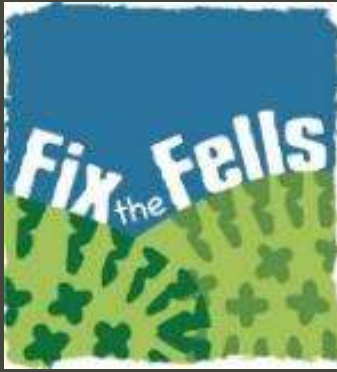




Summer/Autumn 2025

Fix the Fells



Members of the Fix the Fells North Ranger teams at work on the route up Whiteless Pike.



Left: Assistant Ranger Rhiannon working on Loft Beck. Right: Flying stone to Far Easedale.

The Fix the Fells team welcomed a sunnier spring this year, with dry conditions making path work easier, and fellside lunch breaks far more enjoyable!

However, the long dry spell brought its own challenges. Landscaping tasks, such as laying turf, or seeding upland grass approved by Natural England, stalled due to the lack of rain needed for growth.

Climate change is increasing the frequency of both heavy rainfall and prolonged dry periods, prompting us to build more flexibility into our work plans.

Throughout 2025, we continued delivering funded work on Wainwright's Coast to Coast route, alongside other path repair projects.

If you've been out walking, you may have seen our rangers and volunteers at Loft Beck (Ennerdale), Far Easedale and Tongue Gill (Grasmere), and Kidsty Pike (Haweswater).

You can read more about this work in the newsletter.

Although the season is nearly over, do say hello if you spot our teams out on the fells.

This year, Friends of the Lake District is sponsoring one of our rangers, Patrick, whose work you can follow throughout the year.

Find out more here: [Sponsoring a Ranger Preserve Lake District Fell](#)

Meanwhile, the Lake District Foundation raised an impressive £100,000 for Fix the Fells last year, nearly a fifth of our annual funding needs. Their continued efforts help our teams tackle erosion, care for the landscape, and protect it for the future.

Together with our partners, Lake District National Park Authority, Natural England, the Lake District Foundation, Friends of the Lake District and the National Trust, we're looking forward to another successful year in the fells.

See you out there!

Isabel Berry
Partnership Manager



West team

The West Fix the Fells Ranger Team has two new recruits: Assistant Rangers Rhiannon and Ben who join Iain and Liam, ensuring that we've had a full complement this season.

Their fell season started on Loft Beck in Ennerdale, continuing the multi-agency project that started towards the end of last season; upgrading Wainwright's unofficial Coast to Coast path into an official long-distance route.

The project, led by Natural England and funded by Defra, formally started on the 1 Nov 2022 and is due to be completed in early 2026.

The trail was described by Wainwright in his book, first published in 1973. At around 192 miles in length, and often tackled as a continuous two-week journey, the route traverses through three National Parks across some of the UK's most spectacular scenery from St Bees (Cumbria) to Robin Hood's Bay (North Yorkshire). It's widely believed to be the UK's most popular long-distance path.

The project at Loft Beck is as challenging as it is interesting, involving the construction of a substantial stone embankment.



Top: Thinking on their feet! Bottom: Assistant Ranger Ben working on Loft Beck.

The embankment will carry the path safely above Loft Beck to avoid the path being destroyed by water in the ever more frequent storms we're experiencing.

Due to the enormity of the task, this project has become a collaborative effort between the both the north and West Fix the Fells West Ranger Teams.

The West Team access the work site by walking in from Ennerdale, while the North

walk in from Honister. The two teams then meet on the work site.

So far, over 40 one tonne bags of stone have been used, with a total of 110 bags or 110 tonnes of stone being required for the work on site. That is roughly equivalent to the weight of 22 adult elephants, or 11 Volkswagen Golfs!

Iain Gray
Ranger, West team

Central and Eastern team



Left: Before: Significant erosion through boggy habitat. Right: After – pitching and wath installed and ongoing pond work.

In the early months of the season, the central team were busy delivering two major funded path projects: one on Kidsty Pike, supported by the Coast to Coast project, and another on the route to Easedale Tarn from Stythwaite Steps, funded by the Westmorland and Furness Shared Prosperity Fund. Each project brought its own unique challenges.

At Kidsty Pike, the aim was to improve access through a difficult steep section of gullied bedrock. The project involved around 30 metres of stone pitching and the installation of two drains to help stabilise the path and prevent further erosion.

The unique challenge at this site has been the physical work of chipping through solid bedrock for much of the day, plus the site's remote location meaning a four-hour round trip from the office, limiting the time available on site each day.

The Stythwaite Steps to Easedale Tarn project focused on erosion control along several sections of the path, particularly in areas of peat and bog where walkers spread out to avoid wet ground. Our method of work included installing sections of pitching and waths. The main challenge here has been striking a balance between keeping the path dry and preserving the boggy habitats nearby.

To address this, we've created a series of small ponds designed to retain water and support the area's natural hydrology. Though the project is still ongoing, early signs are promising, with darters (dragonflies) and even a newt spotted near the ponds.

Upland path work is fundamentally about problem-solving. Every project presents new & unexpected challenges, but it is a great learning experience for when we encounter similar challenges on future projects.

**By Jonny Skinn
Ranger, Central and Eastern team**

Volunteers

Fix the Fells volunteers have been busy as usual, monitoring the condition of upland paths, clearing the paths and drains of debris, and carrying out minor repairs. A warm dry Spring (such a contrast to last year!) meant volunteers carried out a record number of path maintenance days and dedicated an amazing 1630 days to practical work on the upland fells.

Over the course of three days in June, an extraordinary team of 100 individuals came together to support vital restoration work on the main route up Scafell Pike, from the National Trust car park at Wasdale Head. Despite facing severe weather conditions, volunteers and staff demonstrated resilience, teamwork, and a shared commitment to protecting one of England's most iconic landscapes.



The weather on Scafell Pike!



Volunteer path maintenance day,

The success of this project was a testament to the power of volunteering:

Friday: 45 participants, including Fix the Fells staff and volunteers, National Trust, National Trust for Scotland, Lake District National Park Authority, and AMEY corporate volunteers.

Saturday: 29 participants, with 22 Fix the Fells volunteers working at both lower and higher elevations.

Sunday: 26 participants, including LDNPA Young Rangers, on the lower path. The diversity of experience, from first-time volunteers, to

seasoned path builder Iain, with 37 years of experience, created a dynamic and effective team. The skill, and dedication of everyone involved shone through. The improvements made are a credit to everyone and a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when people come together for a shared cause.

Thank you to everyone who took part, your efforts are truly appreciated. With the fell season now drawing to a close, we look forward to lots more days out fixing the fells next year!

Jon Whiteley
Volunteer rep,
Fix the Fells Board

South team

The South Team saw significant change this season, with Team Supervisor Caroline, and Assistant Ranger Kenny, moving on to pastures new. We wish them well.

In light of these departures, May and June saw Kevin and Bob working with volunteers on work parties above Levers Water. The work was necessary to halt an evolving erosion scar above Levers Water, made worse by the wet winter weather.

A familiar face, Rob Clarke also helped the team, in his capacity as a ranger with the Lake District National Park. Matt Tweed, our Volunteer Development Ranger, also worked on site. So, a real team effort was involved in completing this project!

In May, the South Team had a heli lift to fly over 100 bags of stone up onto sites at Far Easedale, Tongue Gill and Levers Water. Each bag, filled by hand was made ready to be airlifted up to site for path repairs.

In early June, the South Lakes team worked with a group of students from Kendal College's Outdoor Adventure course.



Rangers and Volunteers working on Tongue

The hard-working students (and tutor) contributed 22 work days over an 8 day period.

Continuing on from work undertaken last year by a previous cohort, the students planned and constructed an 8-metre side drain. This was to protect a subsoil path that they subsequently created through a wet peaty section of the Coast to Coast path, heading into Grasmere.

The students also learnt about the work of Fix the Fells, more generally, and how they can share good practice with a variety of fell users throughout their careers.

Also in June, the North Team arrived to work with Bob and Kevin at Tongue Gill (the way up to Grisedale Tarn from Grasmere) which is one of their Coast to Coast projects.

The teams worked together to tackle erosion along a 100-metre length of path. They installed stone pitching up to bedrock, not an easy task. Work also included putting in drainage to keep water off the new path to protect the pitching and to stop vegetation from being washed away.

Extensive landscaping of the areas surrounding the path was then carried out to encourage any areas of bare soil to revegetate.

Once Tongue Gill was completed, work towards the end of the season moved up the path to Far Easedale, another one of the Coast-to-Coast projects to be completed this season.

