

**From:** Martin Curry [Martin.Curry@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:Martin.Curry@lakedistrict.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Glenridding Common  
**Date:** 27 April 2017 15:05  
**To:** Julia Aglionby [julia@foundationforcommonland.org.uk](mailto:julia@foundationforcommonland.org.uk)



Dear Julia

**LDNPA Consultation on the Proposed Lease of Glenridding Common to the John Muir Trust**

Thank you for your letter of 14 April in response to the above consultation and we were pleased to note that the Foundation for Common Land has no objection in principle to the leasing of Glenridding Common, subject to the incorporation of terms that will safeguard the future of commoning. We have listened to the concerns that you have raised and consideration of these has been central to the evolution of the proposal to lease the Common to the John Muir Trust for an initial period of three years.

Should our Members agree to the proposal, we will be recommending the inclusion in the lease of all five suggestions that you made in your letter of 24 February as set out below. These will form a fundamental basis for the lease and will appear as explicit terms in it. The John Muir Trust have also asked me to convey their thanks for these constructive suggestions and have indicated that they are happy for these points to be included in the lease.

- 1) The Tenant agrees that Glenridding Common is managed through an agro-pastoral system of commoning that is one of the outstanding universal values of the Lake District National Park and will support this system, including the rights of common exercised by legitimate commoners, alongside other outcomes.
- 2) The Tenant agrees not to refuse consent to future agri-environment or other farming schemes that the commoners may apply for which would maintain sheep grazing at the same level as present or at levels acceptable to Natural England or similar body.
- 3) The Tenant agrees to consult widely and explicitly with the local community and all those with legal interests on any planting schemes or other works on the holding which require S. 38 Consent under the Commons Act 2006. In addition it will present an annual programme of other proposed works to the Parish Council and the commoners.
- 4) The Tenant undertakes to do no works that will compromise access routes used for the gathering of sheep without the express agreement of the commoners.
- 5) If, in the event of the failure of the current HLS Scheme and / or if no further scheme is available to the commoners, then the Tenant will not object to the commoners exercising their legal rights of common.

Based on its pre-existing awareness of the framework of land management on English commons, the Trust has relied not just on its significant experience of upland management in Scotland (and its work with local farming communities there), but also on its awareness of the particular importance of commoning in the Cumbrian context and so included statements and commitments to commoning in its draft high-level Management Plan. We acknowledge your view that the Plan nonetheless did not provide you with the assurances you require and, as a result of the consultation, the Trust and ourselves recognise that these commitments would be strengthened by inclusion of the suggestions that you have made. We noted that the absence of this security has led you, regrettably, not to support the proposal and I hope that inclusion of your suggestions in the lease and the Management Plan provides you with the assurance that you have requested. Does this now enable you to change your position either: to not object to the proposed lease, or to support the lease?

There were several other points in your letter and I can confirm that the John Muir Trust would fully intend to work closely with Glenridding's neighbouring owners and commoners to ensure the delivery of positive outcomes at a landscape scale and this too will be reflected in the lease. You also ask for an indication of current thinking on the longer term future for the common. We have been clear that the consultation is on the proposal for an initial 3-year lease of the common – specifically designed to allow all parties and stakeholders to assess the merits of the arrangement. You are right that detailed information on future arrangements is not confirmed, but clearly a longer term relationship with the Trust is not out of the question, subject to a satisfactory initial lease period. We would in any event look to start those discussions prior to the end of the three year period to ensure continuity of management and that arrangements are in place in good time.

If you feel it would be valuable, we would be happy to meet with you further to discuss this letter and any and any points arising from it and I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Martin

Martin Curry MRICS

Property Services Manager

Lake District National Park Authority

01539-792698 (Ext. 2753)

Mob: 07753 671382

[www.lakedistrict.gov.uk](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk)

# I've herd...

the Lake District is bidding for  
World Heritage status in 2017

**Back the bid**

[lakesworldheritage.co.uk](http://lakesworldheritage.co.uk) #lakedistrictbid



**Lake District**  
World Heritage Bid  
united by **herdy**

This email contains information intended for the addressee only. It may be confidential and may be the subject of legal and/or professional privilege.. Any dissemination, distribution, copyright or use of this communication without prior permission of the addressee is strictly prohibited. Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Lake District National Park Authority. Although this email and any attachments are believed to be free of any virus or other defects which might affect any computer or IT system into which they are received, no responsibility is accepted by the Lake District National Park Authority for any loss or damage arising in any way from the receipt or use thereof. Computer systems of this Authority may be monitored and communications carried out on them recorded, to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes.