

Lake District Historic Environment Strategy

2026-2031

Lake District National Park Authority
Authority: 24 June 2026

Agenda Item 20
Annex 1



Lake District
National Park

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1 Statement of Ambition

Ambition for the historic environment in the Lake District:

The historic environment is the context and setting for everything we do, providing a sense of place and distinctive character which makes the Lake District special. The historic environment will be at the heart of communities and decision making, underpinning initiatives that contribute to social and economic wellbeing, climate resilience and nature recovery, so that the historic environment will be better understood, appreciated, experienced and looked after.

This Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) Historic Environment Strategy is underpinned by the belief that the historic environment is the context and setting for everything we do and is therefore the framework within which all future change will happen. It is crucial in providing a sense of place and the distinctive character and individuality of the Lake District and its inhabitants.

The ambition for the historic environment has been shaped by the key aims of the Lake District National Park Partnership combined with national policies and principles described below. Past experience of working on projects and with communities demonstrates that the historic environment has the potential to deliver ground breaking work across the National Park and we want to build on this over the next 5 year period.

This Strategy sets the framework for how the LDNPA will deliver the Lake District National Park Partnership's Vision, Strategies and key challenges in the Partnership Plan for the five historic environment special qualities and for the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value as set out in Section 6. It has been developed alongside the Partnership Plan 2026-31.

1.1 Lake District National Park Partnership

We established the Lake District National Park Partnership in 2006. With an independent Chair, it is now a collaboration of 24 Partners from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors with the shared goal to protect and enhance the Lake District.

One of the main ways that we do this is through collectively writing, and then delivering, a Partnership Plan for the Lake District, setting out how we will respond to the challenges and opportunities that the area faces over a five-year period, while also looking ahead to the future and setting a vision and ambitions for how we would like the future Lake District to be.

In 2051 it will be 100 years since the Lake District became a national park, and almost 35 years since inscription as a world heritage site. Securing the new 2051

vision for the Lake District will need all those who live, work in, visit and have statutory obligation to the Lake District to do their part.

The 2051 Vision for the Lake District National Park is that:

The Lake District is deeply valued by the nation as a thriving, working landscape, which is nature and heritage rich, climate resilient, and socially and economically vibrant.

1.2 The Partnership Plan 2026-2031

The Partnership Plan is the framework for all policy and action in the National Park and World Heritage Site. It contains policies and actions for the delivery of the Vision and National Park purposes, which sustain the Special Qualities and Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Site.

In shaping the current Partnership Plan, the Partnership has taken an evidence-based approach, starting by preparing seven evidence papers as well as a review of the conclusions from the National Park's State of the Park Report (2023), the Periodic Report for the World Heritage Site (2023) and State of Conservation report for the World Heritage Site (2024). Together these have given Partners a robust understanding of the current key challenges and opportunities across several important themes, allowing the drafting of a Plan to respond to these as a Partnership.

The seven evidence paper themes are:

- Climate Action
- Historic Environment and Cultural Landscape
- Farming
- A Lake District for the Nation
- Nature and Land Management
- Communities and Economy
- Transport

Our partners have helped to identify a clear set of shared and challenging ambitions that will help us realise the Vision.

The Plan's ambitions are:

In 2051...

- Habitats are restored, and species are recovering, enabling nature to flourish in a better-connected landscape.
- Water is clean and plentiful for people and nature through restoring natural processes and reducing pollution.

- Carbon emissions from human activity are reduced and the Lake District stores more carbon than it emits.
- The Lake District is more resilient to the effects of the future climate.
- Rural communities are thriving, supported by a diverse economy and regenerative tourism, enabling more people to live and work in the Lake District.
- Farming is viable, nature-friendly and delivers quality produce while maintaining the Lake District's distinctive agricultural practices.
- **The distinctive historic environment of the Lake District is conserved and enhanced, ensuring it is better understood and looked after for future generations.**
- The Lake District is improving people's wellbeing, and they are inspired to value, look after and enjoy it through living, working and visiting responsibly and sustainably.
- Public transport and active travel are the preferred ways of moving around, allowing more people to get where they need to go, when they need to get there, reducing the impacts of private vehicles on the Lake District.

To deliver these ambitions we have set clear, targeted objectives for the next five years to help make our Vision a reality.

Over the next five years we will:

Improve the management of the historic environment by:

- Increasing understanding through survey and the monitoring of the condition of heritage assets.
- Reducing the number of nationally designated heritage assets that are at risk.
- Improving the condition of non-designated heritage assets.
- Encouraging the retention of traditional skills and practices and growing the number of skilled craftspeople.

Measures of success:

- Decrease the number of heritage assets on the national Heritage at Risk Register by 4 (baseline 22 monuments and 8 listed buildings in 2025, Historic England).
- 16 conservation projects delivered that have improved the condition of a non-designated heritage asset (baseline 0, 2026, Lake District National Park Authority data).
- 2% (18 miles²/47 km²) increase (to 37%) of the area that has a Level 1 archaeological survey (baseline 35% of the Lake District surveyed, 2026, Lake District National Park Authority).
- Decrease the number of Grade II buildings at risk by 4 (baseline 70 as of October 2025, Lake District National Park Authority).

- Publish and promote a Heritage Crafts/Traditional Skills register (baseline 0, 2026).
- Deliver heritage skills training on 5 conservation projects (baseline 0, 2026).

1.3 Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF)

To support Protected Landscapes in meeting their huge potential for nature, climate, people and place the government has established targets for National Parks. Target 10 is specifically related to the historic environment, and it must be incorporated into the Partnership Plan.

Target 10: Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.

2 Definition of Historic Environment

The term 'Historic Environment' includes elements of the cultural landscape, including the historic and designed landscape, the rich archaeology and the distinctive buildings and settlement character.

2.1 Cultural Landscape

The Lake District National Park is defined as a cultural landscape under the terms of the European Landscape Convention (ratified 2006). "Landscape" in this context means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. This convention aimed to assist and support the protection, management and planning of all European landscapes and raise awareness of their status as 'living landscapes', underlining the differences between European and UK national parks and 'wilderness' national parks in countries such as the USA, Africa and Australia.

The definition of the Lake District's cultural landscape includes several elements that are key components of the historic environment, including the historic landscape and the designed landscape.

The first of the special qualities, a description of the Lake District cultural landscape is included in the Special Qualities section of the Partnership's Plan 2026-31 (<https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/lake-district-special-qualities>):

"The English Lake District is a self-contained mountain area whose narrow, radiating glaciated valleys, steep fells and slender lakes exhibit an extraordinary beauty and harmony. This landscape reflects an outstanding fusion between **a distinctive communal farming system that has persisted for at least a millennium with improvements of villas, picturesque planting and gardens during the 18 and 19 centuries**. This combination has attracted and inspired writers and artists of global stature. The landscape also manifests the success of the conservation movement that it stimulated, a movement based on the idea of landscape as a human response to our environment. This cultural force has had world-wide ramifications. The diversity of the landscape is key to its beauty and significance and includes coast, lakes, **distinctive farmland, fell, woodland, industrial activity and settlement**. Each of the thirteen valleys of the Lake District has an individual distinctiveness based on landform, biodiversity and **cultural heritage**. The character of the Lake District cultural landscape has evolved slowly over many centuries and will continue to evolve in the future under the influence of the knowledge and skills of the local community."

The sections in bold in the above paragraph are indicative of those elements of the cultural landscape that are covered by the Historic Environment Strategy.

2.2 Historic Landscape

A key part of the special character of the Lake District landscape is the result of thousands of years of human modification of fells, valleys and woodland through farming and industry. This has left a rich legacy of ancient field systems, farm buildings, trackways and packhorse routes and the remains of past industries including mining, quarrying and iron production. The historic landscape also includes the hamlets, villages and market towns which have developed from the medieval period along with early tourist infrastructure.

2.3 Designed landscape

Some parts of the Lake District landscape have been modified to form parks and gardens around villas and large houses. The earliest known example in England of a building being erected for aesthetic purposes, to frame an important view as part of a designed landscape is the 'Grotto' built by Daniel Fleming in 1668-69 at Rydal Hall. The social and economic changes, brought about by the industrial revolution in the late 18 and 19 century, saw an increase in the number of villas and their gardens which were built for pleasure by the incoming new rich.

2.4 Archaeology

The Lake District has a rich archaeological heritage that ranges in date from prehistory to the recent past. Significant remains include Neolithic stone circles and axe factories, Bronze Age settlements and burial cairns, Roman forts and roads, medieval abbeys and post medieval industrial sites. Many of these archaeological features are visible in the landscape but others are hidden under peat or pasture. Palaeoenvironmental deposits such as peat or lake sediments are also important for what they can tell us about past environments.

2.5 Historic Buildings and Settlement Character

Historic buildings in the Lake District are a key element of the landscape. The construction of farmhouses and barns reflects both the varied geology of the area and the functional requirements of farming practices that have developed here. Other important historic buildings include industrial structures, the villas and large houses of wealthy inhabitants from the 18 century and later and the important collection of Arts and Crafts houses around Windermere.

The range of villages and the towns of the Lake District also have a rich historic character often rooted in medieval patterns of settlement. Industrial development and the rise of the tourist industry from the 19th century have also left their marks.

3 Achievements

Over the last 5 years we have completed 39 actions in the 2020-25 Historic Environment Strategy. The Historic Environment Strategy is an important vehicle to aid delivery in this area of work. There are only a few partners managing the historic environment with appointed historic environment professionals working in the Lake District (Historic England/National Trust/Forestry England/Forestry Commission), therefore the LDNPA takes on an important lead role, dedicated to ensuring the special qualities in this area are conserved, maintained and enhanced. We continually punch above our weight in delivering historic environment actions.

A selection of our achievements include:

- £4,262,661 of external funding raised between 2020 – 2025 (including LEI, FiPL and HBRG).
- The Lake District HER has been upgraded to a new computer system, which means we can provide our information direct to the Heritage Gateway, a Historic England website providing public access to HERs.
- We have completed a Conservation Management Plan for Greenside Lead Mine with funding from Covid 19 Emergency Funding (Historic England).
- Removal of Duddon Iron Furnace from Heritage at Risk register.
- A Research Framework for Cumbria and the Lake District has been completed.
- Our Annual Archaeology in the Lake District Conference has over 130 attendees each year.
- The Lake District Archaeology Volunteers Network (LDAVN) celebrated its 10th birthday in 2023 and has completed 2000 hectares of Level 1 survey and helped to remove 50 sites from the Heritage at Risk register.
- In 2025 the LDAVN contributed 3273 hours of volunteering, this is a consistent yearly figure.
- The Howk Bobbin Mill is now a scheduled monument.
- We delivered the 'I'll Take the High Road' project, part of the NLHF Our Common Cause project, engaging 69 volunteers who contributed 112 volunteer days.
- An EOI for the Greenside Lead Mine NLHF project was submitted and we have now been invited to proceed to the development phase.
- FiPL grants and projects to conserve the Old Hall at Old Hall Farm, Duddon, shard fencing in Hawkshead, clapper bridges and bee boles were completed. Our FiPL spend on historic environment projects is £376,995.
- A FiPL project to map opportunities for wood pasture was completed (£9,992).
- 2 events were held to celebrate Hadrian's Wall 1900th anniversary celebration in 2022. Engaging with 160 people and 50 people on site tours over the 2 days.
- Investment in barns through FiPL: £341,927 on feasibility studies and £1.1 million on capital works.
- Investment in barns through Historic Building Restoration Grant £2.2million.
- FiPL grant for Our Farming Heritage and production of toolkit £30,000.

- Interpretation panels on the historic environment through FiPL: £16,901.
- 12 Building Preservation Notices served.
- Eastward Farmstead upgraded from Grade II to Grade II*.
- Number of listed buildings increased from 1797 to 1813.
- Keswick Conservation Area Boundary extended, and Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan adopted.
- Local List partnership project established with district councils and now unitary councils.
- A new conservation area proposed - Windermere Villas Conservation Area.
- A Design Guide was completed.
- HIA guidance issued.

Over the next five years we need to consolidate our efforts and continue to deliver actions and projects that can deliver multiple outcomes, including benefits for the historic environment and the Actions identified in the Partnership Plan.

Examples of successes from the last 15 years are included in Section 6.12 at the end of the document.

4 Where Do We Want to Be in 2031?

4.1 Managing the Historic Environment - Everyday Business

To ensure we provide an excellent Historic Environment service, the day-to-day work of the Historic Environment Team includes:

- Managing and Maintaining the Historic Environment Record.
- Responding to consultations (internal and external) on land use change (e.g. forestry operations, woodland creation, utility companies, Fix the Fells), also including advice on Heritage Impact Assessments.
- Advice to Development Management Service.
- Contribute to delivering the WHS Interpretation Strategy.
- Contribute to the State of Conservation report.
- Supporting the Property Team to manage and enhance the historic environment on our land.
- Advice and support to staff and members.
- Advice and guidance to the public, homeowners and local residents.
- Providing information and advice for agri-environment schemes.
- Maintaining the Local List.
- Training for staff and members.
- Monitoring Heritage at Risk and taking action where appropriate.
- Extending statutory protection where appropriate.
- Managing the Archaeology Volunteer Network and providing a programme of conservation and survey.
- Delivering the annual Archaeology Conference.
- Providing best practice guidance.
- Chairing the Lakeland Mining Forum.
- Chairing the Cumbria Conservation Officers Group.
- Developing and strengthening links with universities.
- Maintaining and enhancing Historic Environment pages on the website.
- Supporting the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership Building group.
- Input into the Love Windermere Action Plan.
- Support the Delivery of Green Skills Day.

This work will continue to be delivered. The Action Plan outlines project work that we will undertake as time and resources allow.

4.2 Risks we need to manage

A variety of risks and issues will impact on our ability to deliver work over the next 5 years including:

- Deploying available resources most effectively to deliver the ambitions of this strategy. The LDNPA Historic Environment Team combines: 0.6 FTE Lead Strategy Adviser: Historic Environment and 0.5 Built Environment Adviser on a permanent basis. A Graduate Historic Environment Assistant role (1FTE) is

a temporary contract until November 2026. We also have a permanent 0.6 FTE World Heritage Site Coordinator and a 1 FTE Communications and Engagement Officer fixed term contract until Jan 2028. It is important we target our resources most effectively within the capacity we have available.

- The risk of breaches of planning control. This risks causing harm to the historic environment, both listed buildings, conservation areas and the wider historic landscape.
- The development and future direction of environment land management schemes, including whether the historic environment is included as an option in the schemes and the implications for resourcing them.
- The impact of climate change on the historic environment – both direct and indirect from land-use change.
- There are 20 scheduled monuments at risk and 80 listed buildings at risk.
- Only 11 of our 23 conservation areas have appraisals and management plans which have been reviewed in the last 10 years.
- The loss of traditional building skills and impact on the historic building fabric of the National Park.
- A lack of understanding and sympathy sustaining OUV within some Partner organisations.

The Strategy and Action Plan has been shaped to mitigate these risks and address the issues above.

4.3 Where do we want to be in 2031?

We will demonstrate how the historic environment can engage the public and deliver projects that can help to aid nature recovery, combat climate change, deliver health and well-being and inspire people to access the National Park and its special qualities.

In setting our priorities we have developed our Principles for Delivery:

- Deliver historic environment actions in the Partnership Plan.
- Support the delivery of Farming in Protected Landscapes programme.
- Help to deliver nature recovery and climate action that is sustainable and appropriate for the historic environment.
- Raise awareness of traditional building performance and the benefits of maintenance and repair for energy efficiency and climate change.
- Ensure our conservation areas retain their historical integrity and continue to be wonderful places to live, work and visit.
- Support Development Management Service by providing expert advice to ensure informed decision making which supports the vision for the authority and the aims of this strategy.
- Ensure the historic environment and cultural heritage elements that contribute to Special Qualities and Outstanding Universal Value are protected and sustained.
- Deliver the actions in the WHS Interpretation Strategy.

- Responded to State of Conservation report requests.
- Improve our knowledge of the historic environment, increase baseline archaeological surveys and improve our understanding of the condition of the historic environment of the National Park.
- Continue to work with communities and local groups to provide opportunities to understand, appreciate and look after the historic environment, in particular working with the Lake District Archaeology Volunteer Network.
- Attract support and research from Universities and Partners, linking to the Cumbria and Lake District Research Framework.
- To continue our strong track record in securing external funding to deliver the ambitions of this strategy.

The action plan is an attempt to develop a clear and resourced set of priorities that can deliver multiple outcomes and benefits for the historic environment.

5 Our Delivery Aims and Actions

For us to achieve Our Statement of Ambition we have grouped actions under four headings:

- The historic environment is the context and setting for everything we do, providing a sense of place and distinctive character which makes the Lake District special.
- The historic environment will be at the heart of communities and decision making.
- The historic environment will underpin initiatives that contribute to social and economic wellbeing, climate resilience and nature recovery.
- The historic environment will be better understood, appreciated, experienced and looked after.

These Actions will, as well as achieve our Statement of Ambition, deliver Actions in the Partnership Plan.

Organisations and Abbreviations in Action Plan explained:

CATMHS – Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society

CC – Cumberland Council

CT – Cumbria Tourism

CWAAS – Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society

DSWA – Dry Stone Walling Association

EA – Environment Agency

FC – Forestry Commission

FE – Forestry England

FoLD – Friends of Lake District

HE – Historic England

LANSS – Land and Nature Skills Service

LDNPA – Lake District National Park Authority

LDNPP – Lake District National Park Partnership

NE – Natural England

NT – National Trust

UU – United Utilities

W&FC – Westmorland and Furness Council

5.1 The historic environment is the context and setting for everything we do, providing a sense of place and distinctive character which makes the Lake District special.

Our Aims:

- Protect and conserve the historic environment Special Qualities of the Lake District
- Protect and conserve the historic environment necessary to sustain OUV attributes of the English Lake District World Heritage Site
- Reduce the number of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings at Risk
- Extend statutory protection to those archaeological sites and historic buildings that are of national significance
- Promote and encourage the use of local craftsmen and women skilled in traditional techniques relevant to the historic environment and cultural heritage of the Lake District

ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	SUPPORTING PARTNERS	BY WHEN	TARGETS & MILESTONES
Decreasing the number of Heritage at Risk by 4	LDNPA	HE; NT; NE	2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action from Partnership Plan. • 2 sites removed from Heritage at Risk register by April 2028.
Decreasing the number of Grade 2 buildings at Risk by 4	LDNPA	NT	2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action from Partnership Plan. • 2 sites removed by April 2028.

Complete the Buildings at Risk Survey (started November 2025)	LDNPA		Nov 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly review meetings • Draft report Sept 2026 • Final report and data Nov 2026
Develop a Buildings at Risk Strategy	LDNPA	HE	March 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project start after Nov 26 (after BAR Survey) • Assess condition data • Actions to address condition data • Draft document complete by early 2027
Work with HE to establish contact with Calder Abbey and produce options appraisal to resolve Heritage at Risk	HE	LDNPA; CC	March 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish contact with owner • Produce options appraisal
Depending on options appraisal for Calder Abbey, work to reduce Heritage at Risk	HE	LDNPA; CC	March 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue options identified in report
Undertake a Listing Review across the National Park	HE	LDNPA, NT	March 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage HE to undertake a listing review • Start by reviewing NT's portfolio

Review the need and justification for further conservation area designations across the National Park	LDNPA	Parish Councils	March 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk based review of possible conservations areas • Engage Parish Councils • Report by March 2029
Undertake a condition assessment of all the Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest	HE	LDNPA	March 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support HE in an assessment of the condition of all 11 RPGs in the Lake District.
Submit Development phase application to NLHF for Greenside Lead Mine project	LDNPA	HE, NT, EA, CATMHS	May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline 30 May 2026
Deliver development phase of Greenside Lead Mine NLHF bid	LDNPA	HE, NT, EA, CATMHS	April 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to NLHF go ahead (decision Sept 2026) • Start project late 2026 (18-month duration) • Deadline for application April 2028
Submit full application for Greenside Lead Mine NLHF project	LDNPA	HE, NT, EA, CATMHS	May 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to NLHF funding
Deliver NLHF project at Greenside Lead Mine	LDNPA	HE, NT, EA, CATMHS	Dec 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to NLHF funding

5.2 The historic environment to be at the heart of communities and decision making

Our Aims:

- Ensure that management of the Lake District’s historic environment is fully integrated in policies and strategic documents
- Ensure that the historic environment is fully considered in decision making
- Maintain records and information to nationally agreed standards
- Improve the provision of web-based information on the historic environment
- Promote local understanding and increase appreciation of what makes a place special

ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	SUPPORTING PARTNERS	BY WHEN	TARGETS & MILESTONES
Input into Local Plan review	LDNPA		Dec 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and input policies related to historic environment, built heritage and conservation. • Advise on overall strategic vision of the plan as it relates to the historic environment. • Assist with relevant local plan evidence base.
Create Story maps for each Conservation Area on the website	LDNPA		March 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree standard template for story maps which can be replicated for each area. • Prepare content for each CA based on appraisals. • Publish story maps on website.
Explore an Article 4 direction on local slate	LDNPA	HE	March 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Project Brief. • Take to Historic Environment Programme Board. • Paper to Committee.

Produce planning guidance on the re-use of buildings (demolition/retrofit)	LDNPA		March 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper to Committee. • Collate evidence. • Write document (either SPD or Design Code addition). • Consultation on document. • Paper to Committee.
Deliver actions in HER Data Audit (undertaken in 2022)	LDNPA	HE	Dec 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver agreed actions in Action Plan.
Undertake HER Data Audit (done every 5 years)	LDNPA	HE	2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation from HE in late 2026/27.

5.3 The historic environment will underpin initiatives that contribute to social and economic wellbeing, climate resilience and nature recovery

Our Aims:

- Support initiatives that promote the Lake District as a year-round destination to a range of audiences, with a particular focus on the experiences offered by culture and heritage
- Increase opportunities for linking conservation of the historic environment with social and economic well-being
- Enable the relationship between the historic environment, nature recovery and climate resilience to be better understood and valued
- Ensure that the management of the historic environment is fully integrated with the management of other conservation priorities (climate change and nature recovery), including decision making and project development
- Champion the heritage as a public good
- Ensure that the historic environment is considered in agri-environment schemes post-Brexit
- Promote and support the historic environment’s role in a circular economy based around maintenance, repair and conservation of traditional buildings using local craftspeople and local materials
- Raise awareness of traditional building performance and the benefits of maintenance and repair for energy efficiency and climate change

ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	SUPPORTING PARTNERS	BY WHEN	TARGETS & MILESTONES
Undertake a Pilot Barn Maintenance project	LDNPA	NE; HE; Farmer Network	March 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure funding (FiPL?). • Organise a pilot project in a Valley (working with Farming Officers). • Deliver project. • Review and gather evidence.

Undertake Barn Ecology Monitoring project	LDNPA	HE	March 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding secured through HE. • Manage ecology consultant. • Draft report.
Complete retrofit guidance and web pages	LDNPA		March 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Dr Freya Wise (University of West England) to complete guidance. • Upload to web pages when complete. • Upload case studies. • Work with Communications Team.
Support the delivery of Landscape Recovery projects	NT; RSPB; Cumbria Connect; West Cumbria Rivers Trust	LDNPA	April 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on success of projects, support delivery of schemes over next 5 years in: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upper Duddon; 2. Eastern Fells; 3. Glenderamackin; 4. Penrith 2 Kendal.
Contribute to the delivery of the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) Scheme	LDNPA		March 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable and support historic environment projects to be delivered through FiPL, which will achieve targets in Partnership Plan.
Deliver Historic Buildings Restoration Grant 2	LDNPA		March 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver any capital grant schemes for barns that may emerge either through FiPL or another DEFRA scheme.
Support the development of a Landscape Connections NLHF Bid	LDNPA		Nov 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support colleagues in the application writing, providing supporting information and technical advice.

Investigate whether the Opportunity Mapping for Wood Pasture project can be carried out over the whole of the National Park	LDNPA	NT; FC	Jan 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with partners whether funding can be provided to roll out this programme of work.
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5.4 The historic environment will be better understood, appreciated, experienced and looked after

Our Aims:

- Develop and maintain an awareness and understanding of the nature, extent, significance and condition of the built and historic environment
- Develop projects and programmes for the coordinated management, conservation, enjoyment and understanding of built and historic environment assets
- Enhance our knowledge through programmes of archaeological and historic buildings research and survey, carried out within agreed frameworks and to defined standards
- Encourage and support architectural design which is inspired by and complements the Special Qualities and Outstanding Universal Value of the Lake District’s cultural landscape
- Aim to increase university-based research and collaboration in the Lake District
- Maintain an up to date list of designated heritage assets at risk and information on the condition of selected non-designated features
- Base conservation programmes on the results of targeted condition surveys, characterisation studies and heritage assets at risk
- Sustain and promote the relationship between people and landscapes by creating opportunities for inspiration through further developing visitor experiences and locally-led initiatives and events
- Promote local understanding and increase responsibility for what makes a place special
- Maintain and develop volunteering opportunities through the Lake District Archaeology Volunteer Network
- Retain and increase traditional building skills and expertise in the Lake District

ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	SUPPORTING PARTNERS	BY WHEN	TARGETS & MILESTONES
16 Conservation projects on non-designated heritage assets	LDNPA	NT; NE; FC; FE	March 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action from Partnership Plan. • 8 sites by April 2028.

2% (47 km ²) increase of area that has a Level 1 archaeological survey (baseline 35% in 2022)	LDNPA	NT; NE; FE; FC	March 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action from Partnership Plan. • 1% increase by March 2028.
Prepare a Heritage Craft/Traditional Skills Register	LDNPA	FoLD, HE, NT	April 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action from Partnership Plan. • Publish on website.
Establish the training and courses to support Heritage Crafts and Traditional Skills	LDNPA	LANSS	April 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action from Partnership Plan. • Work with LANN to list courses • Identify gaps.
Investigate whether a regional heritage skills network is appropriate	HE	LDNPA	April 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action from Partnership Plan. • Work with HE using regional comparators.
Develop an Enrich the List/Missing Piece volunteering project	LDNPA	HE	March 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop project design. • Recruit listed building volunteers. • Begin update HER/HE website with images and data.
Deliver phase 2 of Later Prehistoric Settlement Site project	LDNPA	CWAAS; NT; HE	March 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for excavation April – June 2026. • Excavation in June 2026. • Post excavation work July – Dec 2026. • Final report by March 2027.
Assess whether a phase 3 of Later Prehistoric Settlement Site project should be undertaken	LDNPA	NT	Dec 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment whether future project is appropriate and what it would entail.

Develop and Undertake Phase 3 of Later Prehistoric Settlement Site project	LDNPA	NT; CWAAS	April 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depending on results of assessment develop a phase 3 of project ready for delivery in 2028.
Undertake planning phase of Sacred Circles project	Consultant	LDNPA; CC; W&FC; HE; NT	July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act as Project manager for the Project Planning phase. Assist Consultant in preparing project ready for submission to NLHF. Submit application to NLHF.
Deliver development phase of Sacred Circles NLHF project	To be determined in earlier phase	LDNPA; CC; W&FC; HE; NT	Dec 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent on NLHF decision. Deliver development phase project.
Submit full application for Sacred Circles NLHF project	To be determined in earlier phase	LDNPA; CC; W&FC; HE; NT	Jan 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to NLHF funding.
Deliver Sacred Circles NLHF project	To be determined in earlier phase	LDNPA; CC; W&FC; HE; NT	Aug 2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to NLHF funding.
Deliver Stepping into History project (LEI funded)	LDNPA	National Grid	Sept 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent on LEI funding. Deadline for project application Feb 2026. Decision July/Aug 2026. Deliver project if successful.

Develop a recording procedure for the condition of dry-stone walls	LDNPA	NT; DSWA	April 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent on LEI funding. Part of the LEI project to record stone walls. • Work with NT (who record walls in Northern area) and DSWA to establish a pro forma for recording the condition of dry-stone walls.
Assist Forestry England to deliver their NLHF project “Historic Roots and Future Shoots”	FE	LDNPA; HE; NT	?unknown yet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development phase bid submitted May 2026. • Subject to NLHF funding. • 2 year development phase from Nov 2026 – Nov 2028.
Deliver Fuelling the Furness project	HE	LDNPA; FE	Dec 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent on HE acquiring external funding. • Support HE to develop the project. • Assist with delivery in 2027.
Research Project at Heathwaite Fell	LDNPA	HE	?unknown yet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree project design. • Seek funding.
Support the Medieval Lowther Project	Lowther Estate	LDNPA; HE; CWAAS	2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Lowther Estate to deliver the Lowther Project where feasible.
Work with Cumbria Tourism to include historic environment/cultural landscape in visitor surveys	LDNPP	LDNPA; CT	March 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with CT to have historic environment questions included in survey.

6 Strategic Context

6.1 Special qualities

The Partnership's Plan identifies 13 special qualities which in combination comprise the characteristics which distinguish the Lake District from other parts of the country. Five of these special qualities define the historic environment element of 'cultural heritage' included in the Vision and the National Park's first statutory purpose. These are:

- A world class cultural landscape
- Rich archaeology and historic landscape
- Distinctive buildings and settlement character
- Complex geology and geomorphology
- Unique farming heritage and concentration of common land

6.2 World Heritage Site

The 9 key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value which have been identified for the English Lake District World Heritage Site comprise:

- Extraordinary Beauty and Harmony
- **Agro-pastoral system**
- **Local industries**
- **Towns and Settlements**
- Early tourism
- **Villas Garden and formal landscapes**
- Sites and collections associated with the Picturesque and Romanticism
- Landscape Conservation
- Spirit and Feeling of the Lake District

The attributes in bold in the list above are features of the historic environment.

(UNESCO's Statement of Universal Value can be found here <https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/lake-district-national-park-partnership/management-plan/statement-of-outstanding-universal-value> and the Attributes of OUV are here <https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/lake-district-national-park-partnership/management-plan/attributes-of-outstanding-universal-value> The English Lake District nomination documents are here <https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/policies/whs/lake-district-nomination>).

There is therefore an overlap and interplay between the 'historic environment' and the OUV attributes of the World Heritage site which also include intangible elements such as the value and significance of ideas and writings of writers and poets and artists and the perception and enjoyment of sites and collections associated with Picturesque and Romanticism. These intangible elements are described as 'cultural heritage' and are not included in the Historic Environment Strategy.

The special qualities and tangible OUV attributes encompass the material legacy of the long interaction of people in the Lake District with their natural environment. They are described in their totality as the 'historic environment'.

6.3 How We Look After and Improve the Lake District - Our Strategies

The National Park statutory purposes and duty, Special Qualities and the World Heritage Site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value are the starting point for any management and decision making. We have developed strategies in our Partnership Plan that help guide our decision making to achieve continual improvement and look after the Lake District. The Strategies show how our decisions can support our contributions to delivering our Vision.

The Partnership Plan Strategies directly relevant to the Historic Environment are:

1. A world-class living cultural landscape of exceptional beauty
2. Sustained distinctive and well maintained built and historic environment and landscape
7. The continuation of the Lake District as a source of artistic, literary, and cultural inspiration
8. Engender a strong sense of pride and ownership of the local environment and its distinctive character
11. Growing a sustainable Lake District visitor economy
23. Opportunities to discover, appreciate and experience a unique, rich cultural landscape (see <https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/lake-district-national-park-partnership/management-plan/our-strategies-to-look-after-and-improve-the-lake-district> for detail on each Strategy).

6.4 Policy and Planning Framework

We work within a policy and planning framework. The LDNPA is the planning authority for the National Park and is committed to securing the conservation of the special features and attributes of OUV of the Lake District through implementation of appropriate planning policies. Relevant policies for the Lake District National Park are included in the Lake District Local Plan (see <https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/planning/planningpolicies/local-plan>).

6.5 Statutory Protection

The following categories of statutory protection apply to the historic environment:

Designation	What is it?	Number	Number At Risk
World Heritage Site Inscription	Proposed by UK and inscribed by UNESCO	2	0
Scheduled Monuments	Sites of national significance, selected by Historic England and designated by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under provisions in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.	288	20
Listed Buildings	Buildings of 'special architectural or historic interest' designated by the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 1990. Buildings are listed as Grade I, II* and II.	1,811	80
Register Of Parks and Gardens Of Special Historic Interest in England	Register compiled by Historic England under Section 8C of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953. Sites are graded Grade I, II* or II.	11	0
Conservation Areas	Designated by local authorities under the Planning (Listed Buildings and	23	0

	Conservation Areas) Act 1990.		
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One of Historic England’s key priorities is to remove designated historic assets from risk. This work is already underway in the Lake District, particularly in relation to scheduled monuments, where 69 sites have been removed from the Heritage At Risk register since 2010. This is a phenomenal achievement and has only been possible through the dedicated work of our Lake District Archaeology Volunteer Network tackling bracken growth on scheduled monuments.

6.6 Historic Environment Record

Management of the historic environment in the Lake District must be based on adequate data. Information on the historic environment in the Lake District is held in the Lake District Historic Environment Record (LDHER) which provides the basis for the provision of advice to developers and land managers by LDNPA historic environment staff.

The LDHER is the primary record for the historic environment in the Lake District and currently holds just over 20,000 records. The LDHER comprises a computerised database and digital maps. It includes records for archaeological sites and finds, historic buildings and historic landscape features derived from a variety of sources. Information contained in the LDHER is a material consideration in the planning process and other statutory procedures (Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, Hedgerow Regulations 1997).

The LDNPA completed the Cumbria and Lake District Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project in conjunction with Cumbria County Council and with financial assistance from Historic England. This forms part of a national programme to identify and characterise the historic character of the Cumbrian landscape and to produce data that can be used for a variety of purposes, including managing landscape change and education. This data is also held in the LDHER.

An HER Data Audit was carried out in 2022 with Historic England funding and an HER Forward Plan was developed for 2022 – 2027. A Data Audit will need to be carried out during the lifetime of the 2026-2031 Strategy, and this will include a review of the HER Forward Plan.

Online access to the Lake District HER has been made available to the public through the Archaeology Data Service and Historic England’s Heritage Gateway (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/> and <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>).

We have completed a project to develop the HER and move to a new IT platform. This will enable us to host the HER data on our own website in the future.

6.7 Local List

The Lake District National Park’s Local Heritage List is part of a Cumbria wide project to identify, share and celebrate sites of heritage interest which are not

protected by any other designations, such as listing or scheduling. Members of the public can nominate sites for inclusion on the list and eligible sites can include buildings and structures, archaeological features, field boundaries, parks, gardens, historic street furniture, signs, fountains and more. Nominations are reviewed by a panel made up of councillors and voluntary heritage group representatives from across Cumbria. If a site is approved by the panel, it will be added to the Local Heritage List which is available to search online. The project is managed collectively by officers from Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness Councils and the National Park Authority, with one panel reviewing all submissions. The Lake District National Park publishes the list for sites within the National Park boundary, and the relevant council publish lists for sites outside the National Park.

6.8 Lake District Archaeology Volunteer Network

The LDNPA and the National Trust have worked extensively with volunteers to deliver historic environment projects in the Lake District, including both survey and conservation. In 2013 the LDNPA, in partnership with the National Trust, Historic England and the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society (CWAAS) established the Lake District Archaeology Volunteer Network in order to maximise the opportunities and value of volunteering in the historic environment.

The Archaeology Volunteer Network now has around 60 volunteers and 6 supervisors. It has been very successful and underpins our work on Heritage at Risk through an established programme of bracken control on Scheduled Monuments and conservation work on listed structures such as limekilns.

The Network's programme now also extends to Level 1 and Level 2 archaeological survey, condition surveys for Monuments at Risk and Conservation Areas. Volunteers are also now involved in entering data into the Lake District HER.

6.9 Principles of conservation

Historic England has published advice on the principles of historic environment conservation in 'Conservation Principles. Policies and Guidance (<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/constructive-conservation/conservation-principles>).

The six key principles that have been identified are:

- Principle 1: The historic environment is a shared resource
- Principle 2: Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment
- Principle 3: Understanding the significance of places is vital
- Principle 4: Significant places should be managed to sustain their values
- Principle 5: Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent
- Principle 6: Documenting and learning from decisions is essential

These principles inform this Historic Environment Strategy.

The key to successful conservation is managing change so that the essential characteristics of individual areas of the Lake District are not eroded. Our programmes and strategies should be based on targeted condition surveys and characterisation studies at different levels, including the Monuments and Buildings at Risk surveys, the Lake District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), Conservation Area Appraisals and the Valley Descriptions in the World Heritage Nomination Document (Vol.2). Engaging local communities in this process will be pursued through the LDNPA's Distinctive Area working.

The conservation of archaeological sites will generally involve consolidation and repair rather than wholesale reconstruction. The provision of information and advice is important in order to avoid damage. Pre-emptive action to prevent damage, for example by the removal of bracken and scrub from sensitive sites, will always be preferable to dealing with damage at a later date. It is also important to use appropriate materials and techniques, particularly when dealing with monuments constructed of stone.

The character of historic buildings can be affected through change of use, extensions, and alterations and deterioration. Change is managed primarily through the planning process but information and advice is also important in raising the awareness of owners and contractors of the sensitivities of historic structures. The principles of good conservation of buildings for the repair and retention of original historic fabric include minimal intervention and the avoidance of conjectural restoration. Proper and timely maintenance, the use of appropriate historic materials and techniques and the careful detailing of alterations and additions are essential and inter-related principles.

Historic elements of the wider landscape are also important and repair and maintenance of features such as stone walls and trackways should also be undertaken using appropriate materials and techniques. Conservation of the historic environment must also form part of a holistic approach to landscape management. In some case decisions will have to be made regarding the balance of interests and this should be carried out on a site-by site basis.

Successful historic environment conservation work is often dependent on the availability of appropriate materials and local skills in buildings and crafts. In the Lake District essential skills include stone walling and building with traditional lime mortar and render.

6.10 Survey and Research

Survey and research are essential for maintaining sound information for management and conservation of the historic environment. It is important that such work is carried out to recognised standards and to agreed research objectives, particularly where it is informing a planning application or is utilising public funding. The production of standards for the conduct of archaeological work and historic building recording in the Lake District National Park is identified as an action under 5.4. Any historic environment survey or research that is undertaken in the National Park should conform to these standards once available.

