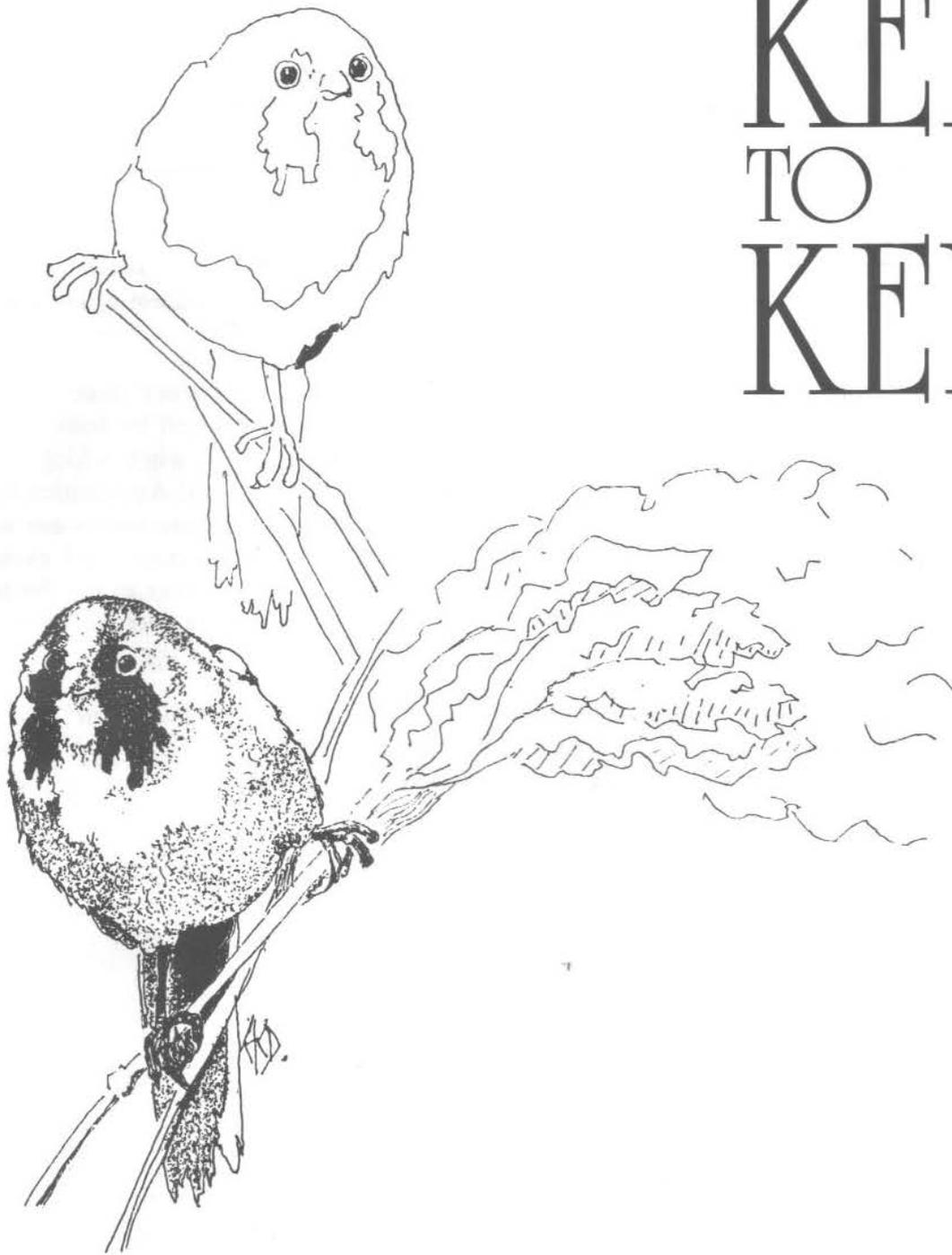


FROM KEEP TO KENT



IN THIS ISSUE

A Volunteers Year Report

Personal Viewpoint by Ralph Henderson

Journal of the Arnside/Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Landscape Trust
No. 15 SUMMER 1991

PRACTICAL COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

EDITOR'S NOTE

It's Summer, but you wouldn't think so if you had been one of the sponsored walkers crossing the Sands in driving wind and rain; I hope everyone involved in that somewhat chaotic day has dried out by now!

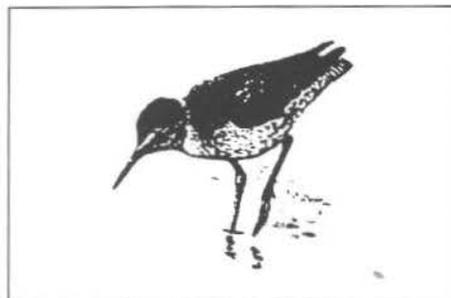
A feature of this Summer issue are the reports on the considerable amount of work done throughout the AONB by many Volunteers. The Countryside Management Service benefitted by some 598 days of fieldwork - work which would not have been carried out by anyone else; work which makes a significant contribution to the landscape of the AONB and which gives the Local Authorities funding the CMS a very high rate of return on their 'investment'. In reality, many more hours are worked (see the report on the new task of Butterfly Counting) to ensure that the programme of events are achieved, just packaging this issue of Keer to Kent will take 14 man-hours, never mind the task of bulk hand-delivery, altogether much work done well. (If reading this makes you want to help, please don't be backward in coming forward.)

A new feature is the article called 'Personal Viewpoint'. Your committee asked for articles on topical environmental issues relevant to AONB so I've set the ball rolling! I hope that we will be able to find other authors to give their viewpoints! Any ideas or comments?

RALPH HENDERSON

CONTENTS

	page
Editorial & Contents	2
Ashmeadow House by Arthur Boswell	3
Personal Viewpoint by Ralph Henderson	4, 5
Crossing the Sands by Sheila Bainbridge	6
Guided Walk, Underlaid Wood by Jenny Foot	7
Lancashire Coastal Way	7
A Volunteers Year by Jonathon Blowers	8, 9
Butterfly Watch by Joan Fisher	10
RSPB News by John Wilson	11
National Trust News by Richard Harward	11
Dates for Your Diary	12



SILVERDALE
OFF-LICENCE

(Tel. 701089)

DRINKS — SWEETS

CIGARETTES

BOOKS — MAPS

TOURIST OFFICE

OPEN:

Monday to Saturday

11-1 2-6 7-9

Sunday

12-4 7-9

The views expressed by contributors in **From Keer to Kent** are not necessarily supported by the Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust or the sponsoring bodies.

'ASHMEADOW' HOUSE, ARNSIDE

by Arthur Boswell

For many of us who only arrived in the Arnside area within the last few years and knew little of its local history, the house and grounds of 'Ashmeadow', fronting the estuary at the west of the village, were something of an enigma. On the one hand there was the pleasure of seeing the many youngsters enjoying its use as an outdoor pursuits and training centre. For some, perhaps, this pleasure was tinged at times by a surfeit of excited shrieks of delight (or fear!) as the novices wobbled their way onto the waters of the estuary for the first time. On the other hand, one could not help pondering the economic pressures which must have weighed upon this superb site with the threat that one day it could become buried for all time beneath some nightmare 'Desireable Development'.

It came as wonderful news, therefore, at the beginning of this year to learn that the house and two other nearby properties comprising Earnseat School, which closed in 1979, had been left for the use of the village by the late Mr John Barnes. Mr Baranes was the headmaster of the school from 1941 when he succeeded his father, Mr J M Barnes, who founded the school in 1900. (It would be interesting to know if we have any former pupils in the Landscape Trust who remember these

days. Did they, at that time, appreciate how lucky they were to be in this area?)

The properties are to be managed by a Trust whose members will be representative of various interests in the village and also of Mr Barnes' family. The first chairman of the Trust is Mr Vic Gray who is also chairman of Arnside Parish Council.

It seems that, under the terms of the present lease of the properties, there can be no actual use by the village until the year 2010. In the meantime, however, we can all continue to enjoy looking as we pass, at the broad expanse of flower-spangled lawns and superb mature trees with, in the background, the quiet unpretentious dignity of the house itself and with the added contentment of knowing that it is all there to last.

This wonderfully generous gift from Mr Barnes must reflect a very deep love of the area which we in the Landscape Trust share. During his life, Mr Barnes, through his own efforts made a major contribution to the cause of Conservation and his example must surely encourage all of us to do our own little bit to try to leave the AONB in an even better natural state than when we came here.



The Silverdale Hotel

AA

Shore Road, Silverdale
Via Carnforth
Lancs LA5 0TP



Bar Meals available
Lunches and Evenings
7 days a week

Tel. Silverdale (0524)
701206

C. BURROW Contracting

JCB Hire
Site Clearance Landscaping
Tree Felling Turfing
Walling Paving



Silverdale 701736
Gibraltar Farm, Silverdale

ARNPRINT

PRINTERS

▪
of Quality Stationery
▪
Continuous Stationery
▪
Colour Brochures
▪
Booklets etc

**CHURCH HILL, ARNSIDE
CARNFORTH
LANCS LA5 0DA
TEL & FAX (0524) 761358**

Having already sacrificed part of our heritage, what about the next 50 years? In a way unthinkable 10 years ago, we are witnessing the shrinkage of the Agricultural Industry, indeed going the way of the other major industries such as textiles, mining, and shipbuilding.

Until now the landowner/farmer has been able to resist the general pressure for alternative use for his land because there was a living to be made from it producing food in one form or another. The Planning Authority always had the 'sacred cow' of agricultural graded land to aid its policy of green belts etc.

Not any more!!! Redundant farm buildings are becoming houses; fields become golf courses with club houses/hotel or motor scrambling tracks, or caravan/mobile home parks. Walls are sold for rockeries and theme parks/heritage/garden centres with car parks/shops/cafes are created to give car drivers a destination when 'out for a run in the country'. Woodlands are used for 'war games' or filled with 'log cabins'. Indeed, to say the landscape is threatened is an understatement.

How does this 'pressure for a change' affect our ANOB and the Landscape Trust? Now the main aims of an ANOB are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape, to meet the need for quiet enjoyment of the countryside and to have regard for the interests of those who live and work there. These aims are usually achieved by practical management backed by a partnership between Councils, farmers, conservationists and residents.

With Councillors under political pressure to approve new projects which create 'jobs' and landowners under economic pressure to 'diversify', this 'cosy on paper' partnership will not be sufficient to survive the current free for all. It is not a question of regretting what has just slipped through, but more a case of where will the next 'unwanted' scheme be located, given present Planning Policies.

Perhaps you do not care that your ANOB is being promoted as an alternative to the Lakes by your local and County Council. The absolutely certain result of this promotion will be to make all our mainly narrow lanes much busier with traffic and consequently more hazardous. I call this a negative policy, as will be the widening of the lanes to make them 'safe' when the accident rate has risen because of this increased traffic.

If you take Langdale, near Ambleside, as an example, the new car parks are full by 1000hrs. The increased numbers of people that these extra car parks can accommodate are causing large scale erosion on the fells, with footways being worn to 10 yards wide, so that some hillsides look like the proverbial 'gutted rabbit'. The few measures being taken can be likened to 'repositioning the deck chairs on the deck of the Titanic': the ship is still sinking!!!

Can the Landscape Trust influence the future?? Do we want our AONB to 'sink' as well?!

It is my opinion that the TRUST and its MEMBERSHIP can influence the future of the landscape in our AONB but it will mean some new action and a change of policy/tactics. Members, as individuals, can for example, put pen to paper and write to councillors (parish, district, county) and MPs thereby putting pressure on decision makers, on every occasion an issue arises.

As regards the Trust, well maybe it needs to adopt a new policy based on 'intervention through ownership'. This idea arose from a discussion that took place while doing volunteer work in the woods. Simply, as the National Trust/RSPB/Nature Conservancy etc. have demonstrated, the ownership of land can nearly always dictate the use of that land. So, if the Landscape Trust established a large fund, say £1 million, it could give grants to bodies such as the RSPB to buy land, reach agreements with landowners regarding management of their land, sponsor reports/studies into particular 'issues'.

Such an 'issue' I can suggest warrants further study is the impact that increasing traffic is having on the AONB and the 'traffic calming' measures needed to achieve a safe balance between all users, especially pedestrians and cyclists. We are in a situation where Lancaster City Council staff are proud to announce that their next Tourist Guide for Motorists will encourage motorists to visit the AONB. The County Planning staff are busy designing new car parks to encourage this new invasion, their design for Warton Quarry will lead to some 300 extra people per day visiting the Crag, many of whom will scramble over valuable habitats to reach the top. Who's side are the Council on, do the Councillors realize what is being done in their name?

Another 'issue' is the very future of the landscape of the AONB. Can existing planning strategies (formulated many years ago) cope with the very new economic pressures which are influenced by decisions made in Brussels and Uruguay?? Given that the value of the fields/buildings/hedges/walls is no longer that of producing food, there is a need for a rapid reappraisal of their future before instant 'quick fit' remedies are understandably taken by the landowner. After all, a farmer can make a much easier and substantial income from a golf course than from traditional farming and dozens of new golf courses will be built in the Northwest in the next decade.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? DO YOU CARE?

CROSSING THE SANDS

by Sheila Bainbridge

In the previous issue of From Keer to Kent I wrote about our planned Sponsored Cross Bay Walk from Arnside to Kents Bank on Saturday 8 June.

During the evening of Friday 7th, our guide, Mr Cedric Robinson rang me to say that our walk would not start from Arnside as planned. He had been out during the day to inspect the route. Out in the estuary the River Kent channel was running deep and narrow due to lack of rain, causing its sandy bed to be soft, unstable and therefore unsafe. With a couple of days rain in the fells Mr Robinson explained, the channel would widen, not run so fast and the bed become firmer. Therefore we were to begin our walk from Sandgate shore (some 20 miles from Arnside) at Flookburgh and walk to Kents Bank from there. It looked such a short way on the map but was over 8 miles

Between three and four hundred people joined the walk which we shared with the Royal Geographical Society and supporters of Dr Barnado's. Eagerly then, with cameras clicking in the sunshine we all set off in a bunch like the London Marathon and like the participants in that event we soon started to spread out. At intervals, Mr Robinson stopped to point out something of interest - but really to let the tail-enders draw nearer. The first stop was by an area of quicksand which had a soft moving crustlike surface which allowed people to bounce up and down on it like a trampoline. One young lad jumping in the same place sank up to his knees and had

to be rescued by a bunch of his peers who then rescued his trainers separately. It was easy to imagine how the stage coaches of bygone times came to grief. The next stop was to inspect a large dead jellyfish which someone opined was a man-o-war.

It was an amazing sight to look back and see people stretched out as far as the eye could see. That the walk did not actually cross the Bay from one side to the other did not make the event any less challenging. For most of the walk we seemed a long way from the shore, over a mile, far enough to give the 'Lawrence of Arabia' shimmer to the distant walkers. Some of the distant 'specks' turned out to be the remains of 8 foot concrete posts erected in 1940 to prevent enemy gliders landing on the sands. We walked continually at a marching pace for over three hours often in quite driving rain, the group changing on the move from shorts and T shirts to waterproofs, anoraks and jeans.

I am sorry that some people would inevitably be disappointed to find plans re-arranged at short notice especially if they travelled from a distance to join the walk.

It was good to see so many children and teenagers taking part too. As everyone appreciated, the weather often has the last word in our endeavours and in this case was no exception.

Thank you to all the people who sponsored the walkers, your support is greatly valued and thanks to our Guide for keeping us on a safe route. Finally thanks to the walkers themselves for co-operating so splendidly in the unexpected but not altogether unusual turn of events which over the centuries has dogged those engaged in 'crossing the sands'.



**LAKELAND
CYCLES**

**3 WHIN DRIVE
BOLTON-LE-SANDS
Tel: 0524 735465**

Established 1969

**CYCLES & ACCESSORIES
CLOTHING
SPECIALIST WHEEL BUILDING
RENOVATION**

ACCESS - VISA

A MEMBER OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF CYCLE TRADERS

LINDETH HOUSE

*Licensed Restaurant
& Accommodation*

*The restaurant provides the finest traditional
English cuisine, using only fresh produce, with
wines to suit every palate.
Open Wednesday to Saturday
from 7.30pm.*

*En-suite accommodation with colour TV, radio,
tea and coffee making facilities.*

*Please telephone for reservations:
(0524) 701238*

Lindeth Road, Silverdale, Carnforth
Lancashire LS5 0TX



**WATERSLACK
TEA ROOM
AND
GIFT GALLERY**

Situated in **WATERSLACK GARDEN CENTRE
SILVERDALE**

*Delicious home baking
Light Vegetarian Lunches
Beautiful Gifts*

Open Every Day except Monday 10am to 5.30pm

TEL. 701862

**WE CAN HELP
WITH ALL YOUR
LEGAL PROBLEMS**

See us first

Written estimates on request

Griffiths Jones
Solicitors

9 Emesgate Lane, Silverdale
Carnforth

Lancashire LA5 0RA

Telephone (0524) 701647

Contact: John Griffiths

Guided Walk, Underlaid Wood - April 18th 7.00pm

Seventeen of us gathered in Cockshott Lane to meet Margaret Evans on what turned out - despite forecasts of rain - to be a fine evening. Margaret started by explaining her new rôle of carrying out detailed surveys of limestone pavement areas, with a view to establishing Limestone Pavement Orders which would prohibit anyone removing or disturbing limestone on or within the area designated.

