getting in the way of paddles, propellers and rudders. The weed is only removed from areas urgently needing to be cleared for special events such as the large annual rowing regatta. After periods of strong wind and resulting wave action weed regularly washes up in the bays at the northern end of the Tarn. This can become unsightly and smelly. This is removed by JCB at least twice a year (usually late autumn to remove leaf drop at same time) and at other times by staff and volunteers. Ideally this weed should be removed from site to try and reduce the nutrient levels in the Tarn which are adding to the problems with blue green algae. Disturbing the weed through cutting and removal can break off many small plant parts that can then re-grow potentially exacerbating the problem. Weed can potentially be taken to Willowholme for adding to councils green waste pile. This is removed twice/year by an approved green waste disposal company for the purpose of composting. However this may involve double handling of weed and is not currently viable.

#### **Action**

Investigate methods for stock piling weed and transporting by approved contractor for composting purposes.

## Blue Green Algae

Blue-green algae, (seen in photo to right) also known as Cyanobacteria, are a group of photosynthetic bacteria. Blue-green algae are most often blue-green in colour, but can also be blue, green, reddish-purple, or brown. Blue-green algae generally grow in lakes, ponds, and slow-moving streams when the water is warm and enriched with nutrients like phosphorus or nitrogen. Nutrients, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen, can be carried into water bodies as a result of many human activities, including agriculture, discharge of untreated sewage, and use of phosphorus-based fertilizers and detergents.



When environmental conditions are just right, blue-green algae can grow very quickly in number. Most species are buoyant and will float to the surface, where they form scum layers or floating mats. When this happens, we call this a "blue-green algae bloom. It is not always the same species that blooms in a given water body, and the dominant species present can change over the course of the season.

Blue-green algal toxins are naturally produced chemical compounds that sometimes are produced inside the cells of certain species of blue-green algae. These chemicals are not produced all of the time and there is no easy way to tell when blue-green algae are producing them and when they are not. When the cells are broken open, the toxins may be released. Sometimes this occurs when the cells die off naturally and they break open as they sink and decay in a lake or pond.

There are no quick or easy remedies for the control of blue-green algae once they appear in a lake or pond. Reducing the amount of nutrients that wash into our lakes and ponds will eventually reduce the frequency and intensity of blue-green algae blooms, but it may take a long time and a lot of community involvement to effectively change the nutrient concentrations in a water body. This is because there may still be large amounts of nutrients in the sediment at the bottom that may continue to serve as food for the blue-green algae.

At Talkin Tarn there are regular blooms of blue green algae. A traffic light warning system is in place to let members of the public know when a bloom is present and its intensity. The algae has been tested during 2009 to identify species present. This has been carried out by the Environment Agency and also by Professor Brian Whitton from Durham University (an expert in this field) Some records are also present from previous years but it appears the blooms are becoming more frequent. A student from Newton Rigg, has set up a detailed monitoring system for the blue green algae to give us better data to assess the conditions. (2010) Sampling includes measurement of pH, water temperature, conductivity, turbidity, and identification of algae species through a microscope. The water was initially sampled twice/week from a set of 4 sampling points around the Tarn including one in the middle of the Tarn. This was however changed to 5 sampling points once/week in Nov 2010 as not enough differences were seen between each week to warrant two samples/week. It was also felt that the sample from the middle of the Tarn was not significantly different from the other samples and thus was dropped. One additional sample area was added to give a better spread around the Tarn and allow for movement of the algae during different wind conditions.

So far it has been found through the sampling that we have three species of blue green algae at the Tarn, *Microcystis spp*, *Anobaena spp*, and *Gloetrichia spp*. The algae, has been found to boom and bust in cycles between the different species but with no particular pattern as to which

species follows which. The lake has also been found to be slightly alkaline but with lots of fluctuation throughout the year. We currently have a full set of data from 4/1/10 – 21/11/10. Start and stop times for this year were related to the melting and re-freezing of the Tarn on these dates. Monitoring will restart in 2011 as soon as the Tarn melts from the current cold spell. It is planned to continue monitoring for the foreseeable future to build up a robust data set which can be shared and compared with other data sets nationally. Monitoring is carried out by our annual sandwich degree placement student as part of their development and training during their year working with staff at the Tarn.

## **Aeration System**

This was installed in 2006 (first turned on 26/1/07) as part of the renovation works at the Tarn as a method towards managing the algal blooms. The Aeration system uses a series of 12 compressors to pump compressed air into the Tarn. This is pumped along pipes laid on the bottom of the Tarn. It then exits via diffusers placed at points all over the Tarn (giving a bubbling effect on the waters surface) which can be seen from the shore on calm water days.

Four main positive effects;

1. De-stratifies the water, mixing up the thermal layers, this in turn increases the oxygen levels throughout the Tarn. Oxygen helps to lock in the Phosphorus within the Tarns sediments, which in turn helps to prevent growth of algae.
2. Blue Green Algae in particular is very buoyant, thus vigorous mixing of the water helps to stop it rising to the surface and forming scums/blooms. Hence the large number of diffusers in the Tarn.
3. Also forcing the algae into the deeper darker waters prevents it from carrying out photosynthesis (for which light is needed) and thus blooming.
4. Extra oxygen throughout the water levels also has a positive effect for other life in the Tarn such as the fish and invertebrates, allowing them to use the deeper areas of the Tarn that previously didn't have enough oxygen within them.

## **Action**

Write catchment management plan including a water sampling system to monitor conditions and provide evidence towards prescribing potential action within the catchment to reduce nutrient levels in the Tarn long term (particularly phosphates)

Continue regular monitoring system for algal blooms

Share algae data where possible

Turn aeration system off Nov-March but put on if Tarn freezes over to keep water pools open for birds.

## **Revetment**

The Tarn edges are gradually slumping into the Tarn by means of a gradual process of bank undercutting by wave action. This is most noticeable on the side where the prevalent wind washes the waves up between the Alex Boathouse and the sandy bay. This is also the most used bank side from a water sports perspective.

Traditionally areas of the Tarn have had some protection from railway sleepers installed on the bank sides however while these help they do not prevent bank from being washed out underneath

them. The undercutting was evidenced clearly when a ditch was dug to the Alex Boathouse in 2006 to allow the electricity cable to be laid. Although the ditch was over 2 metres back from the shore edge on the far side of the Tarn path. The whole edge of the Tarn water quickly discoloured due to the disturbance, highlighting the issue and showing that water was reaching/lapping over 2 meters under the path.

Money was sourced from the Landfill tax to try and stop the situation getting any worse. A grant of £50,000 allowed revetment to be installed in front of the bank side partly in the form of gabion baskets between the Alex boat-house almost up to the play area. From then on a recycled plastic piling was driven into the Tarn bed. This piling enabled us to back fill with concrete and subsequently attach a series of boat launching platforms. (This would not have been possible with the gabions as they had nothing to attach into) As part of this same project the Tarn edge footpath was resurfaced for its whole length and an area of wildlife bay was planted with transplanted common reed (spring 2007). The reed will need to be managed over time as it spreads. It will provide good protection for the banks and also nesting areas for birds. Some transplantation could happen in early years to encourage its spread.

An area of land was reclaimed in sandy bay by installing a new corner of railway sleepers and then backfilling with stone and topped with 20mm to dust. This although a visually hard finish, enabled weed to be removed from this area by JCB without constant damage and removal of the bank. In this bay other experiments have taken place with woven sections of willow and willow posts to break up the wave action and to protect the bank. These are largely proving to be successful and allowing the bank to re-vegetate behind them.

#### Action

Continue to explore options for natural solutions to bank sides in less hard ware areas.  
Continued maintenance and expansion of the willow revetment.  
Transplantation of reed as required to encourage expansion within wildlife bay.

### **Car Park Pond**

This naturally wet area was created as a pond in 1999. It has a small pond dipping platform. Although the water is very peaty in colour and it often dries out during the summer months. This is not a problem ecologically as seasonal wet areas are very good for wildlife but it does make it difficult for guaranteed pond dipping sessions. However there is currently little demand for these and with continuing financial pressures it is unlikely that ranger led school sessions will continue to run in the future.

A path leads from the car park to the pond.

The wet area around the pond has value as an area with little human disturbance, which should be continued. It contains an old reptile refuge built as a school project. The grass/scrub area has value as a wet area in times of high rainfall containing species able to adapt to damp conditions. Alder trees in this area need to be cut back and prevented from encroaching this area, as the sheltered, sunny nature of this bank has importance for reptiles and insects.

#### Action

Maintain wet land area primarily for wildlife with no encouragement of access beyond the pond.  
Regular Alder cutting back  
Clean out pond annually as necessary

## **Watercourses**

### **Outflow**

Hell Beck runs out through the north eastern side of the Tarn and joins the River Gelt further downstream. A small sluice gate is operated on this stream but has only minimal effects when water level is high enough. The stream regularly runs dry in the summer months if the Tarn level is low from evaporation and lack of rain. The aim of raising the water level if possible at times (by preventing loss out of the stream) is to increase water depths for the boat launching areas. At other times lower water levels can be encouraged by opening the sluice gate. This could be to help encourage marginal vegetation growth which might otherwise become swamped. It also helps to prevent as much bank erosion. At this time it is not deemed necessary for more control of the water levels. Although this may need to be reviewed in the future depending on rainfall levels.

Hell beck is regularly cleared of debris and vegetation to keep it open. This is done in stages with a different section being cleared each year currently by hand but there is the potential to clear sections by mechanical means on rotation such as a 50m stretch each year. Where Hell Beck leaves sluice wood it is fenced on one side until it meets the ditch on the boundary. From here it is only fenced on the far side which forms the neighbours boundary.

### **Inflow**

The banks of the inlet at wildlife bay, that drains from Farlam Meadow is an important area for northern marsh orchid with over 25 spikes counted in 2009.

The second inlet comes in from neighbouring farmland and enters near the bird hide.

#### **Action**

Maintain sluice gate in current basic working condition

Continue rotational clearing of hell beck to keep watercourse open

Clear inlet streams as required.

## **Marsh & Wet Areas**

Farlam meadow contains the largest wet grass area, holding water year round. A causeway was built over part of this area to prevent damage from the public footpath that runs across it.

A valuable wetland vegetation community has developed and this status should be maintained.

The drier sections of this meadow are grazed under licence by a neighbouring farmer. Other wet areas have developed by the boundary ditch that runs from level with Roman wood along 2 field lengths until it reaches the road to Talkin village. These valuable wet areas are in a quiet area of the Tarn. The main threat is from trampling from the sheep that graze these fields and require access to the water.

## **Species Management**

Species lists for Flora, Fauna, Fungi, Odonata, Butterflies, Fish are kept in the site office. Copies of all other surveys undertaken are also kept in the site office.

### **Mammals**

Talkin Tarn has small range of fauna, none of which are currently managed specifically for. The badger set is however purposely left as an area of no intervention and public access is not encouraged. The most red squirrels seen at any one time is 6 during 2009. Grey squirrels have regularly been seen passing through the area and are being managed as necessary. A bat survey

was carried out in 2009 on behalf of the County Council as part of the sale of Tarn End Hotel. Species roosting there will use the Tarn as a feeding point.

#### Action

Carry out survey works to establish status of species breeding and using the site

### Flora/Vegetation

The site contains several species of orchid, there are good numbers of common spotted and northern marsh orchids. Principly in the orchid meadow and by the farlam inflow stream. Three



butterfly orchids were also found in July 2008. They did not re-appear in 2009, but 9 were found in summer 2010 close t farlam meadow gate with a noticable increased spread (7 on left and 2 on right) The 2nd one on the right was 18 fence posts (from the gate) back along towards the wind turbine, roughly in the middle of the strip of grassland.

A population of narrow-leaved (sword- leaved) helleborine (photo to left) occurs within areas of woodland on the site. This plant has been declining throughout its range in the UK and is now very scarce. The population at the park is the third largest in the country, and it is therefore a valuable biological resource. The plant is fairly longlived, seems to require optimum conditions for flowering, and has a complex relationship with mycorrhizal fungi. The plants are surveyed annually (surveys stored in site office). The population has declined over the earlier years of the last decade and remains at a lower level. There is little knowledge on the exact requirements of this plant and thus management for it is very difficult. Plantlife have been consulted on appropriate management methods. Blockages to paths to reduce foot traffic were attempted in 2009 but these were ripped out by the public on many occassions. In 2010 a more substantial fence was put up to stop trampling to the larger colony as a trial. Other areas were left unfenced for comparison. The public were kept informed of this process and information signs have been put on the fence explaining its presence. The fence blocks a stretch of footpath that had become dangerous and eroded. A new set of steps was constructed at this time to enable an alternative route.

It has been suggested that strimming of areas around the colonies to a height of about 5cm to increase germination areas should happen in the winter months before the end of March annually. All areas will continue to be monitored annually for new plants.

Other species of note are the northern bilberry in Roman wood area, now fenced to protect it from trampling. The area of fencing was extended in 2010 as it had been found to spread and needed room to grow further. There is also dawf willow near the car park pond. Three nerved sandwort was found in the car park banks after excavation work to extend the car park. Obviously enjoying the very sandy conditions. Six stamened waterwort is found in the Tarn shallows.

#### Action

Experiment with reducing vegetation in helleborine colony areas during the winter, to be complete by end of March annually

Continue to survey annually, results to be shared with Plantlife

Monitor northern bilberry growth in Roman wood.

### Invasive Species

Some recognised potentially invasive species are present on site. These are

Ragwort – this is in fairly low quantities found in grassland areas and is pulled by hand each year before seeding in July

Rosebay Willowherb- found mainly but not exclusively around the Tarn edge, campsite area & roman wood. Pulled by hand each year before seeding.

Canadian Pond weed – found growing in Tarn. Works carried out in past to mechanically remove have been largely unsuccessful causing spreading of weed in longer term. (dealt with in more detail under Open Water section)

Blue Green Algae – found in the Tarn, see section under Open Water for details

Grey Squirrels – passing regularly through the Tarn Trapping began in 2010 with assistance from Brampton Red Squirrel Group.

#### Action

Remove invasive species such as Ragwort and Rosebay Willowherb

Carry out NVC survey's to obtain baseline data for meadows

Trap grey squirrels periodically depending on number of sightings

### Fungi

The site has an impressive array of fungi and guided walks have often been held to look at these. Two groups visited the site to study these in 2010 and records from these collections were added to the species records.

#### Action

Update species records

### Fish

The site is not currently stocked with fish and species present have been added over the years. The main species are Pike and Perch with eels also present. Evidence is from Fish catches by anglers and fish remains found around the Tarn.

### Beetle

Records have been found from the 1980's (Tullie House) indicating that the Tarn is home to a rare (red data book 3) beetle (*Macrolea appendiculata*). A reed beetle whose larvae feed on the roots of water plants, mainly on alternate-flowered milfoil and fennel-leaved pondweed. It is one of the few beetles that spends' its complete life cycle underwater. It occurs in less than fifteen 10km tetrads in the UK. It was re-found at Talkin Tarn by a German professor in the early 2000,s but not formally recorded.(record from member of staff) Tullie House records show approx a hundred species recorded at Talkin Tarn, many of which are beetles recorded during the early 1900's.

### Butterflies/Moths (Lepidoptera)

There are 8 species of butterfly regularly seen at Talkin Tarn, mainly around the wildflower areas. Small Copper's tend to be seen around the Tarn edge.

A moth catching evening was held at Talkin Tarn on 21<sup>st</sup> Aug 09.



Small Copper Butterfly

#### Action

Gather data on previous moth surveys and establish species list

### Dragonflies/Damselflies (Odonata)

The common blue damselfly is used as the symbol of Talkin Tarn due to the sheer number of them that emerge at the Tarn

each summer. The damselfly is used as the site Logo which is used on marketing and uniform alongside the Carlisle City Council logo.

## **Sustainable Management Operations**

**Talkin Tarn aims to** Promote the use of Renewable Energy Sources through setting a good example

As a key site it helped the council gain Gold award from Cumbria Business Environmental Network (CBEN) in 2009.

### **Energy Efficiency**

The site has encompassed a wide variety of energy saving and energy efficient systems into the redevelopment of the Tarn buildings. Within the buildings the following technologies are now used.



- Air source heat pumps (Education Cabin & Toilet Block)
- Water source heat pumps (Alex Boathouse)
- Under floor heating (Education Cabin & Toilet Block)
- Intelligent lighting (Education Cabin & Toilet Block)
- Intelligent taps and urinals (Education Cabin & Toilet Block)



- Wind turbine (Bird Hide)
- Photo voltaic cells (Site Office)
- Herdwick sheep's fleece insulation (Education Cabin & Toilet Block)
- Rainwater flushing toilets (Education Cabin & Toilet Block)



- Klargester (covers all toilets and waste water)
- Energy saving light bulbs (All buildings)
- Energy saving plugs on older models of fridges & freezers (Tearoom)
- Wood burning stove (Tearoom)

The site comes under Carlisle City Councils Environmental Policy Statement, and its Carbon Management Plan

Carlisle City Council has set an aspirational target of reducing carbon emissions from its buildings, street lighting and transport related functions by 25% by April 2013 against its 2007/08 baseline of 6,306 tonnes of CO2

The site has no vehicle apart from a mini tractor. All petrol or diesel driven machinery is serviced annually and repaired as required by a trained member of City Council staff. An inventory of equipment is kept in the site office. Current research (Jan 2011) is happening into the viability of a wood burner stove with back boiler to heat the site office and workshop. This

will replace four in-efficient 2kw electric fan heaters. The tearooms bottled gas supply is due to be replaced early in 2011 with a propane gas tank. This will require approx once/month fill up instead of weekly delivery of bottles. It will also make a financial saving.

### **Peat Use**

The only peat used is present in the hanging baskets that are brought in each year. These are produced by the Green Spaces team and contain 25% peat reduced.

### **Waste & Recycling**

The site has two waste bins for general waste which are emptied once/fortnight. The tearoom produces the most waste in the form of cardboard which is recycled via a commercial recycling bin, which is emptied as required. Previously a full set of recycling bins was located in the site car park but these were removed when a new household waste recycling centre was opened in Brampton. This has eliminated problems previously with rubbish and fly tipping in this area. Food waste can not currently be composted due to the volume produced and associated environmental health issues that are likely to arise from this.

Green waste where possible, is kept on site forming habitat piles in appropriate locations. Fallen timber is cut up and used in the wood burning stove in the tearoom or smaller branches are chipped and used as path surfacing in wet areas of the woodland. Occasional appropriate fallen timber is used to make structures on site such as the memorial benches or by special permission taken for use by local crafts people. General waste is not separated and recycled as this is mixed with dog waste.

### **Tearoom Waste**

Efforts have been made to reduce the amount of waste produced through taking consideration over the products sold with in the tearoom and particularly the takeaway area. For example duck food now uses recycled milk cartons rather than bought in bags. The ice cream supplier was changed to a local supplier of scooped ice cream which has completely eliminated lolly wrapper waste and lolly pop sticks. Only sweets without individually wrapped sweets are sold. For example a pack of jelly tots would be preferred over a bag of wrapped toffees. The Councils sustainable procurement policy guides on purchasing of low energy equipment. Consideration is also given to using local suppliers and products to reduce food miles. Stock levels are kept as low as possible to reduce wastage and the menu considers the volume of products needed to support it.

### **Office Waste**

Ink cartridges are recycled through the Councils internal scheme and paper is bought under the councils system for bulk buying of recycled paper. Site electricity and water usage is monitored by the council. Monitoring of this has led to decisions such as the changing from bottled gas to a larger gas tank.

Under the *Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005* Enforcement officers from Carlisle City Council can issue a minimum £50 fine to people who drop litter, fly-tip, spray graffiti, fly-post, distribute flyers or leaflets, or fail to clean up their dog's mess.

### **Action**

Carry out an energy audit

Install new energy efficient boiler in tearoom

## **Pesticide Policy**

'No pesticides are used on site unless there is no alternative non-chemical method of control, and the non-use would cause more danger to public or wildlife than the use of. No pesticides have been used on site in the last 5 years.

## **Water Use**

The toilet block and education cabin both have rainwater harvesting systems for use of rainwater for flushing toilets. Waste water goes through the Klargest system. There is a grease trap between the tearoom and the Klargest. This is cleaned out twice/year or as necessary. The only watering is of the hanging baskets during the summer.

### Action

Install a rainwater butt for water collection for basket watering

# Education



Talkin Tarn is an ideal setting for environmental education programmes and has a variety of facilities to enhance this. Schools regularly visit the site to carry out learning in a formal and informal manner as part of self led or ranger led programmes. The words 'school' and 'students' is used regularly in this section but also refers to groups such as youth groups & scout & guide association groups. Schools can also borrow equipment and resources from the site on request to enhance their self led visits.

Currently schools visit mainly during the summer term (May, June & July)

## **Education Cabin**

The log cabin provides a focal point for environmental education at the site. It is available for self led groups to hire as their base for the day, helping make even a rainy day a good experience for the children. It can take a maximum of 45 people. As well as a large hall area containing tables and chairs, projector screen and dry wipe board.



There is a small kitchen area so groups can prepare their own snacks and hot drinks. There are also 2 fully accessible toilets. The cabin itself is accessible with a ramp system leading up to it from the disabled parking area. Regular parking is available near the cabin. If ranger led activities are booked (see education programmes) then the cabin comes as part of the package for the day.

A record of usage of the site by schools is kept in the site office.

## **Orienteering Course**

This permanent course was set up by Border liners orienteering club and is checked and updated by them annually. A set of up to date maps are kept in the site office for use by visiting groups. Members of the public can also use the course, and maps and information are available for purchase from the tearoom & gift shop. The course starts from the front of the changing rooms.

Action

Continue to work with Border liners to maintain and update the course and encourage its use.

## **Marked Trails**

There are 3 marked trails, installed in 2008. These are marked by wooden posts with coloured bands on them.



Blue Trail -1.5km -30mins  
Green Trail -2.5km -40mins  
Red Trail -3.5km -1hr

The trails all start from the bottom end of the car park, which is marked with an information board indicating the length (in distance and approx walking time) and colour of the trails. There is no map to accompany these trails. The idea being to get away from maps, which many people find

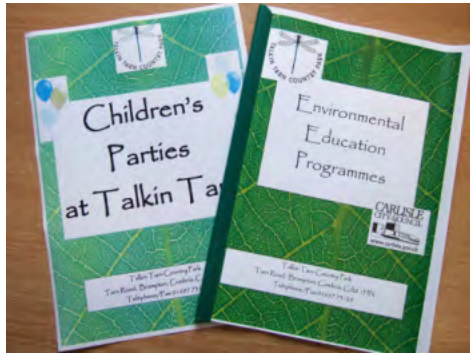
difficult to read.

Action

Ensure areas of increased wear on paths as a result of these trails is monitored and dealt with as required.

## Environmental Education Programmes

An independent consultant was brought in during 2007/8 to create a new pack of environmental education programmes that could be offered to schools wanting to visit the site. All programmes were linked to National Curriculum targets and made to be as flexible as possible to meet individual teacher's requirement. The programmes were trialled during 2008 season and adjustments made where necessary. The packs were sent out to over 60 primary, junior and nursery schools in a radius of approx 30 miles of the site during June 08. Additional copies are held in the site office and are sent out as requested free of charge. An e-copy is also held on site



computer files and available to download off the website. Number of days of school visits has gradually risen since then. In 07/08 there were 6 days of ranger led school visits, in 08/09 there were 13, in 09/10 there were 19. Currently 14.5 for 10/11 up to Jan 2011. Currently it is being considered whether to stop running ranger led school visits due to financial and time restraints on staff. If this happens schools will still be able to use the site for self led programmes and the schools Moodle (see separate paragraph) site will continue.

### Action

Encourage use of the site all year round.

## Numeracy Trail

This trail was created as a separate information pack for teachers in a similar format to the education pack. This pack supports teachers to make the best use of a trail around part of the site that has a series of activity points, all with a numeracy emphasis. Some points have special equipment constructed and some use natural items at that point such as trees for measuring height and diameter. This pack is available to purchase from the site office. The trail itself is designed to be self led by the teachers. Teachers should buy the pack and a pre-visit is recommended. The trail takes a full day to complete, but it is recommended that teachers select parts of the trail they wish to complete and combine this with other activities at the site, to lessen the intensity of the day.

### Action

Although an initial press launch was carried out further work needs to be carried out to complete sections of the trail and to market this resource to schools more directly. Try and involve numeracy co-ordinator at Cumbria County Council.

## Moodle



This is an interactive website for schools which has been developed by the Tarn Supervisor during 2010 in conjunction with Cumbria County Council. This CPLE (Country Park Learning Platform) is unique in Cumbria as it is a Learning Area shared across a significant number of schools designed to enable collaborative studies, real-time observations and cross-school data collection. Six schools have a 'whole school presence' and another two are in the process of joining. The front page is shown below and the site can be accessed fully only by schools who have signed up to it. This is a free service to the schools. As a visitor

you can access limited pages. <http://vle.talkintarn.cleo.net.uk/>

Visitor log-in/password is: **visitor/visitor**

## **Rock Detectives**

Talkin Tarn has been a base for a Rock Detectives club since 2009, this was previously run by the former ECCP. Rock Detectives are clubs for children aged 6 to 12 (under 8's must be accompanied by an adult). There are currently 72 signed up members. There are three clubs



across the North Pennines where children can get involved in activities from fossil hunts, games and crafts, to video animation and visits to 'hands-on' attractions - all with a rocky theme! Membership costs £1 then all the events are free. Members receive a Rock Detectives T-shirt and bag to start their Rock Detectives kit. A programme of six activities are drawn up annually by Talkin Tarn staff and agreed with the North Pennines AONB. An events programme is then distributed to all members.

Rock Detectives is part of the AONB Partnership's **Rockworks** project, and is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Natural England and LEADER +. Rock Detectives is also part of the AONB Partnership's contribution to a transnational project with nine partner European Geoparks, with LEADER + and other funding. The AONB Partnership is taking the lead on developing clubs of this kind and sharing with colleagues across Europe the experiences of the AONB Staff Unit, the group leaders and the participants to enable this work to spread to other Geoparks. The future of this club however, is currently under threat due to lack of funding. (Jan 2011)

## **Geocaches**

Geocaches are part of a worldwide treasure hunt game, designed specifically for the use of hand held GPS's. A website [www.geocaching.co.uk](http://www.geocaching.co.uk) gives 10 fig grid references and clues for the locations of buried/hidden geocaches all over the world. You can search by area and find ones close by. Treasure can vary widely but is generally a watertight container with a book for logging your find and various trinkets which can be swapped. Some trinkets have missions they you may wish to help complete, such as a toy car with an aim of travelling from Lands End to John o' Groats from one geocache to the next. Talkin Tarn contains two geocaches. The rule with geocaches is that whoever installs them must have permission of the landowner and must take the responsibility of maintaining the cache.

Action

Check the caches are present and clean out boxes annually

## **Work Experience Placements**

Traditionally this has been mid GCSE students from local secondary schools spending 1 – 2 weeks at the site working with the staff. The idea being to gain an insight into working life generally and the work of the site staff. This however is very time consuming for staff as students are untrained and need constant supervision. As the site only has one outdoor supervisor/ranger this all falls on one person. It is suggested to take one student per year on this arrangement. Currently a new system has been set up where students are shared between different green spaces departments spending only 1 or 2 days at any one site. This is better for everyone including the student. There are however opportunities to develop work experience placements from Universities and colleges running environmental degrees. These students have a

keener interest in the work, are older and more responsible and already have a good background knowledge in environmental work. Longer term sandwich degree placements (up to 1 year) are much more valuable for students, staff and the site. Students can be provided with more formal training and take a larger role in site activities. They can also be given individual projects and do not require constant supervision. We are currently in our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of offering year long placements. 2009 was a student from Harper Adams University College and 2010 is a student from Bangor University. In 2010 a bursary of £300/month has been agreed to help the student (who is otherwise unpaid) pay for accommodation costs locally.

Currently all placement students follow a standard application process with a potential for short listing for interview and may or may not be offered a placement as a result of this.

Some students come to the site requesting research projects, which require varying levels of input from site staff. These projects should generally be encouraged but assessed on an individual basis. Copies of any data gathered should always be provided to the site at the end of the project.

Action

Investigate further longer term placements.

## **Community Programmes**

### **Friends of Talkin Tarn**

This group was in the pipeline for several years but no firm decision was made on how the group would be organised and what its purpose would be apart from community involvement in the site. Then a set of proposed aims of this group were drawn up by the site manager in 2008 and were posted for consultation on site notice boards and in the newspaper. No feedback was received.

A further review of the friends group proposal was made in May 2009 with the start of parking charges. The group was launched in June 2009 via a press call. Members were invited to join up. Each member receives a membership card and a free site newsletter 4 times/year. It is likely that over time members may receive certain benefits such as tearoom discounts or special offers. It may develop in other ways also, but there are no firm plans as yet and will be dependant on members and their input over time. It is free to join.

### **Friends Of Newsletter**

The newsletter was started in May 09 with the launch of the Friends Of group. A separate Wildlife Report is also produced every 2 months by the Tarn Supervisor this is published in the Brampton BIG magazine (delivered free to all houses in Brampton) and displayed on the site. The larger friends of newsletter, now incorporates this and in addition has site management news, events and articles as well as wildlife information. It is produced on publisher in full colour and printed internally by the council print room.

