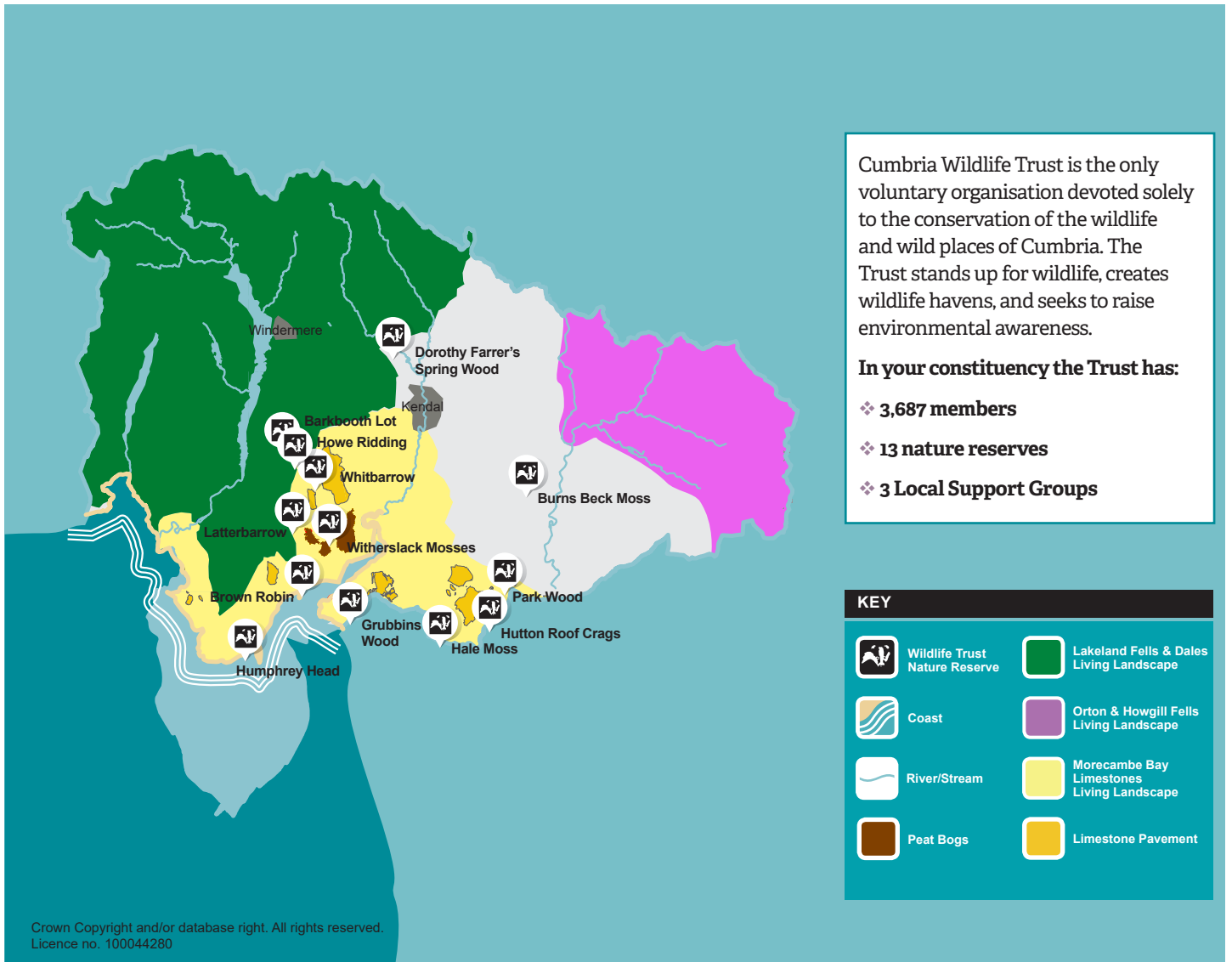


Westmorland and Lonsdale Constituency



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust



Cumbria Wildlife Trust is the only voluntary organisation devoted solely to the conservation of the wildlife and wild places of Cumbria. The Trust stands up for wildlife, creates wildlife havens, and seeks to raise environmental awareness.

In your constituency the Trust has:

- ❖ 3,687 members
- ❖ 13 nature reserves
- ❖ 3 Local Support Groups

Nature in the constituency

Westmorland and Lonsdale is packed full of internationally important habitats and rare species, from the mixed deciduous woodlands of the southern fells to the limestone pavements around Morecambe Bay and the rare fritillary butterflies that inhabit them.

Limestone pavement

Limestone pavement was formed by glacial scouring during the last ice age and Morecambe Bay holds a significant proportion of this globally scarce habitat. A vast array of rare and threatened species such as limestone fern, angular Solomon's

seal, dark red helleborine, juniper and rigid buckler fern can be found here.

Lowland raised bogs

Another internationally important habitat can be found in the South Cumbria Mosses: a composite of three large lowland raised bogs that stretch along the south Cumbria coast. Some of England's best remaining primary active lowland bogs, they are home to a host of plants, insects and invertebrates, including *Sphagnum* mosses which range from brilliant green to ochre red and the uncommon large heath butterfly which can be seen in the summer.

Morecambe Bay

Morecambe Bay is the most important estuary in Britain for its seabird and waterfowl populations and has the third largest number of wintering wildfowl in Britain, drawing over 200,000 birds to feed here every year. It contains 5% of the UK's total area of intertidal salt marsh, which provides an important feeding habitat for birds such as the pink-footed goose.

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

A host of insects, birds and plants have benefitted from the major restoration at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve. Photo: John Mounsey



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

Our Peatlands project has been working in this area to restore degraded peat soils. Working in partnership with farmers, we have designed and delivered management plans for protecting our precious peatlands. Due to the importance and recognised value to society in the efforts to halt climate change, the need to continue with these plans to achieve restoration, stewardship and long-term protection is vital.

The restoration of Foulshaw Moss, the largest of the lowland raised mires in the Morecambe Bay Mosses is now complete. The Trust worked for 15 years to reverse past damage by increasing water levels and reinstating peat forming conditions and has improved access to the site. Ospreys returned to nest here in 2015 and have successfully bred since.

The Trust has also been working closely with farmers to restore grasslands within the Morecambe Bay Nature Improvement Area (NIA) – one of only 12 NIAs designated nationwide.

The UK holds 26% of the world's population of the white-clawed crayfish and the best site in the world is in the River Kent.

One of the rarest fish in Britain, the Arctic char, can be found in the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency within the depths of Lake Windermere.

Ospreys returned to Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve in 2015 and have succeeded in breeding and rearing chicks every year since then.

Morecambe Bay area is the best of the three remaining strongholds in the UK for the endangered high brown fritillary butterfly.



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

Osprey chick being ringed at Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve



Cumbria
Wildlife Trust

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