Kevin Brooks
Ranger, South team

Volunteer Development Ranger

The past few months have been busy, as always. But rather than recruiting a new cohort of volunteers, our focus has been on upskilling and training our existing volunteer group. A range of work parties have been held to provide volunteers with opportunities to enhance their skills in path building techniques.

I've also been coordinating Group Volunteering days with organisations that support us, through donations and hands-on help with fell practical fell work.

In April and June, we were joined for four days by fabulous volunteers from the British Mountaineering Council, as part of their 'Get Stuck In,' volunteering programme.

In April, we established a sustainable path and put in new drainage on the Band in Langdale.

In June, we continued with work to improve and enhance the path across peatland on Raven's Edge, above Kirkstone, as part of our ongoing commitment to reduce impact on this fragile habitat.



BMC Volunteers, Langdale.

The first half of the season saw me working closely with Liam, the team supervisor in the West Team, making arrangements for our annual mass volunteering event.

Held on two sites on Scafell Pike, at a lower and higher elevation respectively, as detailed in the Volunteer update on page 5.

Huge thanks to everyone that got involved in this vital work despite the awful weather!

The second half of the season had us working with volunteer work parties on Tongue Gill, Grasmere, the Old Man in Conistone along with more Group Volunteering Days.

We couldn't continue to look after the fells without our volunteers and we're constantly humbled and grateful for all their hard work.

Matt Tweed
Volunteer Development Ranger



Volunteers in Wasdale.

North team



Martin Mikkelsen-Baron

Assistant Ranger, North team detailing the work on Whiteless Pike in June

The 2025 fell season began with the sort of weather every path worker dreams of; weeks of warm, sunny days and clear skies. It soon became expected that the sun would shine every day, and although it got rainy mid-season, we saw an improvement in the weather again, in August.

Our work began in earnest on Whiteless Pike, where we returned to complete several key sections. This included additional stone pitching and the re-establishment of drainage features. We also began landscaping efforts aimed at discouraging walkers from cutting corners on the bench path installed a few years ago.

Our attention shifted to the newly designated Coast to Coast National Trail, where collaboration across teams took centre stage. We joined forces with the West Lakes team at the top of Loft Beck in Ennerdale, and with the South Lakes team on the popular Tongue Ghyll path.

These joint efforts proved both productive and enjoyable, with the cross-team dynamic offering fresh perspectives and a stronger sense of unity in tackling shared challenges.

Staff-led work parties with volunteers have continued to play a vital role in our work, particularly on Carlside, where we've been focusing on the path from Millbeck.

This route, especially the long stretch after White Stones, required significant attention to its numerous water bars, many of which needed repair, rebuild, extending, or exits reprofiling.

There have been some changes within the team. Both Ted and Jordan have moved on, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Greg stepped into the new leadership role in July, who many of you will know from his previous work with the South and Build the Boundaries Teams. He brings great experience and enthusiasm to the role.

LDNPA Ranger



Fix the Fells staff team at Glenridding Dodd.

The 2025 season began, with a heli lift in Grasmere, though poor weather delayed it by a week.

Organising a heli lift is no small feat, and last-minute changes meant reworking the marshalling rota, site logistics, and securing a landing spot.

Thankfully, everything came together. Over three sunny days, more than 150 bags of stone were airlifted to Gowbarrow, Far Easedale, and the Old Man of Coniston, ready for the season's path repair work by our teams and volunteers.

Huge thanks to everyone those who marshalled the sites, this work simply couldn't happen without you.

May was busy with site visits and meetings, including the Operational Working Group, Volunteer Management Group, and Partnership Board.

Matt Tweed and I also began planning ongoing volunteer training, focusing on upskilling our existing team through dedicated focus groups.

In mid-June, the whole staff team gathered in Glenridding for our mid-season training day. Will Hinchliffe, LDNPA Rights of Way Officer, led an insightful session, followed by a refresher on the stone hierarchy system we use to classify materials.

I too attended the mass volunteering event on Scafell Pike and joined the West

West Team Rangers and volunteers. Despite the weather being cold, windy, and wet, spirits were high as we carried out essential repairs on this popular path.

It was a great opportunity to thank our skilled and committed volunteers, who work year-round in all conditions to keep our paths in good shape.

**Annie Duckworth,
Fix the Fells Ranger,
Lake District National Park
Authority**

www.fixthefells.co.uk

Fix the Fells is a partnership between:

