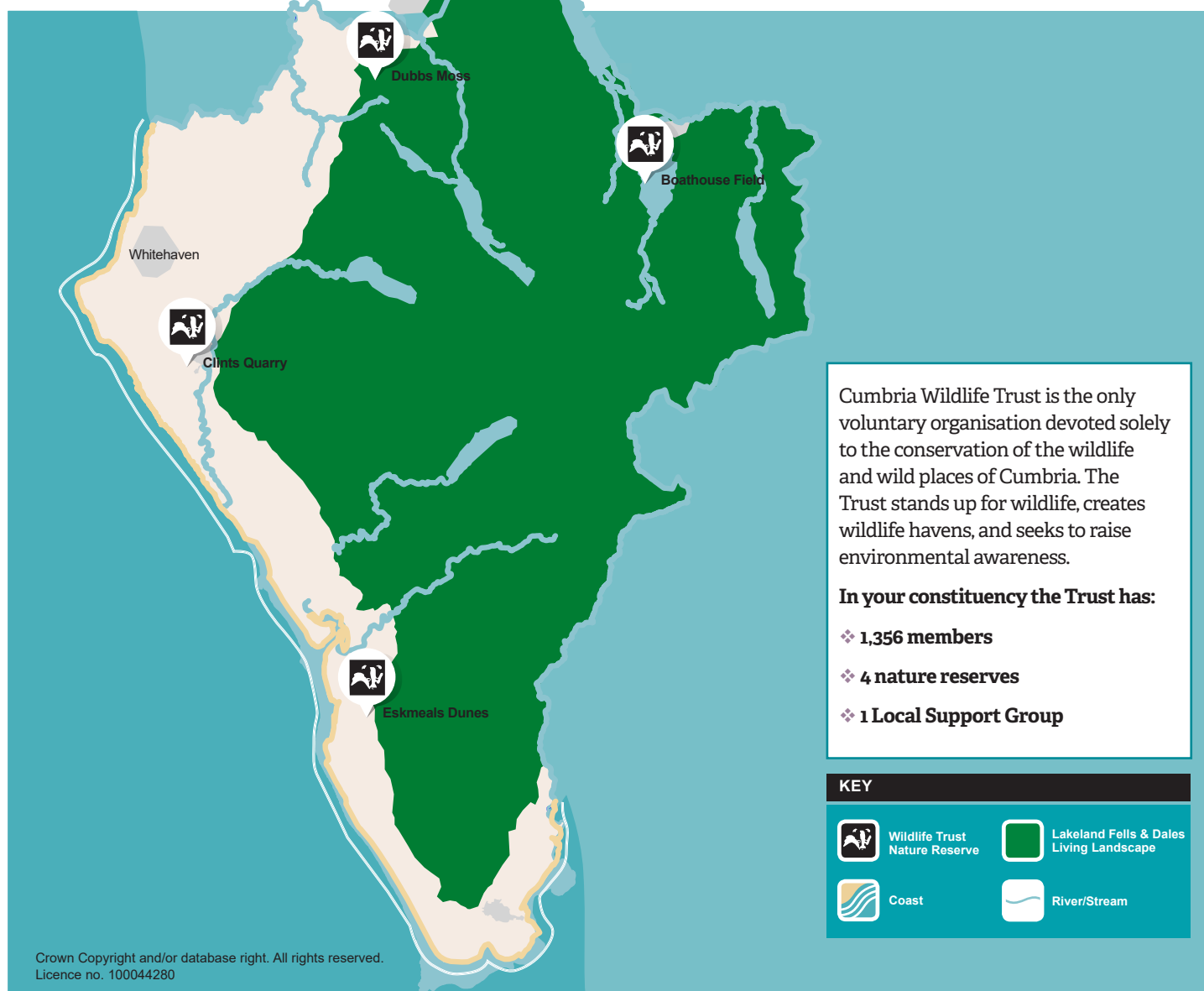


# Copeland Constituency



**Cumbria**  
Wildlife Trust



## Nature in the constituency

With the highest mountains, the deepest lakes and a magnificent coastline, this constituency has a diversity of wildlife to match. The coast is made up of a varied mosaic of shingle, sand dune and salt marsh.