We looked at some leaflets which showed that our AONB is located in the main limestone area of Britain and that other areas include North Wales and the Isle of Skye. Inspections have shown that the majority of areas of limestone pavement have been damaged, mainly with stone being sold for ornamentation, rockeries etc. Everyone could think of examples of local use - including the new Asda Car Park at Kendal and Asda are a company which markets itself as 'green', presumably the plans were approved by the local Council!!

With the kind permission of Dallam Estate and the Forestry Commission, Margaret led us off the beaten track and the rights of way to show us some magnificent examples of pavement, patterned with runnels of amazing symmetry and beauty, draining into grikes; each individually shaped clint attracted the eye. We admired the miniature plants and 'bonsai' trees growing in the crevices (and I admired the knowledge of other in the group and wished I knew more) before going on through the wooded areas where there are vast areas of limestone hidden beneath a shallow layer of soil and protected by undergrowth and root. We saw evidence of rock removal by suddenly noticing a tree stranded on top of a rock - presumably once part of an area of pavement.

We eventually climbed the Fairy Steps to be greeted by a magnificent sunset of true fairy enchantment - which caused us all to stand in silent homage. That sunset was a fitting finalé to a very enjoyable and informative evening. Thank you, Margaret, for all the trouble you took to make it so.

Jenny Foot

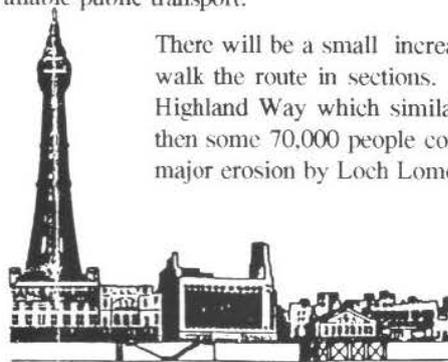
Lancashire Coastal Way - Arnside to Blackpool

Work has started on the new Lancashire coastal way, an 87 mile long path running from Pierhead in Liverpool to the northern boundary of Lancashire linking with the Cumbria coastal footpath. The project supported by the Countryside Commission, Lancashire Country Council and all the relevant District Councils should be completed within 3 or 4 years. The first stretch lying within the district of Lancaster and Wyre should be opened during 1991 - this particular stretch will also involve an optional extra route following the Wyre Estuary and linking in with the new Wyre Estuary Country Park currently being developed by Wyre Borough Council.

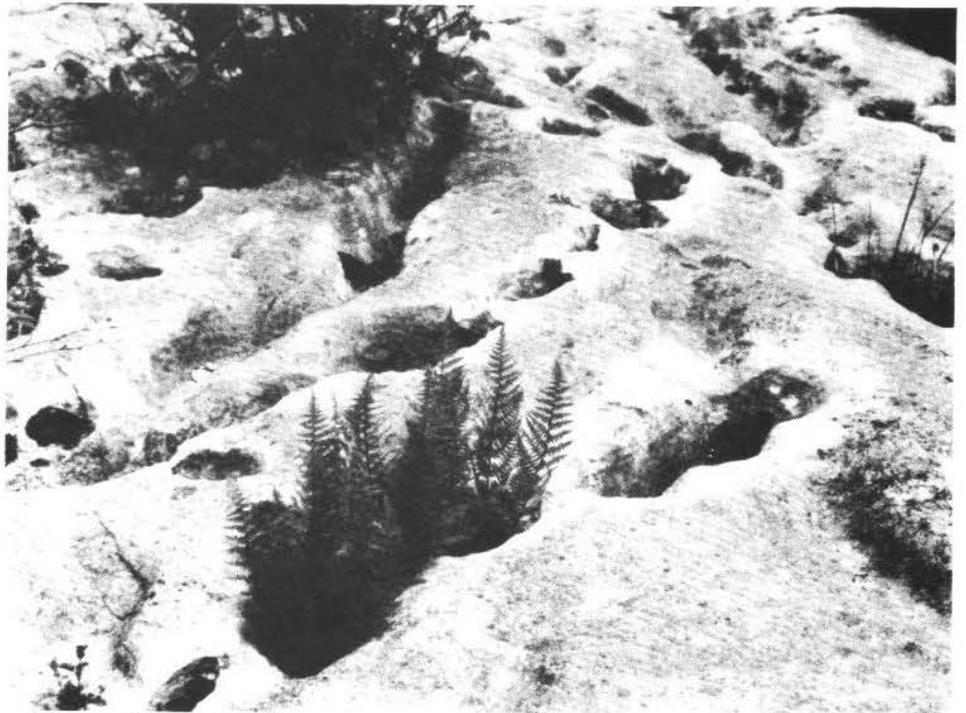
The Lancashire coastal way may prove to be one of the most varied long distance footpaths in the country. Its route will take walkers along stretches with valuable conservation interest and also along main promenades such as Blackpool's famous Golden Mile. Lancashire County Council are currently developing the initiative as part of a new countryside recreational strategy. The Council has had the foresight to plan adequate wardening for the coastal path on its completion: a new post of Coastal Footpath Ranger will be established for the northern section and other sections will be warded by a reorganisation of the existing County Ranger service and also through partnerships with district authorities.

The consequence of establishing the path will be an increase in the number of walkers passing through the area, many of whom will use local shops, accommodation and available public transport.

There will be a small increase in day-parked cars as some people will walk the route in sections. If it becomes as popular as the West Highland Way which similarly starts in a major urban conurbation, then some 70,000 people could walk it every year. (This has caused major erosion by Loch Lomond etc.)