Action

Create Newsletter 4 times/year and keep membership database up to date.

Encourage further development friends of group over time.

### **Volunteers**

Currently there are wide range of volunteers who regularly contribute towards the sites maintenance and conservation. 834 volunteer hours have been worked at the Tarn from April 2010 to Jan 2011. There are regular enquiries from volunteers who wish to work at the site. The current arrangements have been built up over a number of years and are sustainable from a

volume of work available and the level of staffing to supervise them. Additional groups would currently be difficult to take on unless one of the current groups discontinued or additional staff members were taken on.

- Caldew School (winter term only, 1 morning/week) 12 students attend working on projects for their NVQ in practical environmental skills
- Garden Links (every Tuesday & Thursday) 1 person with learning difficulties working on general site maintenance tasks, unsupported.



- Weekend Volunteers, 2 Sundays/month working on site maintenance and conservation projects.
- Caldew school special needs group, 3 students Thursday mornings 2hrs.
- Richard Rose school 6 students Monday afternoons 1hr
- 1 person Tarn bird survey monthly

Volunteer duties and projects are programmed by the Tarn Supervisor on agreement with the Country Park Manager. All volunteers are supervised by a

member of staff. Individual volunteers are required to fill out an application form and sign a volunteer agreement. Council policy now stipulates that all volunteers must also undergo a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check, due to the likelihood of them coming into contact with children during their work at the Tarn. Schools or groups regularly volunteering at the Tarn must have the head teacher or similar position sign a form to state that the teachers who work with the children all have had an up to date CRB check carried out. (i.e. within last 3 years) A volunteer forum is held approx every 3 months to provide an opportunity for the different volunteer groups to get together and feedback to staff on present and future projects and also act as an opportunity for learning through presentations. A volunteer Christmas meal is held annually.

Long term regular placements such as Garden Links and our student placement both receive training courses as a regular staff member at the Tarn. They receive training and certification in manual handling, first aid, pedestrian mowers and trimmers. Depending on need and ability training has also been provided in tractor driving and chainsaw use. Our current Garden Links placement is also being guided through an ASDAN qualification.

#### Action

Continue with current situation. Review annually effectiveness of groups and management of these.

Investigate positive media opportunities for the volunteer groups. (e.g. articles in site newsletter)

Record volunteer person hours annually and set targets

## **Marketing**

In 2010 adverts were placed in the following publications;

Eden & The Pennines Bedroom Browser

Carlisle & Hadrian's Wall Country Holiday & Short Breaks Guide

Coach Drivers Handbook

There is difficulty in assessing success of these adverts. However there has been no notable increase in use of the site by coaches so this advert will not be placed again in 2011.

## Marketing Vision

“Maintaining site financial turnover to a sustainable level, with inward investment by promoting the regular year round use of the wide-ranging facilities, events, and activities at Talkin Tarn.” See Marketing Strategy document for full strategy, kept in site office.

## Visitor Surveys

Carried out in June 2005 (by Carlisle City Council staff) and Aug 2008 (by independent company) Copies of both surveys are stored in site office. Accurate data can now also be collected from the parking machines. Information from the parking machine data shows us that the busiest months on site in 2010 were August, April and June, the quietest months were, November, December and February. The busiest days of the week are Sundays and Saturdays. The highest average number of cars using the car park in 2010 was on Sundays in August with an average of 240 cars. From this we can start to build a more accurate figure of visitor numbers to the Tarn. Using a standard multiplier obtained from the Department for Transport (1.6 people/car on standard journeys & 2.2 people /car on day trips and hols) Figures for each month are divided up by the number of days /month. These days are divided into weekend and school hol days which are then multiplied by 2.2 and all other weekdays are multiplied by 1.6. To this are added the exact figures for number of minibuses (16/minibus) and coaches (52/coach) Also added were a estimate at 5people/day walking to the Tarn and 20 cars/day out of parking charging hours. These estimates are probably under rather than over estimates. This gives us a visitor figure of 66,316 visitors for 2010.

Results from the survey in 2008 highlighted the high use of the site from people visiting on day trips from the north east of England. Further marketing has been targeted in these areas through bedroom browsers and adverts such as the Tynedale Visitors guide & Newcastle girl guides annual report (used in 08/09).

### Action

Analyse survey results

Continue to gather car parking meter data annually

## Site Logo

Version 3 designed in 2007 based on previous design but enhancing the quality and simplifying the design. This logo was then used on all new site uniforms and for site correspondence and marketing purposes.

## Site Leaflet

This has had at least 3 versions over the last 20 years. The current version was printed in 2008. The design was intended to match the site folders (see below) and incorporate the site logo. This leaflet has more of an information slant rather than interpretation. This was due to requirements at the time.

### Action

Distribute to Tourist Information Centres in surrounding area.

Update/reprint as necessary (last reprinted 2010)



## Site Folders

Also developed in 2008, these are used for sending out site information, friends of group membership packs and for use in the education cabin. These help to give information a more professional look with a house style.

Action

Update/reprint as necessary

### **Tearoom Table-Top Folders**

These A5 sized folders were introduced to collate the many advertising leaflets that were being put on the tables. It keeps them neat and clean and everyone reads them. Extra copies can be slotted in to allow people to take leaflets away. Advertising is for site facilities or site based events only. It also allows passing on of information about site management and wildlife information.

### **Press Releases**

Press releases to be issued for all Tarn events by Carlisle City Council's Communications Team. Good news stories to also be sent through for consideration for press release.

### **Interpretation**

Currently there is very little site interpretation. Recently the old panels have been replaced with new up to date versions. An annotated site map with general site information is located on a new notice board in the car park. One panel is located on a stone plinth by the Alex Boathouse. This contains information on the sites history and legend. The other panel is located in a wooden rustic frame on the front of the changing rooms containing information on the sites wildlife. There is also an AONB information panel which is incorporated into the notice board in the car park. There is a bird panel next to the Bird & squirrel feeding area. (However this is more information than interpretation) There is great potential for further site interpretation. The bird & squirrel feeding area is one example with potential for web cams and live linkups to a screen in the nearby tearoom. (Quote received for this work and grant applied for in Nov 2010) The Alex boathouse is a building that has great potential to be used for interpretation displays and well located at the entrance. The Farlam Boathouse is known as the Bird Observatory and currently contains 6 large framed bird identification posters, but has potential for interpretive development.

The site has an up to date site leaflet developed in 2008. Leaflets are distributed via a dispenser box on the notice board in the car park. There are also distributed to Tourist Information Centres locally.

The site in general could easily absorb on-site interpretation. There needs to be a separate plan to be drawn up for this. However there would need to be some consultation work to explain the importance of environmental interpretation for all visitors and put forward suggestions for ways to achieve this. Interpretation themes could include an oral history project to gather stories from the past at Talkin Tarn, photographic exhibitions of images at the Tarn, wildlife at the Tarn and geology and landscape of the Tarn and surrounding area and sustainable energy use at the Tarn.

Action

Long term - Write an interpretation plan for the site.

Distribute site leaflets to TIC's further a field in Northumberland.

Continue to update and develop the Moodle site

## **Bird/Squirrel Feeding area**

This was developed in early 2007. Further development was carried out by family and friends as part of a memorial project in remembrance of Pauline Kukuc. New panels for the front of the screen were installed in Sept.2009



Action  
Feed daily  
Install live link with flat screen in tearoom  
Install webcam

## **Information Points**

There are two covered information boards for the site. One is located on the front of the changing rooms and one in the main car park. The one on the changing rooms was installed in 2008 and is used to display site information and events. The one in the car park was installed in November 2009. Old notice boards were removed from the Tarn end hotel entrance and the car park during 2008 as these had become old and tatty looking. A further small notice board is located in the tearoom and information is also displayed in table top folders in the tearoom.



A policy was required to be implemented for all information points as there was an issue with large volumes of random inappropriate items being displayed on them. It was decided by the park manager that only events being held at the Tarn or Carlisle City Council related items should be publicised at the Tarn. As these items alone already fill up the notice boards. Any local wildlife related posters would be at the discretion of the site manager and dependent on space available. Two chalkboards are also used on the site office to inform visitors of recent wildlife sightings around the Tarn and weather conditions. These are updated weekly by site staff. A dry wipe board is attached to the front of the takeaway area front doors. This is mainly used to keep the public up to date on any up and coming events or tearoom information.

Action  
Keep notice boards clean and up to date

## **Signage**

### **Entrance Sign**

This was installed by the roadside to inform visitors and potential visitors of the facilities available at the Tarn. It was installed before Carlisle City Council took over ownership of the site. It was designed to be hard wearing and adaptable to the seasons allowing adjustments of opening times. It is also double sided. The sign itself has worn reasonably well but the adjustable sections have been kicked and bent and are showing wear. Logos have also had to be updated when the Tarn changed ownership.

Action  
Replace this sign with a new more eco friendly looking welcome sign with less overwhelming quantity of information on it.

## **Welcome Signs**

There are wooden, Welcome to Talkin Tarn signs at all the main entrances to the site.

Both the car park entrances, footpath from Brampton junction, footpath from Farlam village and by the Tarn end hotel.

### Action

These need removing and/or refurbishing over the next couple of years as they are looking worn and old.

## **Directional Signs**

On-site – these were installed new in 2007 with a mixture of routed finger posts and ladder boards. These direct people around the Tarn path and also to all the main buildings and facilities on the site.

Road – brown tourism signs direct motorists from Brampton Village at both ends (east & west) and from the A69 roundabout. There is also one sign on the A69 west bound just before the Brampton roundabout.

## **Weather Station**

This was installed in 2008 as a result of a water sports incident on the Tarn. It was felt that a better way of assessing the weather conditions was required for water sports users and the site staff. The weather station is housed in the site office and provides data on wind speed and direction, indoor & outdoor temperature, rainfall and humidity levels. By monitoring weather data against visible conditions on rough weather days a picture can be built up of conditions at the Tarn. This can be used to create cut off conditions for the different types of water sports. This can then be related to the public through the flag warning system, which was installed at the same time. Green means conditions are good for use, Amber means use at your own risk, Red means do not go on the water.

# Recreation



## **Facilities**

### **Dog Bins/Litter Bins**

In 2006 there were 3 large concrete bins with metal cages inside, 2 plastic Walls (ice cream) dustbins by the tearoom and 3 post mounted bins around the Tarn path.

The bins were all in a poor state of repair, the concrete bins were too large and difficult and messy to empty. The Walls bin was able to be removed when the ice cream supplier was changed for the site, moving away from wrapped ice cream, to cones, which caused considerably less litter which of course then attracted less wasps.

The 3 Tarn path bins which had always been difficult to empty and smelly were replaced and an extra one added then positions relocated during 2008. This provided a larger bin with a different system for emptying. It made bin emptying (mostly dog poo) an easier and less messy process.



Relocating the bins was an experiment based on observations of dog walkers and dog toileting habits. It was noticed that most dog walker's walk anticlockwise around the Tarn (with back to prevalent wind) Most dogs have at least one poo during the first 100m of leaving the car park. Hence the first bins were located accordingly in this direction. Further bins were then spread at regular intervals around the Tarn path taking into note areas of most dog poo.

The 3 concrete bins were removed over a couple of years and one of the Walls bins was put into storage only being brought out on really busy days. There was no noticeable increase in litter on site as a result. Litter is picked and bins emptied daily by site staff or volunteers.

The litter bin has purposely been removed from the car park as this can become a focal point for people to empty their cars of rubbish. If you are by your car then it is reasonable to be expected to take your rubbish home. There has been no noticeable increase in car park rubbish since the bin was removed.

While there is no obligation to provide litter bins or dog bins at country parks, as people by law should not drop litter or let their dog foul without clearing it up. We realise that the provision of dog bins in particular, is important particularly with the volume of dog walkers and families visiting this site. Many parks have removed all litter bins, however we now provide one litter bin by the tearoom and the dog bins can also have litter put into them. It is now acceptable to dispose of dog waste alongside general waste as it is no longer classed as a separate special type of waste.

Another litter reduction method as well as the change in ice cream supplier, is the reusing of empty milk cartons from the tearoom, as duck food scoops. These are then returned to be reused. While we still get the odd carton left on site, staff return these to the tearoom for reuse. Use of cartons has stopped use of paper bags, which were previously used then discarded, adding to litter on the ground and in bins.

Any fly tipping is removed or reported immediately but thankfully incidents are low in number.

A full recycling facility was set up in the car park for approximately 2 years. Recycling cans, bottles, cardboard, paper and plastic. This was good as we were able to recycle much of the

waste from the tearoom for free. This area however became a target for flytipping and was a constant headache for staff trying to keep the area tidy. It became an eyesore and thankfully was able to be removed in 2009 when a new recycling centre was set up in Brampton. The Tarn retained a cardboard recycling bin which is now paid to have emptied. Cardboard is the largest volume waste from the tearoom and thus worth maintaining recycling facilities for this. As other waste from site is mixed waste with dog poo it is unfeasible to sort and recycled this. See also page 30

#### Action

Monitor use of bins and move or remove as necessary.  
Continue to explore ways of reducing waste on site.

### **Graffiti & Vandalism**

Thankfully there is very little graffiti or vandalism issues at Talkin Tarn. Incidents are usually very minor and easily dealt with the same day by Tarn staff.

### **Dogs**

The site is very popular with dog walkers. Dog owners are requested to keep their dogs under close control. Although some people would prefer this to be dogs on a lead, it is felt this is over the top and would be incredibly difficult to enforce after hundreds of years of use otherwise. Some dog owners do however consistently abuse this letting their dogs run wild across the fields, paths and woods. Dogs catching and killing rabbits and ducks is not the acceptable practice that some dog owners seem to think that it is, whatever the breed of dog. Swans have been killed the last 2 years running by dogs 'playing'! Staff, are expected to speak to any member of the public whose dogs are deemed to be behaving in an unacceptable manner. Staff, have been issued with information cards to give to members of the public who refuse to listen and often become abusive when confronted about their dog's behaviour.

A series of fences were installed along the south and east sides of the Tarn after the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 2001 to reduce dog and sheep contact. Although there was some public opposition to this, the impact for people and wildlife has been very beneficial.

The bank side vegetation has had an opportunity to grow up with less wear on the shore. (from sheep) This is excellent for the common blue damselfly that is known as the symbol of the Tarn. The damselflies need vegetation for the emergent stage of their lifecycle. The vegetation is also good for stabilising the banks, which are prone to being washed away and provides nesting areas for the wild fowl. Separating the sheep from the dogs has also reduced the number of sheep attacks and incidents. Even though the fence is there it does not stop access into the fields, and stiles are provided for this purpose. Dogs are however requested to be on a lead in these fields if sheep are grazing. Land owners are entitled to shoot dogs found attacking their livestock and owners will be taken to court. There have been several incidents of this nature at Talkin Tarn. Staff will call the police in these cases.

The site is covered by the *Dogs (fouling of land) Act 1996*.

A local authority may by order designate for the purposes of this Act any land in their area which is land to which this Act applies.

If a dog defecates at any time on designated land and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence.

There is also now Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc.) Regulations 2006 and the Dog Control Orders (Procedures) Regulations 2006, which implement sections 55 and 56 of the *Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005* Under section 57 of this act a

Dog Control Order can be made in respect of any land which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).

The Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc.) Regulations provide for five offences which may be prescribed in a dog control order:

- (a) failing to remove dog faeces;
- (b) not keeping a dog on a lead;
- (c) not putting, and keeping, a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer;
- (d) permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded;
- (e) taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land.

The penalty for committing an offence contained in a Dog Control Order is a maximum fine of level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000). Alternatively, the opportunity to pay a fixed penalty may be offered in place of prosecution. Enforcement officers can issue a minimum £50 fine to people who fail to clean up their dog's mess.

Four dog bins are provided around the main Tarn side path.

Action

Maintain fencing around Tarn.

Monitor dog usage and provision

## **Bird Observatory**

The previously called Farlam Boathouse is now the bird observatory. This building was refurbished in 2007 and now houses bird identification information and a bench. The building has one light, which is powered by a small wind turbine located on the bankside opposite the boathouse.

There is a letter in the special collection at Durham University under Howards. Ref HNP/C40/13. It is a hand written letter by John Bell of Farlam agreeing to the continued use of the boat house and platform and water of the Tarn for a rent and not using it if Lord Carlisle or agents wished to and to remove the building if requested to do so. At the start it refers to his father Joseph Bell who built it in 1843 (and died in 1849).

An elderly local resident who farmed the land said the boat house was known as John Bells Boat house although John Bell was no longer farming here by 1880 he retained ownership which passed to his son Joseph who was the chief engineer on the Titanic.



Action

Investigate development of building into a proper hide with side windows looking onto a developed sheltered wildlife area

## **Willow Hide**

This was commissioned by the former East Cumbria Countryside Project in 2000 and created by Steve Fuller a local willow weaver. It is a natural growing bird viewing area. It is maintained annually and a popular feature around the Tarn. It contains a small log seat, & 2 log stools.

### Action

Maintain annually by cutting and re-weaving  
Replace log seats as required

## **Paths**

The main Tarn path is approx 1.3miles long and follows a loop of the Tarn itself. This was always a worn path but was improved with surfacing in approx 1999. It was then resurfaced as part of a funded project in early 2007. This path is very heavily used and needs to be maintained in good condition (while in keeping with the country park) and suitable for access for wheelchair users. The hard surfaced area should be a minimum of 1.4m wide. An additional strip of grass on either side of the path is kept mown as additional walking width. Drainage has been installed in many places to guide water from the path. Clearing of drains is an on-going process.

Other paths around the Tarn tend to be desire lines created by walkers over the years. These are not surfaced and can become muddy and slippery at times and often contain protruding roots. There is no plan to surface these paths as they are mainly within the woodland areas and thus would not be appropriate or in keeping. However some areas of high wear need diverting at times and woodchip is used on occasions in particularly wet and high wear areas. There is some old sleeper boardwalk in one woodland section that needs to be removed or improved.

### Action

Maintain Tarn loop path to standard as described above by on-going maintenance and full resurfacing as necessary. (approx every 8 years).  
Clean and install drains as necessary.  
Investigate removal/improvement of boardwalk  
Monitor path condition – ongoing.

## **Buildings**

These were constructed or refurbished in 2006. Council buildings are maintained by Carlisle City Councils buildings section who organise any maintenance or repairs. Site staff have daytime and out of hours emergency contact numbers. Cleaning of these buildings is undertaken by Carlisle City Council who employs a cleaner (2 hours /day mon- fri and mobile cleaner at weekends) Folders containing information (plans, fittings spec, instructions, suppliers) on new buildings are contained in site office and by CCC buildings section.

The site buildings are as follows;

**Tearoom** (upstairs) made up of 2 rooms for seating and kitchen, dish wash area, store cupboard and 2 toilets. Some refurbishment work was carried out in 2006 upstairs.

**Gift Shop and Takeaway** (downstairs) containing serving area, kitchen, gift shop area and 2 store rooms. Downstairs gift shop and takeaway refurbished in November 2009.



**Changing Rooms** x 2 (seen in photo to left) located downstairs containing 3 cubicles, 2 toilets, 2 showers and 2 sinks in each. Changing rooms refurbished in February 2009.



**Toilets** containing 2 male toilet cubicles, 3 urinals, shower, 4 female toilet cubicles, shower and a disabled toilet and shower. Built in 2006. Heated by air source heat pump and underground heating.

**Education Cabin** containing hall, lobby, kitchen area, 2 disabled toilets and outside covered porch. Built in 2006. Heated by air source heat pump and underground heating.

**Site Office and Workshop**, containing office area, workshop area and power control room. Built in 2006. Heated by electric fan heater on thermostat. Photo voltaic cells on roof.

**Alex Boathouse** refurbished in 2006 containing 2 rooms upstairs and original water access boat storage at ground level. Heated by water source heat pump.

**Bird Hide** (Farlam Boathouse) refurbished in 2006 containing one small room with viewing window at the end. Lighting powered by wind turbine located 20m away.

**Stable** old storage shed used for timber storage. One large room with cobbled floor. In need of repair work.

**Metal Container** used for storage of site maintenance equipment of low value. One large container. Repainted in 2007.

**Rowing Boat Hire Shed** used as base for hiring of rowing boats. Owned by Carlisle City Council.

**Rowing Club Shed** owned by Carlisle City Council and leased by Talkin Tarn Amateur Rowing Club. Maintained by Carlisle City Council. Rowing club currently fundraising for new shed and agreements for this being drawn up with City Council regards length of lease and annual payments.

## **Other Areas Of Note**

### **Compound**

Fenced area behind workshop for the storage of equipment and materials for site management. Also contains Sailing Club wooden store owned by sailing club. This contains the Klargester sewage treatment system for the site. (Site is not on mains sewerage system) Due to the biological nature of the Plant it is important to be careful about the type of chemicals that are put down the toilets and sinks. See Buildings files in Site Office for more detail on how it works and the chemical restrictions. This unit requires servicing and de-sludging once or twice a year

depending on usage. This is currently done on contract. It is proposed that the new gas storage tank will also be located in this area.

### **Campsite**

Camping ground with drinking water tap, metal dish wash sink and campfire area.

### **Sailing Boat Storage**

Area on frontage of Tarn used for storage of Sailing Boats for Brampton Sailing Club members.

Action

Report any faults as they occur

Monitor cleaning levels and consult with cleaning section to adjust as necessary.

## **Water Sports**

A Water Users Meeting is held annually in the early spring to which all site based clubs, annual permit holders and regular water sports users are invited. This is used to discuss the forthcoming year, any unresolved issues and solutions. Clubs are however encouraged to have regular contact with the Park Manager and not save up issues which could be dealt with throughout the year.

Action

Continue to hold annually

## **Talkin Tarn Amateur Rowing Club**

Rowing races were first held on Talkin Tarn in the 1850's and the Rowing Club was formed in 1859 by local towns-folk, several descendents of whom still live in the area. It is the oldest rowing club in the North of England with the exception of Tyne R.C., and is the 14th oldest non-university club in the country.

Until 1976 when Talkin Tarn was purchased by Cumbria County Council and made a Country Park, the area was administered for public use by the Rowing Club under a lease from Boothby Estates.

Up to the early 1950's travelling being somewhat restricted, the Club competed at about 5 regattas per year, in the Tarn/Tyne/Tees/Tweed area. Then transport became easier and more regattas were attended, rising to about 15 per year in the mid-1960's, where in 1965 the Club won the National County Eights Championship, representing Cumberland. The area of competition now extends from Scotland in the North to the River Thames in the South with members having competing in International Regattas, World Rowing Championships, Olympic Games and World Masters Rowing Championships in various Countries throughout the World.

In the late eighties and early nineties the British Rowing National Squad Manager, who contributed to the considerable success of British Rowing at that time, learned his rowing at Talkin Tarn and was a member for many years and is a current Vice-President of the Club.

In recent years the Club has been very strong in Junior and Veteran Class and have achieved numerous successes with over 300 wins at Open Regattas, Medals at the World Masters Championships plus two, Silver and one Bronze Medal at The British National Rowing Championships.

Talkin Tarn Annual Regatta has grown considerably in recent years from a total entry of 20 in 1946 and 97 in 1988 to what it is today – very successful and the largest one day regatta outside London with total entries now in excess of 300.

The Club members' ages range from 10 to 74. Club nights are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6.30pm to 8.30pm and Sundays 9.00am to 11.30am. (Taken from [www.talkintarnarc.com](http://www.talkintarnarc.com))

The Rowing club occupy a large boathouse located next to the site office. This is used as the club base and storage for equipment. This boathouse is owned by Carlisle City Council and is leased to the club along with access rights to the water. This lease has been updated in 2010 and a new much larger boathouse containing storage area and training room has been constructed, funded by the rowing club through grants and fundraising. This is due to open in March 2011. The club uses the sites changing rooms and has access to the site safety boat (by trained members of club only) Two launching areas are provided for launching of Rowing boats.

The club has rights to hold an annual regatta at the Tarn (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in July) and other events on prior agreement with the site manager.

#### Action

Continue to support the rowing club and their use of the site.

Collect lease payment annually

### **Brampton Sailing Club**

The sailing club has used the site for over 20 years. Previously they occupied the boathouse that is now the tearooms. Their use of the site is based on an agreement that is currently being renewed this agreement was last signed and updated in 1992. Currently club sailing times are as follows, but qualified club members may sail at the Tarn at other times as long as they are abiding by club rules and regulations.

#### **Times of Use (based on 1992 agreement)**

March 15<sup>th</sup> – Sept 30<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 6-9pm & Sunday 11-4pm

Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – March 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11am-2pm

The sailing club have an area of land on the Tarn frontage for storage of sailing boats.

They also have a wooden storage shed located in the compound area behind the site office. Club members are allowed to use the site changing rooms. Access by vehicle is allowed on to the frontage area for the purpose of loading and unloading vehicles and dropping off/collecting boats. The club uses the sites changing rooms and has access to the site safety boat (by trained members of club only) A slipway is provided for the launching of sailing boats. This slipway was refurbished in 2007 with the out of water section being concreted. (Previously it was old sleepers) The club has rights to hold an annual sailing event at the Tarn on a date agreed with the site manager. The agreement is kept in the site office files. The sailing club has their own website. [www.bramptonsc.webs.com/](http://www.bramptonsc.webs.com/) The sailing club agreement with the council is currently being updated and a new one planned to be in place by April 2011.

#### Action

Continue to support the sailing club and their use of the site

Collect agreement payment annually

## **Rowing Boats Hire**

The site owns and maintains 12 Rowing boats. These have been a traditional sight at Talkin Tarn for many years. The boat hire is currently run as a franchise, which is signed up to annually. The franchise agreement was updated in 2008. Their hours of business are school holidays and weekends between Easter and October half term. This is however weather dependant which can at times cause issues with customers who wish to hire boats when the weather is inclement and the hirer is not present. A copy of the franchise is held in files in the site office.

The franchise agreement sets out terms and conditions for the operation of the business. Amongst other things, the business must hold a minimum of five million liability insurance. The operator must be trained to RYA level 2 in power boat use for the purpose of rescue boat cover. They must also adhere to health & safety criteria set out by the city council in the form of risk assessments, first aid qualification and safe procedures of work.

The City Council currently pays for rowing boat maintenance costs and annual licensing of the boats. Two of the 12 boats were replaced with new ones in 2007. Further major repairs were carried out to the boats at the beginning of 2009. The city council also owns and maintains the rescue boat. A tin shed/compound is provided on the frontage area for the storage of equipment such as buoyancy aids and oars and a place to run the operation from on a daily basis. The city council makes no profit from the franchise as all money plus more is put back into maintenance and equipment costs. Buoyancy aids were last replaced half in 2006 and half in 2007.

The franchise currently faces some uncertainty over its future viability as a business. There is concern that people are not hiring as many boats as they used to which makes it difficult for the business to survive, i.e. busy days are needed to keep the business functioning on quieter days and thus to be able to provide a reasonable set of opening times. Many factors may have contributed to this, but it is likely that much of this is to do with the poor weather we have had for the last few summers.

### **Action**

Continue to encourage water sports at Talkin Tarn and provide ways for members of the public to participate in an informal & formal manner.

Possibly consider other ways to manage a boat hire system, this may involve putting the franchise out to tender annually or every few years. Or consider it becoming part of wider water sports business/activities at the Tarn.

Continue to advertise the rowing boats as part of Tarn advertising material.

Consider whether the current business is viable from the council's point of view i.e. non-profit service.

## **Other Water Users**

### **Carlisle Model Boat Club**

This club uses the site once/fortnight on a Monday evening during the spring and summer months for sailing model boats. They do not pay to use the water but they pay to use the log cabin as a meeting venue. They also use the site on occasional afternoons.

### **One life Triathlon & Carlisle Tri**

These clubs use the water on occasional Monday evenings during the summer on agreement with the site manager. They do not use any other facilities. The Tarn is used for their Open Water

swimming practice. This is classed as authorized swimming and the site manager has been provided with risk assessments and copies of insurance for the club.

### **Robin Wood Activity Centre**

This Alston based business uses the Tarn throughout the year for canoe and kayak sessions both with adults and children. They pay an annual fee to use the water and changing rooms.

### **Carlisle Sea Cadets**

This group have an annual permit for water sports and also for use of the campsite. They mainly use the water and campsite Friday evenings and weekends.

### **Local Schools**

NCTC as it was and Newman school have both used the site regularly over previous years for canoeing for students with instructors. NCTC & St Aidans now come under Richard Rose Central Academy who buy an annual water sports permit.

## **Individual Use Of The Tarn**

### **Day Permits**

These can be purchased on a per boat per day rate from the site office or tearoom to launch a boat on the Tarn (winter or human powered only). Some battery powered boats are allowed on prior agreement with the site manager as this are deemed to be no pollution or noise risk. The current rate is £5.85/boat

Larger groups and multiple day launches receive a discount. This system is ideal for individuals, holiday makers and small groups or clubs such as scouts and guides.

On purchasing a launch permit, a 'conditions of launch' sheet must be signed to say that you abide by certain health & safety criteria and confirm that your craft is water worthy and that you are capable of using it. The site staff may refuse boats from entering the water if they have any concerns about the boat or the competence of the person. (a refund would be given) For example an inflatable dinghy would not be allowed. If you pay for a launch fee you also get to use the changing room facilities for that day.

### **Annual Permits**

Annual permits are available for individual water sport use. These can be purchased from the site office.

Post barriers have been installed next to the tearoom to prevent access to the water for unauthorized use and to allow emergency vehicle access. All water users must report to the site office or tearoom before being allowed access to the frontage area for launching.

A weather conditions warning flag has been installed to help people manage their own safety under our advice on the current conditions. A weather station helps the staff to give this advice based on pre agreed cut off points.

### **Angling**

Fishing has been carried out at the Tarn or many years previously baliffed by Carlisle Angling Club. The Tarn has mainly pike, perch and eels. This is a specialized type of fishing requiring specialized equipment and techniques. A fishing information leaflet is given out to each fisherman outlining areas to fish and rules and regulations. Fishermen are encouraged to purchase tickets for fishing before setting up. This can be done from the site office or tearoom. On signing a sheet they are issued with an information booklet.

Fishing costs are currently adults £2/day and children £1/ day.  
Fishermen are not encouraged to stay overnight. Some fishermen turn up very early morning and it is acceptable to go and pay later in the morning or when a member of staff patrols.

A No Fishing Zone was introduced in 2008 as a result of a health & safety incident involving a pike hook in a child's foot. The area to the left of the Alex boathouse round past the front of the tearoom and round the 3 bays to the boat house on the opposite site of the Tarn is a 'No Fishing Zone'. This area was chosen as it is the area where most people congregate on the banks to feed the ducks with children and also the most wildlife sensitive areas. There is one old fishing platform in this area which should no longer be used for fishing. It has however been left for recreation purposes. A further 3 disabled access fishing platforms are provided within the fishing zone.

A no fishing season is enforced at the Tarn from 15<sup>th</sup> March – 15<sup>th</sup> June inclusive annually. No fishing is allowed on Regatta day (currently 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in July)

The Tarn is not currently stocked with fish

Action

Maintain current manageable levels of fishing

Monitor rubbish and fish/wildlife damage as a result of fishing.

## **Benches**

### **Memorial Benches**

Currently there are 22 benches that are located on the circular loop walk around the Tarn. These have been installed over a period of 10years. by the same sculptor (Alistair Neville) Each bench is individual in design but along the same theme of natural sculpted look. It is not intended to add any more benches at the present time as it is full (judgement made by site manager from a visual & need perspective) with a bench approx every 100m.



Each bench is set back slightly from the path with a gravelled patch in front of it. Each bench has a memorial plaque which is purchased by the bench owner in addition to the cost of the bench. This is organised by the bench owner to avoid mistakes. Approx 10% of benches have arm rests to comply with disability regulations. Currently there is a waiting list for benches (kept in filing cabinet in site office). As of 2006 when a new bench is installed the owner is informed that it will have a guaranteed lifespan of 10 years during which time it will be maintained by the city council. A charge of £500 is made for each bench. Approx £400 goes to the sculptor to pay for the bench and £100 is kept to put towards maintenance for the 10 year period. Not all bench owners have been informed about the 10year period as few records on bench ownership were passed on by the previous site owner. Records are gradually being built up over time.

### **Picnic Benches**

These are located in front of the tearoom, with 2 of the benches having been designed for use by people with disabilities. The flexibility of these benches is a bonus as they can be moved around easily by the public and by staff for



events. They are also easy to maintain. They are re-stained every few years.

#### Action

Maintain current level of benches

Maintain 10% of benches with arm rests

Maintain records of ownership

Maintain waiting list

Maintain benches as required (Alistair Neville memorial benches, site staff and volunteers picnic benches)

## **Sculpture**

There are currently three sculptures at Talkin Tarn;

A dog sculpture is located in the edge of the woodland behind sandy bay. This was sculpted as a memorial to Mrs Irving of Brampton and was made by Alistair Neville. (same sculptor who does the Tarn benches) Although a rather random sculpture at the Tarn it is well liked by children who come to sit on the dog and have their photo taken.



A dragonfly throne, which is located next to the waters edge in sedge bay. (Seen in photo to left)

This was created by staff from the old ECCP and was sculpted by chainsaw from a large tree stump. It has a fantastic view out across the Tarn and like the dog is well used by children. The sculpture is beautifully worn smooth from use. However it is now beginning to rot particularly at the base and also the foundations of the roots are being worn away by the wave wash against the bank which has become undercut. It is likely that the throne will have to be

removed over the next couple of years from a safety perspective. A replacement should be considered at this time.

A willow hide, located on the tarn edge. This consists of a woven willow structure forming a bird screen and containing some seats. This requires annual maintenance to reweave it and replace any dead willow.

Some random small mushroom sculptures can also be found in the woodland areas by keen eyes.

## **Rights Of Way**

The Tarn has 3 key public rights of way. One which ends at the site boundary coming from Brampton Junction. One that follows the loop path around the Tarn, designated in 2006 as part of the transfer agreement, maintaining a right of access to the Tarn for local people. One that enters the site from Farlam village with the right of way joining the Tarn loop path next to Farlam Meadow. The line of this path has been altered unofficially over time to improve access for the public using stepping stones and reduce damage on this wetland area.

#### Action

Apply for formal change of path for Farlam footpath.

## **Access to Wider Countryside**

There is limited scope for good circular walks from the Tarn out into the wider countryside as most involve lots of road walking, (although these are quiet country lanes) The most popular walks involve a loop up around Farlam and Talkin villages or a walk from the Tarn through to Gelt woods.

## **Bicycles & National Cycle Network**

Many people cycle to the Tarn and cycle parking is provided next to the tearoom. However cycling around the Tarn is not encouraged due to conflicts with the large numbers of walkers and dog walkers and the fact that the Tarn path is a public footpath. The woods are also wet and very prone to erosion and path damage. Occasional large events have been held at the Tarn such as cycle-cross in conjunction with border city wheelers.

The NCN route number 72 Hadrians Wall Cycle Way runs through nearby Brampton and people following this route often detour to the Tarn. The new campsite also provides accommodation for organised groups on the cycle route and the Tarn is advertised on the Websites.

[www.nationaltrail.co.uk/hadrianswall](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/hadrianswall) and [www.cycle-routes.org/hadrianscycleway](http://www.cycle-routes.org/hadrianscycleway)

### Action

Continue with occasional cycle events, with the understanding that they are, one offs and border city wheelers inform members of this.

Monitor use of the campsite by NCN groups

## **Disability Access**

The site has become very popular for groups with disabilities particularly since the development works in 2006. This had made the site much more accessible. The new toilet block and education cabin are accessible by a series of ramp ways from the disabled parking at the rear of the tearoom. The education cabin contains 2 disabled toilets and the toilet block contains a disabled toilet & shower accessible by radar key. The ramps also lead up to the tearoom. The tearoom can also be accessed from ground level at the front by a lift. The tearoom contains 10% of its chairs with arm rests. It also contains 1 disabled toilet. The main Tarn path is 1.3 miles long, hard surfaced and a minimum of 1.4m wide allowing wheelchair access the whole way round for a standard electric wheelchair. There are 2 gates to pass through on this route. It was requested to have these removed from the Tarn end old hotel in 2006 but this was refused by the previous owner. (Cumbria County Council) Two hunter gates were installed with easy to open trombone hinges as a compromise. These have been well received by regular wheelchair users at the Tarn. Two picnic tables have been designed with people with disabilities in mind.

The Alex Boathouse and the bird hide are both accessible by a ramp leading off the Tarn path. Two staff members have attended a 'welcome all' course focusing on welcoming visitors with a variety of special needs. Council staff adhere to the policy laid out on equality and diversity.

Signage on site complies with legislation such as disabled parking areas and 'assistance dogs welcome' sign for the tearoom.

Disabled toilets all have emergency assistance alarms and staff are trained how to respond to these.

People with disabilities are considered on emergency evacuation plans and staff trained to help a variety of needs if required. Staff are also considered with a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan. (PEEP)

An audit is regularly carried out by the City Councils access officer. Carried out in 2006 and May 2009.

#### Action

Investigate removal of gates with old hotels new owner and also discuss path improvements in this area in line with rest of Tarn path.

Maintain Tarn path as hard surface at minimum of 1.4m wide.

### **Public Transport Links**

Brampton junction railway station is located approx 1.5miles from the Tarn by road or a 20 min walk via road and public footpath. This station is on the Carlisle to Newcastle line.

Buses run approx every 30mins between Carlisle and Brampton (also link to Newcastle, number 685) additional services run on number 122 linking Carlisle and Brampton to Hadrian's wall.

Talkin Tarn is a 40 min walk from Brampton town centre.

The only bus to run past Talkin Tarn (using the bus stops at the road entrance to the Tarn) is the number 97 through to Castle Carrock but it runs only a few times a day so is difficult to use.

### **Play Area**

This was replaced during 2006 during the site redevelopment. The same area was used and the fence was later replaced during 2007. The design was led mainly by the amount of funding



available, but was intended to be natural looking to blend in with the surroundings. The old Wendy house was taken to the compound behind the site office and is currently used as a log store. The area is checked by the playground inspector for Carlisle City Council weekly and site staff informally in-between times.

The location of the gate was moved in 2010 due to problems with children running into the gate while running out of the play area towards parents sitting on the picnic tables.

#### Action

Maintain bark levels

Weekly checks by CCC staff

### **Car Park**

#### **Development**

This was redeveloped in 2008/9 with a need identified through risk assessment and visually noted problems to improve safety through encouraging more organised parking. Initially the car park was widened, removing a narrow funnel area that often caused issues with access. Opportunities were also taken to gain additional space through clearing of soft banks mainly at the top end. A plan was then made to make the best use of the new space and shape. An initial system using boulders was installed. This was seen to be the cheapest option with good use of a natural locally sourced product. However the boulders were disliked by members of the public which they felt to be an eyesore. The Council responded and these were removed to the car park edge.



A new system was then drawn up using different materials. A series of beds were created from

recycled sleepers filled with soil. These provided a visual edge to park up to and helped people form ordered rows. This in turn maintained adequate manoeuvring and access distances. The bed shape and widths were thought out to eliminate areas where people might be tempted to park badly while allowing adequate access and egress.

## **Charging**

Various charging systems have been installed over the years by previous owners but none have been kept. It was decided by council to install charges in 2007. This was a 2 hour free period (with a disk) followed by a £2 charge for the rest of the day. This system was seen to not be working and complaints were received more about the system causing confusion (resulting in parking tickets) than over the actual charge. A new system was installed May 2009 with a flat rate charge of £1/day. This was not well received by the public but there was a need for the income to help maintain the site. The money from the car parking goes back into site management (ring fenced) The funding generated by this has consequently gone towards gift shop refurbishment. The timing of the pay period is 10am – 6pm daily. This allows early morning dog walkers to still use the site without paying. There is also an annual permit available currently charged at £30/year. Information from the parking machine data shows us that the busiest months on site in 2010 were August, April and June, the quietest months were, November, December and February. The busiest days of the week are Sundays and Saturdays. The highest average number of cars using the car park in 2010 was on Sundays in August with an average of 240 cars.

## **Security**

The site buildings are covered by a CCTV system and outside lighting some of which is on a timer and others which are motion sensor activated.

Various groups are key holders to the drive gate for purpose of accessing the water or buildings for agreed purposes. A list of key holders is kept in the site office.

Site buildings are covered by burglar alarms which are linked to a 24hr monitored system. Site staff, (staff then call police) are called out if the alarms are activated.

Crime levels are low on site the main target being the occasional theft from cars. Although the car park has been awarded a Park Mark award in 2010 and recognised as a safe car park. Incidents are reported to the police. There are 2 floodlights in the car park to light it at night. Occasional incidents also occur between dogs/dog owners and between dogs and neighbouring livestock. Incidents of this nature are reported to the police. Site staff will gather information if possible to report to the police.

## **Events**

Currently the following events are held annually. Water sports day at the beginning of June, Rowing Regatta the first Saturday in July, Halloween on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, Santa's Grotto weekends during December. Other occasional events include tremendous trees, children's activities, and model boat sail-in day. Links are occasionally made with other organisations to run events such as Cumbria Wildlife Trust.

### Action

Continue with current events and gradually build up additional sustainable events throughout the year.

## **Campsite**

The campsite closed in approx 2003. It had been a small camping and caravan site for approx 20 years previous to this. However there were many issues with campers causing problems on site and with neighbouring landowners, and the site was finally closed by Cumbria County Council. In 2007 work began to clear up the then overgrown campsite. This involved felling of trees and starting a grass cutting programme. Further work in 2008 saw the installation of a cold water sink and an improved water tap as well as a fire point. The site however suffered from its unevenness and water logging in certain areas. With the refurbishment of the car park at the end of 2008 a quantity of good topsoil became available to use to level the whole campsite field. It was then harrowed, stones painstakingly removed by hand and then it was all reseeded. The campsite was then available for use for camping only, for groups during 2009 onwards. Restricting it to groups only, ensured that campers always had insurance cover for the activity and had leaders onsite at all times supervising. This reduced the risk or recurring problems with unruly campers and associated issues. The campsite area is used regularly by visiting school groups as part of environmental education programmes.



# Boathouse Tearooms & Takeaway



The Boathouse tearoom has been running since 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in July 1994 (Regatta Day) the takeaway area was already open prior to this selling ice cream, sweets and cold drinks. Previously owned by Cumbria County Council and run by Cumbria Contract Services. It shoulders the responsibility of being self funding with any profit going into the management of other aspects of the Tarn. The tearoom, gift shop and takeaway are managed as an integral part of the site involved in all aspects from events and schools to catering for training groups and meetings. Its wide range of services help to maintain year round service and cater for a wide customer base. It has a large influence over sustainability of the Tarn effecting issues such as waste production, fair trade, energy and water use.

## **Opening Hours**

Pre 2006 the tearoom opening hours were as follows;



10.30 – 3.30pm 7 days/week March -November

November – February 3 days/week only (fri, sat, sun)

There were 2 permanent members of staff. The manager and the cook who were both were contracted to 25hrs/week. The tearoom staff, were supplemented with casual staff as and when required. The tearoom was waitress service.

Since 2006 and Carlisle City Council taking ownership, various new hours have been trialled. The tearoom is currently open

7days/week, year round with a takeaway only service on Mondays, Tues & Weds (November – March) During school holidays the takeaway and tearoom are open daily (takeaway from midday).(except for xmas day, boxing day and new years day)

During June, July and August 2009 & 2010 the takeaway area was open till 8pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays for late night opening. This is staffed with one casual staff member overlapping with a permanent member of staff who adjusts hours to start & finish later on that day to avoid additional expense. Based on takings this was not seen to be a profitable addition to service.