### Sand dunes

The sand dunes that fringe the coastline (including those found at the Trust's nature reserve at Eskmeals Dunes) support highly specialised plant species such as sea rocket and Portland spurge, as well as

beautiful orchids such as pyramidal, bee and northern marsh orchid. The dunes also protect beaches from erosion and are vital in our fight against coastal erosion. In 2020 we will begin work on the Dynamic Dunescapes project to protect these important habitats, including at Eskmeals Dunes.

### Natterjack toads

Rare natterjack toads breed in the shallow pools or slacks that form between the successive ridges of sand dunes.

### Landscape

Inland, the varied landscape of the Lake District has a number of important habitats are found here – from the pristine lakes, hay meadows and fens, up to the woodlands, heather and scrub that coat the fells – to the highest mountains which hold some of the last refuges of montane flora in England.

There are 46 Wildlife Trusts across the UK working towards A Living Landscape and Living Seas. A Living Landscape is a recovery plan for nature to create a resilient and healthy environment rich in wildlife and provide ecological security for people. Within Living Seas wildlife thrives, from the depths of the ocean to the coastal shallows, wildlife and habitats are recovering, adapting to climate change, and inspiring people.

## A vision for your constituency

Highly specialised plant species are found at Eskmeals Dunes Nature Reserve, such as sea rocket and Portland spurge



### Your wildlife trust is leading efforts to secure nature's recovery in your constituency

Despite the wealth of biodiversity within the fells, much of the uplands remain in poor condition through inappropriate management. The Trust is committed to working with land managers and local communities to improve the ecosystem health and function of the uplands.

Our vision is that wildlife and habitats are recovering from past decline as our use of the seas' resources becomes environmentally sustainable.

Over the past 10 years we have campaigned to secure designation of a number of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) designed to protect our sea's most important habitats and marine life. A range of sandy, rocky and living reef habitats are now protected within the Cumbria Coast MCZ, as well as important foraging areas for cliff nesting razorbills at St Bees Head.

West of Copeland MCZ has also been created to protect habitats further offshore but management is needed to protect this site from damaging activities. We are working closely with other stakeholders to ensure the best outcomes for wildlife and other sea users.

The freshwater pearl mussel lives in fast flowing streams in Copeland. It is one of the longest living invertebrates known, surviving for over 100 years. They can grow to between 12 – 15cm in length.

At the end of 2013, the Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone was created. Stretching 27km along the coastline from the cliffs at St Bees Head to the Ravenglass Estuary, habitats and wildlife that depend on them can start to recover.

Cumbria holds over half of the UK's population of natterjack toads with a large number of colonies situated in the sand dunes along the coast of Copeland.

Natterjack toad.  
Photo: Philip Precey



## We are calling on the national parties to pledge to:

- ❖ **Back an ambitious Environment Act** with legally binding targets to restore nature, a powerful, independent environmental watchdog, and a Nature Recovery Network to protect and join-up important places for wildlife
- ❖ **Introduce an Agriculture Bill** that pays farmers for helping wildlife and for rebuilding our natural countryside, so that public money is used for the good of everyone and farmers help create a connected landscape
- ❖ **Revive our marine environment** through a network of Highly Protected Marine Areas and a new Marine Strategy to guide how we develop at sea, how we fish within environmental limits and how we restore our marine ecosystems to support plentiful fish and wildlife

Children enjoy learning about the marine environment at the Trust's Beached Art festival at St Bees



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### Contact details

**Stephen Trotter**  
Chief Executive Officer  
stephent@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk  
t 01539 816300  
www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk  
www.wildlifetrusts.org

All 46 Wildlife Trusts are members of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (Registered charity number 207238).