BLACKPOOL



Grikes and clints in the AONB.

OPEN 7 days



Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

TOWN END GARAGE

(Proprietor: Peter Fitzsimons)

SAND LANE, WARTON CARNFORTH, LANCS.

Telephone: Day — Carnforth 733837
Night — Sedgwick 05395 60894

FREE ESTIMATES — INSURANCE WORK
SERVICING — REPAIRS
M.O.T. STATION
24-Hour Accident Recovery Service
CAR VALETING



HOLGATES CARAVAN PARKS

South Lakeland

For a British Holiday you cannot do better than choose Holgates Caravan Park at Silverdale

Holgates Caravan Parks Limited
Middlebarrow Plain, Cove Road, Silverdale
Nr. Carnforth, Lancashire LS5 0SH
Telephone: Silverdale (0524) 701508

WOLF HOUSE GALLERY

Silverdale, Nr. Carnforth

GALLERY, STUDIOS and TEXTILE WORKSHOP
found deep in wooded countryside

- WELL ESTABLISHED COUNTRY GALLERY WITH QUALITY WORK PERSONALLY SELECTED BY TED & DENISE DOWBIGGIN
- ORIGINAL PAINTINGS, DESIGNER KNITWEAR, CERAMICS, TRADITIONAL ROCKING HORSES and so much more

12 MILES NW LANCASTER
10 MINS EXIT 35 M6

SAMPLE OUR FRESH GROUND COFFEE AND HOME-BAKED BISCUITS
OPEN EVERY DAY: 10.30-1.00; 2.00-5.30
CLOSED MONDAYS TEL: (0524) 701405
OPEN WEEKENDS ONLY IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

A VOLUNTEER'S YEAR!

The Countryside Management Service reports on the activities of its volunteers over the past year.

WOODLAND Volunteers have been involved with the re-introduction of coppice management in areas of neglected woodland on Heald Brow, (Silverdale) and Warton Crag. These have provided sheltered workplaces with large hot bonfires during the winter gales. The work follows management plans drawn up by the CMS, with the aim of increasing the rich variety of flowers, butterflies and other wildlife.

RESTORATION With the rich industrial and cultural history of the area we are frequently asked to carry out clearance and repairs of such features.

GRASSLAND The ancient limestone grassland, is constantly under threat from the encroachment of scrub. We are involved with a number of sites to try and halt this advance. Warton Crag has seen the reintroduction of sheep after an absence of about 70 years. These grasslands are the home for many rare and interesting plants and butterflies.

LITTER PICKING Unfortunately we have to devote a large proportion of our time to removing the rubbish left by others. Although not a pleasant task, it does give us a chance to wander along the narrow lanes and footpaths.

FOOTPATHS With nearly 200 public rights of way in the area a rich variety of tasks, from clearing vegetation, repairing stiles and gates, to waymarking is carried out throughout the year.

BOUNDARIES The maintenance of the

network of drystone walls forms an important part of our work. With many miles of wall needing repair this forms the bulk of our summer work. The diversity of work is increased by the addition of squeeze stiles, wall ends and gates.

SITE MAINTENANCE The weeding of tree sites accounts for most of this work. The young trees need to be weeded for at least the first 3 years after planting.

PUBLICITY To try and gain the support and understanding of the local community the volunteers have supported us at a number of village fetes and carnivals during the past summer. The building of a float, tombola and electronic quiz board all helped to add to the fun.

Graph showing amount of time spent by volunteers on various tasks, total number of days was 598

Why not join us? The work of this highly friendly gang of volunteers is co-ordinated and supported by the staff of the Countryside Management Service. They cover a wide age range, come from a rich variety of backgrounds and come from within and outside the AONB.

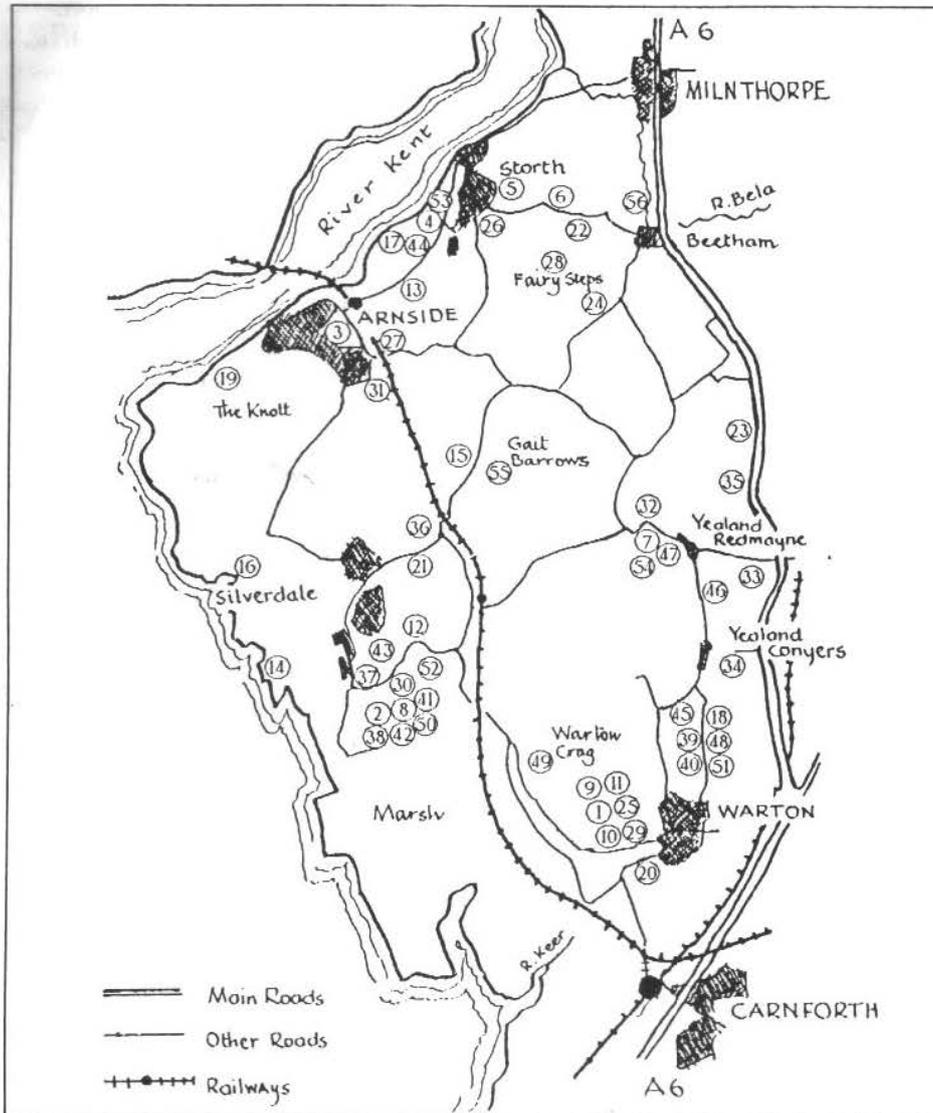
We are always looking for more volunteers to join us, on either a Tuesday or a Thursday morning. We meet at the Old Station Building, Arnside at 9.45am. Anyone interested should call us on (0524) 761034 for more information.

PROJECTS The map indicates the wide variety of tasks that volunteers become involved with. Possible tasks are brought to our attention by Local Authorities, private landowners and volunteers.

by Jonathon Blowers



WORK IN PROGRESS: It's lunchtime on a warm day in Hyning Scout Wood



1990/91 PROJECTS

VOLUNTEERS Woodland Management

1. 1.5 acres coppiced in 3 sites on Warton Crag Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
2. 3 acres of rides cleared in Heald Brow Silverdale
3. 25 Trees planted with help of school children, Arnside playing field

Site Restoration

4. Guard Hill Well, Storth, scrub and litter removed, grass seeding
5. Throughs Well Storth, removal of vegetation and hardcore, walling and grass seeding
6. Well - Cockshot Lane, scrub clearance, walling, grass seeding
7. Yealand Pound, building of seats and picnic table

Grassland Management

8. Heald Brow, removal of scrub from 1 acre of ancient meadow
9. Cutting of 1.5 acres bracken on Warton Crag LNR

10. 800m of electric fence erected and removed, to allow selective grazing by sheep on Warton Crag LNR

11. Scrub removal over 1 acre site on Warton Crag LNR
12. Scrub removal, Hazelwood farm, 0.25 acre site Litter Picking
13. 0.5 mile along Sandside Road
14. 0.5 mile along Silverdale Shore
15. 0.5 mile along Silverdale-Arnside road
16. The Cove, Silverdale
17. 0.5 mile along Sandside Embankment
18. 1 mile along Hyning Scout Wood road
19. 3 x 1 mile along Arnside Shore from the Promenade to New Barns Bay
20. 1 mile along Warton Roads
21. 1 mile along Silverdale roads
22. 1 mile along Cockshot Lane
23. 0.5 mile along A6 Yealand

Footpath Improvements

24. 3 Waymarkers along Beetham Trail

25. Vegetation clearance 150yds - Warton Crag LNR
26. Hardcore surfacing 40yds - Johnny's Path, Storth
27. Vegetation clearance 200yds - alongside railway, Arnside
28. Vegetation clearance 100yds - Fairy Steps
29. Hardcore surfacing 20yds - Warton Crag LNR
30. Finger post & 7 waymarkers - Heald Brow
31. Gate & stile repair - Arnside
32. 3 finger posts - Yealand Pound
33. 4 finger Posts - Yealand Redmayne
34. 5 finger Posts - Eight Acre Lane
35. 3 stile rebuilds - A6 Yealand
36. Vegetation clearance 100yds - Eaves Wood

Boundary Improvements

37. 10 yds walling & fencing - Wolf House Gallery
38. 70 yds walling - Heald Brow
39. Four 12' gates - Hyning Scout Wood
40. 6 wall ends & 2 squeeze stiles - Hyning Scout Wood
41. 12 tonnes of walling stone moved for contractor
42. Erect 100 yds temporary electric fence

Site Maintenance

43. 700 trees weeded 3 times - Wolf House Gallery
44. 200 trees & 50 yds of hedge weeded - Sandside Road
45. 120 trees & 50 yds of hedge weeded - Green Garth
46. 300 trees weeded - Yealand Village Hall
47. Grass cut twice - Yealand Pound
48. 3 information boards erected - Hyning Scout Wood

Contractors

49. 445 m Bridlepath improvement - Occupation Road
50. 102 m of walling - Heald Brow

Employment Training

51. 150 m of walling - Hyning Scout Wood
52. 144 m of walling - Stankelt Road
53. 40 m of walling - Sandside Embankment
54. 20 m of walling - Yealand Pound

Community Service

55. 380 m of footpath surfacing - Haweswater
56. 350 m of footpath surfacing - Heron Corn Mill

BUTTERFLY WATCH

by Joan Fisher

When it was first suggested that I might join a group that was to undertake a butterfly count on Heald Brow this summer, I was quite enchanted. 'Only on fine days' it was stressed and I had visions of wandering amongst wild flowers and wide sunny glades.

But it is not be be like that at all!

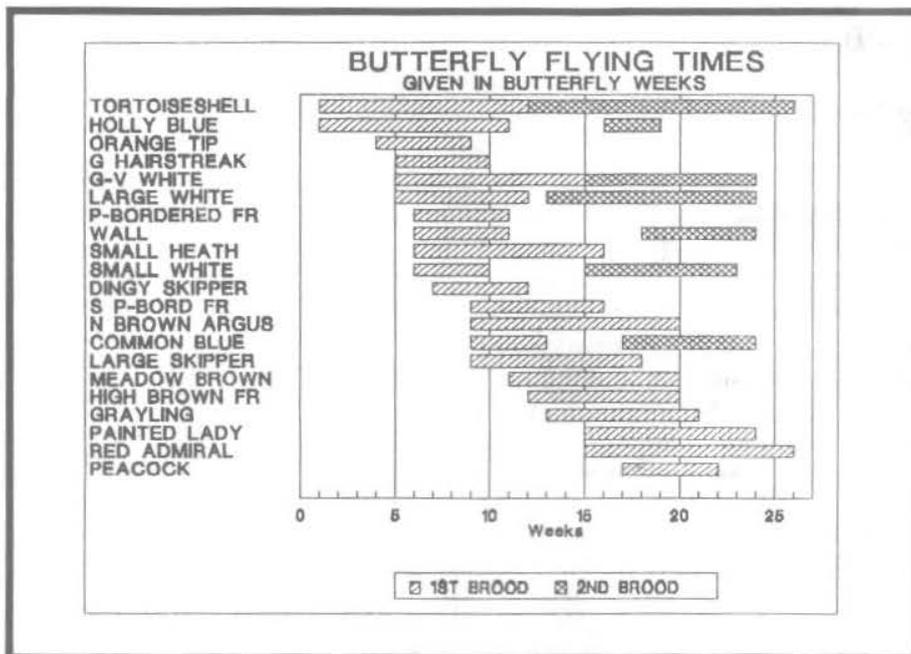
The woods on Heald Brow have figured prominently amongst the Volunteer tasks organised by the Country Management Service this winter. Rides and glades have now been opened in overgrown woodland that has not been managed for over 50 years. As a result of this, changes in vegetation and wildlife may be expected during the next few years and a butterfly count is just one of the ways of monitoring these changes.

The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology has devised a scheme to assess the variations in butterfly populations and it is this scheme which we are to follow.

It involves a careful survey and large scale maps; a measured route planned in sections that are linked to different habitats within the woodland and a method of recording that ought to be foolproof.

Much thought and activity has already gone into the preparations. First came a talk kindly given to us at Leighton Moss by John Wilson, whose alternative love turns out to be butterflies. Jonathon Blowers has worked out a 13 part transect and mapped and way-marked it for us. He has walked us along this route twice, with a cold northerly force 5 wind blowing in the trees above us and warning hisses behind us: 'You've mised the number on that tree. Do you know which section you're in now? You're not meant to be enjoying yourself...'

So now, we three Landscape Trust Volunteers, under the watchful eye of the Country Management Service, have pictures, notes and maps; a pencil tied to our clip-board; chalk in our pockets for renewing markers and a thermometer. We have binoculars so that we can see the butterflies that will be in the treetops and amid such banter, an enormous butterfly net which we must guard with our lives.



Heald Brow Wood wall rebuild & shrub clearance: Butterfly Survey Section 7

Until the end of September, those lives are now organised in 'butterfly weeks', not your ordinary calendar weeks (see diagram). The magic 13 degrees centigrade has to be achieved before a survey is valid and because it is sheltered in the wood, we seem to be managing at least one valid count each 'week' so far, with numbers of butterflies varying from one to eleven.

Will keep you informed.

RSPB NEWS

by John Wilson

What a cold spring it has been. Surprisingly, the first records of summer migrants have been well up to date but the arrival of the bulk of the population has been very late: the first swallow, for example, was on April 2nd but it was the end of the month before any numbers were recorded. At Leighton, the most welcome arrival was the female marsh harrier on April 4th followed next day by the male. Over the next week he flirted with two females but one left and the first one - if all goes well - should hatch her eggs in early June. The male is very aggressive to other birds of prey: mid-May he drove off an osprey which fished the Meres on several occasions over two days. There was also much conflict with a hen harrier that had wintered.

The cold winds have not deterred our bitterns. They have been booming very well this year and are best heard from the public Causeway. We had a warden visiting from Ghana and after hearing them boom, he asked if we had cannibals in the hills around the reserve! Bearded tits are also rather late in nesting but by late May, many pairs were ferrying beak-fuls of caterpillars to their young concealed in the thick reed litter. Many other species have young, especially mallard and coot who, despite the late spring have good-sized broods. The reed is growing apace, by mid May in some areas it was already chin height and growing at the rate of an inch per day.

The event of the spring was the arrival of a male savi's warbler - a rare vagrant which usually only breeds in very small numbers in the south of England. This is only the second Lancashire record. It arrived in April 14th and is still giving its reeling song in late May in what is probably a forlorn hope of attracting a female. Large numbers of bird watchers from as far away as Wiltshire and Scotland journeyed to see the bird resulting in our car park and the road outside being completely choked.

The cold weather has held back many winter visitors and in late May we still have goldeneye, widgeon and pintail. We had high hopes that garganey may breed this year: a pair of these delightful summer migrants arrived on March 5th and stayed six weeks. They were even joined by a second pair for three weeks, however, it looks as though they have all now moved on.

The unseasonable weather has made census work difficult but early returns suggest that most of our resident species have survived the winter well although there are fewer wrens away from the reedbeds and gardens and goldcrests seem down somewhat.

The fitful sun has also made butterfly counting difficult, however, it was pleasing to see more brimstones this spring. Lets hope they breed well and return to their former abundance of six years ago.

NATIONAL TRUST NEWS

by Richard Harward

We are nearing the end of a cold, late and now very dry spring. All of which does, of course, affect the farm more than the woods and open areas I look after.

Generally, the spring flowers have been good, an excellent year for violets and the many clumps of primroses flowering in the woods. Cowslips too but on the top of Heathwaite, there have been decimated by rabbits and present a sorry spectacle, their flower spikes bitten off and many just lying on the ground. There does not seem to be very much we can do about this.

Early purple orchids are evidently disliked by rabbits and have flowered abundantly.

On the Post Office lotts, we have set up a trial in conjunction with Newcastle University to study the green winged orchid. Little is known about the effect on the plant of grazing off the flower spikes and how often the plant must set seed for the species to survive. We hope to shed some light on these and related matters.

I have previously referred to the difficulty of finding someone to monitor butterflies for us in Arnside Knott and in Eaves Wood. I am pleased to say that Mr Keith Gibson, Butterfly Recorder for the Arnside Naturalist Trust, is doing this for us on the Knott and Graeme Skelcher is monitoring in Eaves Wood. We are most grateful to both of them for their help.

SHOOTING: No shooting is allowed on any of our properties. I should be grateful if you would let me know immediately if you hear shots being fired. My telephone number is 701280.

DAIRY DATES:

Sunday August 11th 2.00pm Farm Tour of Barle House farm followed by tea and scones. £1.00.

Thursday, August 18th 7.00pm Coastal Walk starting from the Silverdale Hotel.

The National Trust wishes you all a very enjoyable summer.

Noel & Andree Livesey

THE LIMES

Village Guest House

Stankelt Road, Silverdale LA5 0TF
Telephone (0524) 701454

*Bed & Breakfast with style
also*

*Delightful Holiday Cottages
for your choice*

at

SILVERDALE

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
and

SETTLE

Yorkshire Dales National Park



**JEFF REDGRAVE
LANDSCAPE
CONTRACTOR**

- Fencing (all types)
- Drystone & mortared walling
- Tree surgery & woodland management
- Garden construction
- Shrub & tree planting
- Seeding & turfing
- Flag, block & stone sett laying

*For a personal and reliable
service please call:*

CARNFORTH 734 855

1 Stoneycroft Drive, Warton, Carnforth LA5 9PX

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY

4th: *Landscape Trust Guided Walk* to Warton Crag Local Nature Reserve led by Jon Hickling. Meet in Parish Council Car Park, Crag Road, Warton at 7.30pm.

13th: *Landscape Trust Coffee Morning* with stalls, games, display and raffles. Gaskell Hall, Silverdale, 10-12 noon.

AUGUST

15th: *Landscape Trust Guided Walk* along the Coastline led by Richard Harward. Meet in Silverdale Hotel Car Park, 7.00pm.

SEPTEMBER

12th: *Landscape Trust Guided Tour* of Middlebarrow and Warton Main Quarries led by Kevin Heywood/Mike Dearden. Meet at Middlebarrow 7.00pm. We will be driving between sites.

28th/29th: *Landscape Trust Silverdale Greenwood Fair*. Opening times 11.00am - 5.00pm each day.

OCTOBER

4th: *Landscape Trust Illustrated Talk* on wild flowers of the AONB by Leslie Rose. Warton Village Hall 8.00pm.

RSPB DIARY DATES

JULY

26th: *Members Evening at Leighton Moss*. Excellent evening bird and mammal watching. 2 meeting times, 6.30pm or 7.30pm in Leighton Moss Car Park.

AUGUST

16th: *Outing to Sunderland Point for waders, tern and wildfowl*. Meet at 6.00pm at the small informal car park just up and over at the start of the tidal road to Sunderland Point. Do not drive to Sunderland Point. Leader John Wilson.

30th: *Members Evening at Leighton Moss*. Details as for July.

SEPTEMBER

8th: *Autumn Walk around the Conder Green Area*. Meet at 10.00am Cinder Green Picnic Area. Bring packed lunch. Leader Mike Cotton.

14th: *Coach Trip to Spurn Peninsula, Humberside*. Details from John Richardson, 2 Priory Crossings, Ulverston, LA12 9QD. Tel: 0229 55086.

21st: *Nature in Close Up*. Talk and slides by Bob Marsh at Leighton Moss Reserve Centre, 7.30pm. The group's AGM will also be held.

OCTOBER

5th: *Field Outing to Heysham Reserve and Harbour Area*. late migrants and seabirds. Meet 10.00am Observation Tower Car Park, Heysham Power Station. Leader Mike Cotton.

28th: *'Wild Spain'* by Laurence Rose, RSPB International Dept. Talk and slides, 7.30pm The Blind Centre, Queen Street, Lancaster. Joint meeting with Lancaster BWS.

NOVEMBER

10th: *Coach Trip to Hodbarrow RSPB Reserve*. Details as for July.

23rd/24th: *Book Sale at Leighton Moss*, 10.30am - 4.00pm. Please bring your surplus books to Leighton Moss Centre. Help also needed with staffing the stalls. Contact John Wilson.

29th: *Birds in Wales*. Talk and slides by Roger Lovegrove, RSPB Regional Officer for Wales. 7.30pm Skerton High School, Lancaster. Admission £1.50, OAP's & children £1.00. Don't miss this slide presentation by well known author and broadcaster.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

ARNSIDE/SILVERDALE AONB LANDSCAPE TRUST

Annual Subscription for ordinary/family members is £5.00

SURNAME (and TITLE)..... FIRST NAME(S).....

ADDRESS.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust for £ /£ /a donation of £.....

Signature..... Date.....

Please return this form to Arnside/Silverdale AONB Landscape Trust, The Old Station Building, ARNSIDE, Cumbria LA5 0HG Tel 761034.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

for 1 issue: 1/9th page £15 2/9 page £25

for 3 issues: 1/9th page £30 2/9 page £50

Apply to THE ADVERTISING MANAGER, *KEER TO KENT* at the above address



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Front Cover Drawing: Karl Dougan

Heald Brown Drawing: Sophia Henderson

Photos: Ralph Henderson

Typesetting: Deryn Moeckell

Printed by ARNPRINT Church Hill, Arnside.