## **Staffing**

The current permanent staffing levels are, Tearoom Manager 34 hours/week, Cook 30hrs/week and Kitchen Team Leader 12hrs/week. The staffing is supplemented with casual staff as and when required. The tearoom has an average of 10 casual staff on its books at any one time. The tearoom is covered by 2 members of staff on normal weekdays. On Saturdays there are 4 members of staff (one covering the takeaway area) and on Sundays there are 5 members of staff (one covering takeaway area). On Mondays during the winter just one member of staff is required to cover the takeaway area. Other staff are present on site, which avoids lone working issues.

On weekdays during school holidays 4 members of staff are required, 3 upstairs and one to cover the takeaway. Various serving methods have been trialled to improve efficiency of service.

Currently customers pay when they order at the counter. The advantages of this system are that customers are served in order and customers can not leave without paying (of which there were several incidents previously) Customers can also be told if there may be a wait for food before they sit down, so they have a choice to leave before they make themselves comfortable, if they do not wish to wait. The takeaway area has helped relieved busy days with a faster takeaway option.

The tearoom offers catering for private functions in the tearoom with a minimum of 20 people. It also offers catering for groups hiring the log cabin or using the campsite. During December Christmas meals are available with pre-booking.

## Gift Shop

Pre 2006 the gifts used to occupy an area in the tearoom extension upstairs where a low partition separated them from the tearoom area. The partition was removed in 2006 and the gifts were gradually removed and became a few gifts on shelves around the tearoom walls.

The gift shop was developed to occupy the unused downstairs area. This area was previously used to store the rowing boats during the winter months and also the old site quad bike. The takeaway kitchen area was also used by site staff. It had a partial refurbishment in approx 1998.



Since 2006 the room was made up of old display units from the tearoom such as old dressers and shelving. This was intended as a temporary situation to trial whether the shop was viable. The gift shop and takeaway area has undergone a full refurbishment in Dec 2009 incorporating new flooring, display cabinets and lighting, all now blending with the style of previous building refurbishment works at the Tarn. The shop is open when the takeaway area is open. Opening hours may be extended depending on the success of the new gift shop.

A kiosk area was built in 2006 as part of the tearoom refurbishment works, now used as an ice cream selling point.

The tearoom was refurbished in 2006 with the following work being carried out.

- Work to treat rot in woodwork
- Floor in main area was sanded and re-varnished
- Carpet in extension was replaced
- All windows and doors were replaced except for emergency exit door upstairs and internal doors both upstairs and downstairs.
- Lift was installed (and new lobby area downstairs)
- Ramp system replaced and extended to link tearoom with toilets, log cabin and new disabled parking area at rear of tearoom.
- Repairs to balcony stairs and wood treatment
- Open fire replaced with wood burning stove.

Additional works carried out since 2006;

- Updating of equipment (microwaves, display unit, fridges and freezer) and purchasing of new kitchen fan system to meet current regulations.
- Fitting out of ice cream kiosk
- Purchase of new furniture for tearoom
- Purchase of new balcony furniture
- Floor cover installed in ice cream kiosk
- Gift shop and takeaway refurbishment
- 

Additional Works Winter 2009

- New cupboards and work surface in takeaway area
- New coffee machine in takeaway area

- Repainting of ice cream kiosk area

Action

Purchasing & sourcing of gifts

Stock takes 4 times/year

Explore further opportunities to develop fair trade goods for all aspects of business

Annual menu reviews

Continue to explore opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Monitor success of gift shop since refurbishment and adjust opening hours as required.

# Health & Safety



The park adheres to Health & Safety Policies and procedures as laid out by Carlisle City Council, this includes The Health & Safety etc at Work Act 1974. Areas that are covered under these policies are summarised as; Accident reporting procedure, assault reporting procedure, risk assessments, control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH), first aid, display screen equipment, personal protective clothing.

In addition site staff, carry out site patrols on a daily basis to monitor the park and its facilities. Any potential hazards are reported immediately to the site manager. Any immediate hazards are cordoned off to make the area safe and dealt with immediately if possible.

The Tarn Manager is responsible for the health & safety at Talkin Tarn. Various detailed plans have been drawn up to cover areas of work. These are kept in the site office and are as follows;

### **Water Safety Plan**

This contains information on all aspects of water usage at the Tarn. Including location of water safety equipment, warning systems for weather and blue green algae, emergency systems, water related risk assessments and staff responsibilities.

### **Fire Safety Plan**

This contains plans with locations of all fire fighting equipment and monitoring and emergency systems. Maintenance and testing of equipment, and staff responsibilities.

### **Risk Assessments**

Each activity is individually risk assessed and these are kept in a folder entitled Risk Assessments in the site office. The Carlisle City Council format is followed. There are currently 54 assessments covering the Tarn. The tea room hold a separate set of risk assessments. The Tarn Supervisor currently holds the role as Union (Unison) Health & Safety representative. Lone working is addressed by risk assessments No. 36 & 50.

Action

Update risk assessments annually or as required

Write new risk assessments as required

Update new & existing staff on plan (water & fire safety & risk assessments) contents and their requirements.

Staff weekly fire checks on buildings

### **Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)**

The site complies with regulations for COSHH by maintaining a record of up to date safety data sheets for all chemicals stored or used on site (file in site office). All chemicals are stored in a metal locked hazardous substance cupboard stored in the workshop. Petrol is stored in a separate container within 5 or 10 litre fuel cans. Tractor red diesel is purchased via requisition book from stores at Bousteads Grassing. It is purchased in 2 x 10 litre containers and transported back to the Tarn by car. Containers are put into lidded plastic tubs to prevent fuel leakage and fumes in car. Fuel for mowers, trimmer, chainsaw and safety boat is purchased locally in Brampton where a fuel account is held, to be signed for only by nominated persons.

Action

Update or add new safety data sheets as required

Review fuel carriage system if sudden increase in fuel usage.

## **First Aid**

First aid kits are located in the tearoom kitchen and takeaway area, (catering specific) workshop, education cabin and rowing boat hire shed. The Tarn Manager and Tarn Supervisor are trained in First aid at work. The Tearoom manager and cook are trained as appointed persons and as many other staff as possible are trained in basic first aid. See staff training matrix in site office for up to date list.

The Tarn Supervisor is currently the nominated first aider for the site and regularly checks and tops up first aid kits as necessary.

### Action

Update first aid training as required (staff training matrix in site office)

Ensure staff member designated to check first aid kits

Maintain member of staff as site first aider

## **Key to Action Plans**

CPM – Country Park Manager

TS – Tarn Supervisor

PAMT – Play Area Maintenance Team

OJ – Olive Jenkins

OM – Operations Manager

C – Cook

TRM – Tea Room Manager

BS – Building Surveyor

IT – IT Dept.

PS – Placement Student

FO – Footpaths Officer

**Project Codes in RED** (eg P14) refer to separate document Project Register which includes more detailed specification of each job.

Numbers in Black type eg Pg 14 refer to page numbers in the management plan

# Annual Work Plan



Project Codes in RED (eg P14) refer to separate document Project Register (Appendix 2) which includes more detailed specification of each job.

| Action & Page Reference & Project Code | Detail/location   | Daily | Weekly | Fortnightly | Monthly | Annually | Lead Officer | Comments    |
|--|---|-------|--------|-------------|---------|----------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Site Maintenance</b>                |   |       |        |             |         |          |              |             |
| Grasscutting Pg 23<br><b>P1</b>        | Tarn side path. Either side of path to a max of 1m<br>Pedestrian mower or ride on   |       |        | x           |         |          | GOM          | April - Oct |
|  | Car park grass areas around edges<br>Pedestrian mower or ride on  |       |        | x           |         |          | GOM          | April - Oct |
|  | Car park beds<br>Pedestrian mower   |       |        | x           |         |          | TS           | April - Oct |
|  | Areas. In front of changing rooms, either side of Alex boathouse, picnic area at end of sandy bay<br>Pedestrian mower or ride on        |       |        | x           |         |          | GOM          | April - Oct |
| Pg 59                                  | Campsite<br>Ride on mower   |       |        | x           |         |          | GOM          | April - Oct |
|  | Areas in front of toilets, around ramps and around log cabin<br>Pedestrian mower or ride on   |       |        | x           |         |          | TS           | April - Oct |
|  | Paths from Tarn edge path to gates/styles. Wildlife bay to Farlam field & willow hide area to field stile                               |       |        | x           |         |          | TS           | April - Oct |
|  | Entrance drive either side to a max of 1m including areas around entrance sign by road and strip of grass on verge up to bus stop sign. |       |        | x           |         |          | GOM          | April - Oct |
|  | Path through wildflower meadow through to car park pond   |       |        | x           |         |          | GOM          | April - Oct |
| Trimming<br><b>P2</b>                  | Base of Tarn edge benches, all orienteering posts, gates, signs and stiles on Tarn edge path. Also willow hide, dog bins and life rings |       |        | x           |         |          | TS           | April - Oct |
|  | Areas by ramps  |       |        | x           |         |          | TS           | April - Oct |
| Pg 59                                  | Campsite round signs, tap, sink, campfire & fire point stand.   |       |        | x           |         |          |              |             |
|  | Car park base of signs, posts and stones and ramp to car park pond inc pond dipping platform area.                                      |       |        | x           |         |          | TS           | April - Oct |
|  | Farlam Path, path edges and all gateways inc. boundary gate.  |       |        |             | x       |          | TS           | April - Oct |

| Action & Page Reference & Project Code | Detail/location  | Daily | Weekly | Fortnightly | Monthly | Annually | Lead Officer | Comments                                     |
|--|--|-------|--------|-------------|---------|----------|--------------|--|
| Pg 23                                  | Farlam Meadow edges of footpath slabs.                             |       |        |             |         |          | TS           | Occasional as required April - Oct           |
|  | Nettles on Tarn edge between tearoom and Alex boathouse            |       |        |             |         |          | TS           | Occasional as required April - Oct           |
|  | Nettles either side of entrance from car park, Alex boathouse end. |       |        |             | x       |          | TS           | April - Oct                                  |
|  | Nettles between Alex boathouse and willow hide                     |       |        |             |         | x        | TS           | Late aug/early sept. Twice/year if necessary |
| Pg 23 P3                               | Cut back bracken on Farlam path                                    |       |        |             |         | x        | TS           | August                                       |
|  | Cut back nettles around edge of wildflower meadow next to car park |       |        |             |         | x        | TS           | After hay cut taken                          |
| Litter Picking P4                      | Tarn path  | x     |        |             |         |          | TS           |  |
|  | Woodland paths   |       | x      |             |         |          | TS           |  |
|  | Car park   | x     |        |             |         |          | TS           |  |
|  | Entrance drive   | x     |        |             |         |          | TS           |  |
|  | Tearoom and toilet areas   | x     |        |             |         |          | TS           |  |
|  | Campsite   |       | x      |             |         |          | TS           |  |
|  | Roadside Verges & Boundary   |       |        |             |         | x        | TS           |  |
| Dog Bin Emptying P5                    | Tarn edge path bins x4   | x     |        |             |         |          | TS           |  |
|  | Outside Tearoom bin  | x     |        |             |         |          | TS           | Or more often                                |
| Sweeping/Blowing P6                    | Blow ramps to tearoom, toilets and log cabin (includes steps)      |       | x      |             |         |          | TS           |  |
|  | Blow paving around tearoom and including disabled parking area     |       |        | x           |         |          | TS           |  |
|  | Sweep bird hide  |       | x      |             |         |          | TS           |  |
|  | Sweep slipway and boat launch platforms and concrete edges         |       | x      |             |         |          | TS           |  |
| Bird/squirrel feeding Pg 44 P7         | Top up food in Bird/squirrel feeding area                          |       | x      |             |         |          | TS           | Or more often in winter                      |
| Weeding P8                             | Paving around tearoom and including disabled parking area          |       |        | x           |         |          | TS           |  |
|  | Ramps to Alex boathouse and bird hide                              |       |        | x           |         |          | TS           |  |

| Action & Page Reference & Project Code | Detail/location   | Daily | Weekly | Fortnightly | Monthly | Annually | Lead Officer | Comments   |
|--|---|-------|--------|-------------|---------|----------|--------------|--|
| Pg 39                                  | Check Geocaches & clean out                                       |       |        |             |         | x        | TS           |  |
|  | Stone retaining walls either side of entrance near Alex boathouse |       |        |             |         | x        | TS           |  |
|  | Sailing boat storage area   |       |        |             |         | x        | TS           |  |
| Play area checks                       | Check for safety issues & maintenance needs                       |       | x      |             |         |          | PAMT         |  |
| Tidy                                   | workshop  |       |        | x           |         |          | TS           |  |
|  | Site office   |       |        | x           |         |          | CPM          |  |
| Change parking meter batteries P10     | X2 in car park  |       |        |             |         |          | TS           | 3 times/wk   |
| Water hanging Baskets & tubs           | Balcony and ramps   |       | x      |             |         |          | TS           | seasonal   |
| Site Patrol P11                        | Tarn path   | x     |        |             |         |          | TS           |  |
|  | Woodland areas (on rotation)                                      |       | x      |             |         |          | TS           |  |
|  | Farlam path   |       |        |             | x       |          | TS           |  |
|  | Meadows (on rotation)   |       |        |             | x       |          | TS           |  |
|  | Car Park, surface, beds, edges, meters, signage                   | x     |        |             |         |          | TS           |  |
| Unlocking/locking                      | Drive gate  | x     |        |             |         |          | Staff on day | On arrival/leaving   |
|  | Toilets   | x     |        |             |         |          | Staff on day | On arrival/leaving   |
|  | Site office   | x     |        |             |         |          | Staff on day | On arrival/leaving   |
| Cut logs for tearoom P12               | Keep woodshed topped up   |       | x      |             |         |          | TS           | During autumn/winter   |
|  | Check requirements and take logs to tearoom                       | x     |        |             |         |          | TS           | During winter months   |
| Car Park Maintenance                   | Fill pot holes as they develop                                    |       |        | x           |         |          | TS           |  |
| Pg 58 P13                              | Report pot holes in tarmac drive for repair                       |       |        |             |         | x        | TS           | Or as necessary  |
|  | Any car park repairs should be carried out on the same day.       | x     |        |             |         |          | TS           | If not possible, to repair same day, make as safe as possible immediately and make at least a temporary repair within 24hrs. |

| Action & Page Reference & Project Code            | Detail/location   | Daily | Weekly | Fortnightly | Monthly | Annually | Lead Officer   | Comments                     |
|---|---|-------|--------|-------------|---------|----------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Monitor site boundary P14                         | Monitor and schedule for repair as necessary                                      |       |        |             |         | x        | TS             |                              |
| Tree safety P15                                   | Monitor tree safety as part of site patrols                                       | x     |        |             |         |          | TS             | Member of staff QTRA trained |
| Tool Inventory P16                                | update  |       |        |             |         | x        | TS             | As required by audit         |
| Paths P17   | Repair surfacing 20mm to dust   |       |        |             |         | x        | TS             | As required                  |
|   | Top up woodchip path from car park to campsite                                    |       |        |             |         |          | TS             |                              |
| Cleaning P18                                      | 3 x interpretation panels, Notice boards x2,                                      |       |        |             |         | x        | TS             |                              |
|   | 4 x life rings  |       |        |             |         | x        | TS             |                              |
| <b>Conservation</b>                               |   |       |        |             |         |          |                |                              |
| Monitor Blue-green algae Pg 27 P19                | Tarn- sampling & recording of results.  |       |        | x           |         |          | TS             | TBC                          |
| Survey Pg 31                                      | Northern Bilberry   |       |        |             |         | x        | CPM            |                              |
|   | Butterfly Orchid  |       |        |             |         | x        | CPM            |                              |
|   | Dwarf willow  |       |        |             |         | x        | CPM            |                              |
|   | Sword Leaved Hellorborines  |       |        |             |         | x        | Jeremy Roberts | June                         |
| Grasscutting pg 23                                | Mow wildflower meadow with reciprocating mower and rake and remove cuttings       |       |        |             |         | x        | TS             | August on-wards              |
|   | Mow meadow alongside path between bird hide and wildlife bay                      |       |        |             |         | x        | TS             | August on-wards              |
| Gorsecutting Pg 23                                | Cut old gorse bushes on a rotational basis cutting stems close to ground level    |       |        |             |         | x        | TS             | Nov - Jan                    |
| Clean out bird boxes                              | Clean out & survey contents of boxes around site and repair/replace as necessary. |       |        |             |         | x        | TS             |                              |
| Implement woodland management plan Pg 21          | See plan for detailed work  |       |        |             |         | x        | TS             |                              |
| Maintain standard feature trees, replace and weed | On grazed field between car park and entrance parallel to drive                   |       |        |             |         | x        | TS             |                              |
|   | Around adjacent field to above, up to old Tarn end hotel                          |       |        |             |         | x        | TS             |                              |
| Hedgerow P22 Maintenance Pg 21                    | Hedgerow 1 Entrance Drive Trim Back   |       |        |             |         | x        | TS             |                              |

| Action & Page Reference & Project Code       | Detail/location   | Daily | Weekly | Fortnightly | Monthly | Annually        | Lead Officer | Comments                      |
|--|---|-------|--------|-------------|---------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
|  | Hedgerow 2 Tarn road verge Beat up  |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           |                               |
|  | Hedgerow 3 Tarn road verge Beat up  |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           |                               |
|  | Hedgerow 4 Hell Beck Beat up  |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           |                               |
|  | Hedgerow 5 Field boundary Beat up   |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           |                               |
|  | Hedgerow 6 Tarn End Trim Back   |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           |                               |
| Car Park Pond Pg 29<br>P23                   | Clean out pond  |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           | In winter if required         |
| P31  | Remove leaves from car park   |       | x      |             |         |                 |              | During autumn                 |
| Weed removal Pg 26<br>P24                    | Remove blown weed from bays with JCB  |       |        |             |         | x               | CPM          | Up to a max of 4 times/year   |
|  | Remove weed from bays by hand   |       | x      |             |         |                 | TS           | Or as necessary               |
| Willow management<br>P25                     | Maintain willow hide  |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           | Autumn                        |
| Pg 29  | Revetment cutting and weaving   |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           | Autumn                        |
| Reed management Pg 29<br>P26                 | Encourage growth by transplanting in early years within wildlife bay shallow edge areas   |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           | Winter                        |
| Invasive vegetation management Pg 32<br>P27  | Remove Ragwort and Rosebay Willow Herb before it seeds. Whole site, but do Tarn edge, car park, behind pond and Roman Wood as priority areas.   |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           | Remove before end of July     |
| Flora Pg 31                                  | Experiment with reducing vegetation in helloborine colony areas. Strim to 5cm height.   |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           | Winter Nov-end March          |
| Woodchip path P28                            | Between car park and campsite   |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           | Autumn                        |
| Fence repair P29                             | Repair fence and replace wire strands with pig netting. Replace inters as required at same time. Section from Brampton Junction gate along to junction level with orienteering post no. 21. |       | x      |             |         |                 | TS           |                               |
| Woodland edge/hedgerow trimming Pg 22<br>P30 | Trim entrance drive hedgerow  |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           | Late winter                   |
|  | Trim hedgerow from Tarn up to Tarn end gate by road   |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           | Late winter                   |
|  | Trim car park hedgerow  |       |        |             |         | x               | TS           | Late winter                   |
|  | Trim back trees as required around edge of wildflower meadow to prevent too much meadow shading.  |       |        |             |         | X every 2 years | TS           | Or less often if not required |

| Recreation                             |  |       |        |             |         |          |                |  |
|--|--|-------|--------|-------------|---------|----------|----------------|--|
| Action & Page Reference & Project Code | Detail/location  | Daily | Weekly | Fortnightly | Monthly | Annually | Lead Officer   | Comments                                       |
| Boat Hire Tender Pg 54                 | Put rowing boat franchise out to tender  |       |        |             |         | x        | CPM            | January  |
| Invoice                                | Invoice rowing club and sailing club for agreements  |       |        |             |         | x        | CPM            | Every 6 months                                 |
| Check Boating permits                  | Check or issue permits for water sports  | x     |        |             |         |          | Staff on duty  | As required                                    |
| Check or issue fishing tickets Pg 55   | Check or issue fishing tickets. Tarn path if see people fishing  | x     |        |             |         |          | Staff on duty  | 15 <sup>th</sup> June – 15 <sup>th</sup> March |
| Education                              |  |       |        |             |         |          |                |  |
| Update Bird Sightings Board            | Workshop window shutter  |       |        | x           |         |          | TS             | Or as necessary                                |
| Update Posters on notice boards        | Car park, changing rooms. tearoom  |       | x      |             |         |          | TS             |  |
| Friends of Newsletter Pg 39            | Write newsletter each season   |       |        |             |         |          | CPM            | 4 times/year                                   |
| Office procedures                      | Follow as per booklet issued to staff  | x     |        |             |         |          | All Staff      |  |
| Take Bookings                          | Education Cabin & Alex Boathouse   | x     |        |             |         |          | all            | As required                                    |
| Health & Safety Pg 65                  |  |       |        |             |         |          |                |  |
| Risk Assessments Pg 66                 | Update risk assessments for Tarn annually or as required. In form staff of any changes   |       |        |             |         | x        | CPM            | Or as required                                 |
| COSSH Pg 66                            | Update COSSH folder data sheets as required and inform staff   |       |        |             |         | x        | CPM            | Or as required                                 |
|  | Clean out hazardous substance cupboard and dispose of any old or not required chemicals appropriately  |       |        |             |         | x        | TS             |  |
| Fire Alarm Checks Pg 67                | Tearoom, office, workshop, Alex boathouse, education cabin, campsite   |       | x      |             |         |          | Assigned staff |  |
| Training                               | Ensure all permanent staff trained in basic health & safety & manual handling.   |       |        |             |         |          | CPM            | As required                                    |
|  | In form new and existing staff via induction, team meetings or staff newsletter of any changes to health & safety procedures at Tarn and regularly review incident/accident forms. |       |        |             | x       |          | CPM            |  |

| Action & Page Reference & Project Code | Detail/location  | Daily | Weekly | Fortnightly | Monthly | Annually | Lead Officer              | Comments   |
|--|--|-------|--------|-------------|---------|----------|---------------------------|--|
| Tree Branch Lopping                    | As required around car park. To be surveyed annually by Arboriculture team. Informal regular checks as part of staff site patrols. | x     | x      | x           | x       | x        | OM                        |  |
|  | Around Tam edge path as above.   | x     | x      | x           | x       | x        | OM                        |  |
| Buildings Maintenance Pg 50            | Fire Alarm Service & Repair  |       |        |             |         | x        | BS Honeywell              | See contract for frequency & conditions                        |
|  | Cleaning as per cleaning schedule  | x     |        |             |         |          | OJ                        | Budget allocated to OJ for Cleaner & materials                 |
| Pg 33                                  | Klargester service & repair  |       |        |             |         | x        | BS Hutchisons             | See contract for frequency & conditions                        |
| Pg 33                                  | Klargester & grease trap empty   |       |        |             |         | x        | BS Trotters               | Order as required. Twice/yr may be required depending on usage |
|  | Lift service & repair  |       |        |             |         | x        | BS A1 lifts               | See contract for frequency & conditions                        |
|  | Fire equipment servicing   |       |        |             |         | x        | BS Cumbria County Council | See contract for frequency & conditions                        |
|  | Burglar alarm monitoring -ongoing  |       |        |             |         |          | MI Cumbria systems        | See contracts for frequency & conditions                       |
|  | PAT Testing  |       |        |             |         | x        | BS                        | See contract for frequency & conditions                        |

| Action & Page Reference & Project Code | Detail/location                             | Daily | Weekly | Fortnightly | Monthly | Annually | Lead Officer    | Comments                                |
|--|---|-------|--------|-------------|---------|----------|-----------------|---|
|  | Sanitary bin emptying                       |       |        |             | x       |          | OJ<br>PHS       | See contract for frequency & conditions |
|  | Emergency lighting testing                  |       |        |             | x       |          | BS<br>Taylors   | See contract for frequency & conditions |
|  | Water hygiene testing                       |       |        |             |         | x        | BS<br>Rentokill | See contract for frequency & conditions |
|  | Compressors                                 |       |        |             |         | x        |                 | Or as required                          |
|  | Boilers (heating)                           |       |        |             |         | x        | BS<br>Taylors   | See contract for frequency & conditions |
|  | Zip water boiler                            |       |        |             |         | x        | BS              | See contract for frequency & conditions |
|  | Lightening protection                       |       |        |             |         | x        | BS              | Every 11 months                         |
|  | Discharge licence fee (Env Agency)          |       |        |             |         | x        | CPM             |   |
|  | Pest control (Carlisle City Council)        |       |        |             |         | x        | CPM             | As required                             |
|  | Fixed wire testing                          |       |        |             |         | x        | BS              | Every 5 yrs                             |
|  | Wood burner stove flue cleaning             |       |        |             |         | x        | BS              |   |
|  | Wind turbine service                        |       |        |             |         | x        | BS              |   |
| Gutters                                | Clean out on all buildings                  |       |        |             |         | x        | BS              | As required                             |
| Drains                                 | Hose out                                    |       |        |             |         | x        | BS              | As required                             |
| Sewage plant owned by Tam End          | Check fencing is secure & no other issues   |       |        |             |         | x        | CPM             |   |
| Tearoom Pg 61                          |   |       |        |             |         |          |                 |   |
| Preparation                            | Put open signs out                          | x     |        |             |         |          | C               |   |
|  | Change opening times to winter/summer hours |       |        |             |         | x        | TRM             | March & Nov                             |
|  | Specials board checked                      | x     |        |             |         |          | C               |   |
|  | Clean tables                                | x     |        |             |         |          | C               |   |
|  | Wipe table top folders and menus            | x     |        |             |         |          | C               |   |
|  | Polish cake cabinet                         | x     |        |             |         |          | C               |   |
|  | Light wood burner in winter                 | x     |        |             |         |          | C               | Winter months                           |
|  | Fold napkins                                | x     |        |             |         |          | C               |   |

| Action & Page Reference & Project Code | Detail/location  | Daily | Weekly | Fortnightly | Monthly | Annually | Lead Officer | Comments                    |
|--|--|-------|--------|-------------|---------|----------|--------------|-----------------------------|
|  |  |       |        |             |         |          |              |                             |
|  | Update cake labels   | x     |        |             |         |          | C            |                             |
|  | Balcony furniture put out and made sure its all safe working condition | x     |        |             |         |          | C            |                             |
| Cleaning                               | Wash kitchen & dish wash floor   | x     |        |             |         |          | C            |                             |
|  | Clean down surfaces  | x     |        |             |         |          | C            |                             |
|  | Deep clean tearoom   |       |        |             | x       |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Deep clean kitchen   |       |        |             | x       |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Ice cream scoop freezer  | x     |        |             |         |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Clean sinks  | x     |        |             |         |          | C            |                             |
|  | Dust gift shop shelves   |       | x      |             |         |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Wipe out fridges   |       | x      |             |         |          | C            | As required                 |
| Defrost                                | Freezer dish wash  |       |        |             | x       |          | C            |                             |
|  | Chest freezer dish wash  |       |        |             | x       |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Ice cream tub freezer  |       |        |             | x       |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Ice cream scoop freezer  |       | x      |             |         |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Chest freezer takeaway   |       |        |             | x       |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Upright freezer kitchen  |       |        |             | x       |          | C            |                             |
| Other                                  | Top up table top folders   |       |        |             |         |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Clean out and top up kids play box                                     |       |        |             |         |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Top up crockery in Education Cabin                                     | x     |        |             |         |          | C            | As required check regularly |
| Tidy                                   | Stock cupboard   |       |        |             |         |          | TRM          |                             |
| Stocktake                              | Catering stock   |       |        |             |         |          | TRM          | 4 times/year                |
|  | Gift shop stock  |       |        |             |         |          | TRM          | 4 times/year                |
| Order Stock                            | Gift shop  |       |        |             | x       |          | TRM          | As required                 |
|  | Kitchen  | x     |        |             |         |          | TRM          | As required                 |
| Finance                                | Till up  | x     |        |             |         |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Bank up  |       | x      |             |         |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Submit banking details to finance                                      |       | x      |             |         |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Check and submit invoices and delivery notes                           |       | x      |             |         |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Make sure plenty of change   |       | x      |             |         |          | TRM          |                             |
| Health and safety                      | Health and safety folder up to date                                    |       |        |             | x       |          | TRM          |                             |
|  | Safer food and better business folder up to date                       | x     |        |             |         |          | C            |                             |
| Gift shop                              | Top up stock on shelves  | x     |        |             |         |          | TRM          |                             |

|                   |   |   |   |  |   |   |     |              |
|-------------------|---|---|---|--|---|---|-----|--------------|
| Giftshop cleaning | Dust shelves & gifts                              |   | x |  |   |   | TRM | CL = Cleaner |
|                   | Sweep & mop floor                                 | x |   |  |   |   | OJ  |              |
|                   | Polish door windows                               |   | x |  |   |   | OJ  |              |
|                   | Sweep lobby                                       | x |   |  |   |   | OJ  |              |
|                   | Clean sinks                                       |   | x |  |   |   | OJ  |              |
| Takeaway Cleaning | Clean down surfaces                               | x |   |  |   |   | TRM |              |
|                   | Sweep & mop floor                                 | x |   |  |   |   | OJ  |              |
|                   | Clean oven , microwave, coffee machine, hot plate | x |   |  |   |   | TRM |              |
|                   | Wipe clean till, phone & radio, fridge            |   | x |  |   |   | TRM |              |
|                   | Tidy shelves                                      | x |   |  |   |   | TRM |              |
|                   | Defrost & deep clean ice cream freezer            |   |   |  | x |   | TRM |              |
|                   | Wipe down ice cream freezer                       | x |   |  |   |   | TRM |              |
| Balcony           | Re-stain/repair balcony furniture                 |   |   |  |   | x | CPM | Autumn       |
|                   | Sweep balcony                                     |   | x |  |   |   | OJ  |              |
| Menu              | Review menu                                       |   |   |  |   | x | TRM |              |
|                   | Review specials                                   |   |   |  | x |   | TRM |              |
|                   | Review suppliers                                  |   |   |  |   | x | TRM |              |

# Five Year Plan



If square is blocked out this means work has been completed.

|                | <b>Action/Project</b>   | <b>2010/11</b> | <b>2011/12</b> | <b>2012/13</b> | <b>2013/14</b> | <b>2014/15</b> | <b>Lead Officer</b> | <b>Comments</b>  |
|----------------|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|--|
| Staffing Pg 15 | Investigate options for overlap of staff days and alternate weekend working. (Tarn Supervisor & Tarn Attendant positions) | x              |                |                |                |                | CPM                 | Position deleted   |
|                | Fill Tarn Attendant Role  |                |                |                |                |                |                     | Position deleted   |
|                | Fund/install staff area   |                |                |                |                |                | CPM                 |  |
| Conservation   | Carry out an energy audit   | x              |                |                |                |                | BS                  | Work underway  |
|                | Fund/Install energy efficient boiler in the tearoom to heat water for whole of building including changing rooms          |                | x              |                |                |                | BS                  |  |
|                | Apply for LNR status  |                |                | x              |                |                | CPM                 |  |
|                | Apply for Natural England accreditation   |                | x              |                |                |                | CPM                 |  |
|                | Update Business plan  | x              |                |                |                |                | CPM                 |  |
|                | Explore planting options for wildlife corridors linked to woodland management plan  |                |                | x              |                |                | CPM                 |  |
|                | Survey roadside verges joining Tarn land  |                |                |                | x              |                | TS                  |  |
|                | Grassland areas undertake NVC level 2<br>Orchid meadow by car park<br>Grassland strip wind turbine to wildlife bay        |                | x              | x              |                |                |                     |  |
|                | Investigate options for off site weed composting  |                | x              |                |                |                | CPM                 |  |
| Pg 27          | Write catchment management plan for Tarn  | x              |                |                |                |                | CPM                 | requires public consultation exercise. Initial panels designed |
| Pg 27          | Implement regular monitoring system for blue-green algae  |                |                |                |                |                | CPM                 |  |
| Pg 28          | Investigate options for natural revetment in areas of high wear   | x              |                |                |                |                | TS                  | On-going   |
| Pg 28          | Implement additional natural revetment areas  |                | x              |                |                |                |                     |  |
| Pg 30          | Continue rotational clearing of Hell beck   |                | x              |                | x              |                | TS                  |  |

| Section | Action/Project  | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | Lead Officer | Comments                             |
|---------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Pg 31   | Fence off helloborine colonies  |         |         |         |         |         | TS           |                                      |
| Pg 31   | Survey narrow-leaved helloborine colonies   |         | x       | x       | x       | x       | CPM          | Jeremy Roberts                       |
| Pg 21   | Implement Woodland Management Plan  |         | x       | x       | x       | x       | CPM          |                                      |
| Pg 21   | Implement tree planting programme   | x       | x       | x       |         |         | CPM          | Awaiting result of grant application |
|         | Gather data on previous moth surveys (Tullie house?)  | x       |         |         |         |         | TS           |                                      |
|         | Survey island and investigate improvements for wildlife.  |         | x       |         |         |         | TS           |                                      |
|         | Investigate nesting options for range of wild fowl, possible installation of island/s in wildlife bay                 |         | x       |         |         |         | TS           |                                      |
|         | Investigate boundary demarcation of bay with buoys or boom system to prevent boating access.                          |         | x       |         |         |         | CPM          |                                      |
|         | Remove all old bird boxes and replace with new. Ensure all are numbered and mapped.                                   | x       |         |         |         |         | TS           |                                      |
|         | Add to numbers of bird and bat boxes.   |         | x       |         |         |         | TS           |                                      |
|         | Carry out wolverine survey  |         |         | x       |         |         |              |                                      |
|         | Carry out small mammal survey Farlam Meadow   |         |         |         | x       |         |              |                                      |
|         | Update squirrel survey  |         |         |         |         | x       |              |                                      |
|         | Investigate options for wildlife value enhancement of Farlam meadow.  |         | x       |         |         |         | TS           |                                      |
|         | Quadrat vegetation survey to compare grazed & ungrazed areas in Farlam meadow   |         | x       |         |         |         | TS           |                                      |
|         | Install Boundary fence to protect Hell beck from sheep.(dependant on outcome of woodland management plan if required) | x       |         |         |         |         | CPM          | May not be required now              |
|         | Investigate area behind Roman wood and opportunities for wildlife value enhancement. (not all in CCC ownership)       |         |         |         | x       |         | TS           |                                      |
|         | Annual breeding bird census   | x       | x       | x       | x       | x       | TS           |                                      |
|         | Update species lists for flora & fungi  |         | x       |         |         |         | TS           |                                      |
|         | Phase 1 site survey- to identify more formally, sensitive areas, access & high wear areas.                            |         |         |         |         |         | PS           |                                      |
|         | Invertebrate survey   |         |         |         | x       |         |              |                                      |
|         | Riparian vegetation survey of Tam   |         |         |         |         | x       |              |                                      |

| Section   | Action/Project  | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | Lead Officer | Comments  |
|-----------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|---|
|           | Fixed point photography set up  |         |         |         |         |         | PS           |   |
|           | Cut back woodland/hedgerow growth around orchid meadow  |         |         | x       |         |         | TS           |   |
| Pg 29     | Cut back Alder around car park pond area to maintain open pond and rear scrub/long grass area |         | x       |         |         |         | TS           |   |
|           | Reduce height of tree tubes around standard trees to allow branching.                         |         |         |         |         |         | TS           |   |
|           | Replace field gate Talkin village road boundary   |         |         |         |         |         | TS           |   |
| Pg 21     | Maintain hedgerows 1 -6 every 2 years on rotation   |         | x       |         | x       |         | TS           |   |
| Education | Paint walls in log cabin and Alex Boathouse   |         |         |         |         |         | BS           |   |
|           | Install picture hanging rail in Alex Boathouse  |         |         |         |         |         | BS           |   |
|           | Monitor path wear from coloured trails and repair as required                                 |         | x       |         | x       |         | TS           |   |
| Pg 38     | Update Environmental education programmes   |         | x       |         |         |         | CPM          | Under threat due to job/departmental changes 2011 |
| Pg 38     | Finish Numeracy Trail   | x       |         |         |         |         | TS           |   |
| Pg 38     | Publicise Numeracy Trail (contact numeracy advisor for county council)                        | x       |         |         |         |         | CPM          |   |
| Pg 40     | Progress longer term full time university student work placements                             |         |         |         |         |         | CPM          |   |
| Pg 40     | Review friends of group   |         | x       |         |         |         | CPM          |   |
| Pg 41     | Review volunteer arrangements (weekday & weekend)   |         | x       |         | x       |         | TS           |   |
| Pg 42     | Distribute site leaflets  | x       |         |         |         |         | TS           | To happen spring 2011                             |
| Pg 43     | Write Interpretation Plan   |         |         | x       |         |         | CPM          |   |
| Pg 44     | Install live cam for bird feeding area to tearoom link to fl at screen.                       | x       |         |         |         |         | CPM          | Quote received and funding applied for            |
| Pg 17     | Install webcam and link to websites   |         | x       |         |         |         | IT           | As above  |

| Section    | Action/Project  | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | Lead Officer | Comments               |
|------------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|------------------------|
|            | Replace entrance sign by road   |         | x       |         |         |         | CPM          |                        |
|            | Apply for additional road signage leading to Tarn after assessing requirements.   |         |         | x       |         |         | CPM          |                        |
|            | Oral history project to record personal histories of Tarn use   |         |         |         |         | x       | CPM          |                        |
| Pg 37      | Continue to work with borderliners orienteering club to maintain permanent orienteering course.   |         | x       | x       | x       | x       | CPM          |                        |
| Pg 17      | Investigate generally possibilities for use of different modern media to advertise and promote the Tarn and aid learning about it. (podcasts, blogs etc)    |         |         | x       |         |         | CPM          | Moodle started in 2010 |
|            | Record & collate volunteer hours annually   |         | x       | x       | x       | x       | TS           |                        |
| Pg 42      | Explore new areas for marketing of site   |         | x       |         |         |         |              |                        |
| Pg 44      | Complete fencing round bird feeding area  |         |         |         |         |         | CPM          |                        |
| Pg 35      | Install rainwater butt for hanging basket watering  |         | x       |         |         |         |              |                        |
| Recreation | Install new litter bin in front of tearoom  |         |         |         |         |         | CPM          |                        |
| Pg 47      | Monitor use of current bins and their locations   |         | x       |         |         |         |              |                        |
|            | Bird hide/wildlife area development   |         |         | x       |         |         | CPM          |                        |
|            | Project to create entrance feature from car park down to Tarn. (Possible sculptured arch)   |         |         |         | x       |         | TS           |                        |
|            | Replace wooden stools/bench in willow hide  |         | x       |         |         |         | TS           |                        |
| Pg 52      | Continue with Water users meetings  | x       | x       | x       | x       | x       | CPM          | To happen in march     |
|            | Investigate potential of developing site for additional water sports.   |         | x       |         |         |         | CPM          |                        |
| Pg 55      | Survey angling usage and its effects  |         |         | x       |         |         |              |                        |
| Pg 57      | Apply for formal line of PROW change Farlam path  |         |         |         | x       |         | FO           |                        |
| Pg 50      | Resurface Tarn side path 1.3miles   |         |         |         | x       |         | CPM          |                        |
|            | Develop new annual event for Tarn   |         |         |         | x       |         | CPM          |                        |
|            | Encourage year round use of the site. Explore winter initiatives  |         |         |         |         | x       | CPM          |                        |
| Pg 54      | Monitor the boat hire franchise and re-evaluate all, aspects and opportunities for development  | x       | x       | x       | x       | x       | CPM          |                        |
|            | Investigate improvements to power supply for car parking meters.  |         |         | x       |         |         | BS           |                        |
| Pg 58      | Explore development of links with NCN cycle routes and Sustrans. Develop links with Cumbria Cycle way, Eden Valley cycle route, Hadrian's wall loop routes. |         |         |         | x       |         | CPM          |                        |

| Section               | Action/Project  | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | Lead Officer | Comments                             |
|-----------------------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
|                       | Investigate possibilities for development of play facilities at Talkin Tam  |         |         | x       |         |         | CPM          |                                      |
|                       | Monitor & re-evaluate use of Alex Boathouse   |         | x       |         |         |         | CPM          |                                      |
|                       | Sand down and re treat (plus paint letters) welcome signs x5  |         |         |         | x       |         | TS           |                                      |
|                       | Sand down and re treat (plus paint letters) ladder signs x3   |         | x       |         |         |         | TS           |                                      |
|                       | Sand down and re treat (plus paint letters) finger posts x4   |         |         | x       |         |         | TS           |                                      |
| Pg 52                 | Review Rowing Club agreement  |         |         |         |         | x       | CPM          |                                      |
| Pg 53                 | Review Sailing Club agreement   |         |         |         |         | x       | CPM          | Underway Feb 2011                    |
|                       | Replace car park wooden fence   |         |         |         |         | x       | TS           |                                      |
|                       | Investigate options for replacement of grass square in front of changing rooms with paving to tie in with rest of tearoom frontage. |         | x       |         |         |         | CPM          |                                      |
| Tearoom Pg 62         | Replace balcony furniture   |         |         | x       |         |         | TM           |                                      |
|                       | Apply for funding to replace balcony with possible extension plus link with conservatory (see below item)                           |         | x       |         |         |         | CPM          | Capital bid                          |
|                       | Investigate possibility of funding conservatory.  |         | x       |         |         |         | CPM          | Capital bid                          |
|                       | Repaint interior walls  |         |         |         |         | x       | TRM          |                                      |
|                       | Replace carpet in extension   |         |         | x       |         |         | TRM          |                                      |
|                       | Clean carpet in extension   |         |         |         |         |         | OJ           |                                      |
|                       | Replace dishwasher  |         | x       |         |         |         | TRM          | If required, funding may be required |
|                       | Replace coffee machine upstairs   |         |         |         |         |         | TRM          |                                      |
|                       | Replace coffee machine downstairs   |         |         |         |         |         | TRM          |                                      |
| Health & Safety Pg 66 | Review Water Safety Plan  |         | x       |         |         |         | CPM          |                                      |
|                       | Review Fire Safety Plan   |         |         | x       |         |         | CPM          |                                      |
|                       |   |         |         |         |         |         |              |                                      |
|                       |   |         |         |         |         |         |              |                                      |
|                       |   |         |         |         |         |         |              |                                      |

## **Maps**

- Map 1** Talkin Tarn's Location in England  
**Map 2** Talkin Tarn's Location Within North Eastern Cumbria  
**Map 3** Talkin Tarn Country Park – With Boundaries Marked In Purple  
**Map 4** Detailed Map of Site Compartments & Features Contained within Phase 1 Habitat Survey included as an appendix.

## **Abbreviations**

- PROW- Public Right Of Way  
LBAP- Local Biodiversity action Plan  
BAP- Biodiversity Action Plan  
NCN- National Cycle Network  
CBEN- Cumbria Business Environment Network  
CPM-Country Park Manager  
TM-Tearoom Manager  
TS-Tarn Supervisor  
TA-Tarn Attendant  
BS - Building Surveyor  
OO-Operations Officer  
GOM-Green Spaces Operations Manager

## **Bibliography**

The following documents are stored in the site office at Talkin Tarn;

- Woodland Management Plan
- Fire Safety Plan
- Water Safety Plan
- Risk Assessments
- Legend Of The Tarn
- Visitor Survey Sept 08
- Job Descriptions for Site Staff
  - Country Park Manager
  - Tarn Supervisor
  - Tarn Attendant
  - Tearoom & Gift Shop Manager
  - Kitchen Team leader
  - Cook
- Buildings Maintenance Files
- Species Lists
- Marketing Strategy
- Business Plan
- Environmental Education Programme
- Phase 1 Habitat Survey
- County wildlife Site Designation Form
- Project Register

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1

**Phase 1 Habitat Survey** which includes Map, Database & Photographs in 3 separate e-documents. A large scale version of the map is kept in the site office.

Appendix 2

**Project Register**