The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers North West (ALGAO NW) has coordinated the production of a Regional Research Framework for the North West Region (<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/introduction/>). This involved the

participation of the wider archaeological community in the North West, including contracting units, universities, archaeological societies and individual researchers. This Strategy should be used to direct survey and research at a regional level and can provide a basis for seeking funding. The Regional Research Framework also forms a strategic basis for the development of a Historic Environment Research Strategy for the Lake District.

Approximately 35% of the National Park has been subject to archaeological survey of at least a basic level. Survey records for historic buildings outside National Trust ownership are poor. Recent examples of archaeological survey projects include survey of the Duddon Valley through the HLF-funded Ring Cairns to Reservoirs project, HLF-funded surveys of industrial archaeology in the Windermere catchment (Reflections on History) and a survey of National Trust property in Nether Wasdale. All of these have provided new and valuable data at different levels. Recent work includes Level 1 and Level 2 survey by the Lake District Archaeology Volunteer Network, survey of Coniston Copper mines through the Coniston Copper HLF project, and survey and excavation projects through the Rusland Horizons HLF Landscape Partnership project.

The relatively few systematic surveys of historic buildings in the Lake District have included the National Trust Historic Buildings survey of its properties, Adam Menuge's survey of Lake District villas, a research survey of bank barns and Peter Ryder's research on medieval defensive buildings. Further surveys of individual buildings have taken place through the planning system. There is a clear need for further survey work in order to provide information for understanding and managing historic buildings in the National Park.

Archaeological survey needs to be carried out at levels appropriate to requirements, from basic walkover survey at a landscape scale (Level 1) to detailed recording of individual monuments (Level 2). Historic buildings survey is required at both settlement level and for individual buildings.

In some circumstances archaeological excavation will be necessary either to derive information for management purposes or for research in order to enhance available information on archaeological sites in the Lake District. All archaeological fieldwork should be carried out to appropriate standards.

6.11 Education & Outreach

Protection of the historic environment is often achieved through understanding and appreciation of the resource by local people and visitors. The LDNPA and several of its partners, including Historic England and the National Trust, put substantial resources into outreach and interpretation. In some cases it is also possible for interpretation of the historic environment to contribute to social and economic development. That there is strong interest in the historic environment both from sections of local residents and visitors is demonstrated by attendance at evening classes and lectures, guided walks and the annual archaeology conference organised by the LDNPA.

Local groups, including archaeological, historical and civic societies, parish councils and other community organisations can make valuable contributions to research and conservation of the historic environment. The availability of Heritage Lottery funds has

encouraged a number of initiatives in recent years. The Partnership will promote and support appropriate projects by local groups that are likely to make a genuine contribution to research or conservation of the historic environment. Such projects should have realistic targets and adequate resources and should employ sound methodologies and techniques based on nationally agreed standards. They should also have access to appropriate expert advice.

The Partnership is committed to seeking access for the public to a representative range of archaeological and historical sites in the Lake District. The LDNPA and National Trust manage a number of key historic environment sites that are open to the public including the house and gardens at Brockhole, the Duddon Iron Furnace, Castlerigg stone circle, Ambleside and Hardknott Roman forts, Claife Viewing Station, Townend, Hill Top and Allen Bank. English Heritage owns and manages the working bobbin mill at Stott Park.

Access to archaeological remains on unenclosed fell has increased as a result of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Partnership is committed to increasing access in line with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and will, where appropriate and possible, modify access to archaeological sites or historic buildings in order to increase the possibilities for disabled visitors. Use of public transport, walking, cycling and all terrain mobility scooters will be encouraged and facilitated wherever possible for accessing historic environment sites.

The Mining Forum was established by the LDNPA some years ago to provide a forum for liaison and discussion over underground access and mining issues with the various mining amenity groups. The Forum meets quarterly and comprises representatives from the National Trust, Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society (CATHMS), Historic England and the Environment Agency. The Forum has produced health and safety documentation and a code of conduct for underground access and will continue its role in providing specialist information and advice for mining sites.

A range of interpretation materials have been produced by the LDNPA and partner organisations for the historic environment in the Lake District. These include

- Leaflets and teaching packs (Access to Archaeology, Romans in Ravenglass and Coniston Copper projects)
- Publications (Rings Cairns to Reservoirs Project, Reflections on History)
- On-site interpretation (Castlerigg stone circle, Hodgson Hill medieval site, Carrock mine and Coniston Coppermines)
- Information on the historic environment in the Lake District is also available online at <http://www.lake-district.gov.uk/> www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-global/w-localtoyou/w-northwest.htm and www.cwaas.org.uk.

The LDNPA arranges an annual Archaeology Conference in the autumn that attracts an audience of over 130 people each year. The National Trust has a programme of events that includes historic environment activities such as special property open days, guided walks and educational visits. We have also contributed to the yearly Heritage Open Days. LDNPA and National Trust historic environment staff are often asked to undertake

guided walks and talks for local amenity societies, parishes and groups in the area. This is seen as vital outreach work and a high priority to continue.

6.12 Achievements

Further to the list in the main body of the Strategy, there has been a great deal of fantastic work has taken place over the last 15 years; a selection of examples include:

- £1million of external funding raised since 2010.
- Inscription of the English Lake District as a World Heritage Site.
- Creation of a World Heritage Site Coordinator role.
- 69 scheduled monuments have been removed from the Heritage At Risk register since 2010.
- Establishment of Lake District Archaeology Volunteer Network – over 60 active volunteers pursuing survey and conservation in the Lake District.
- 11 farm buildings restored under the Historic Buildings Restoration Grant pilot project (2019/2021).
- £1.3 million input by DEFRA into Historic Buildings Restoration Grant pilot. A significant impact with every £1 funding generating between £1.65 and £2.50 for the local economy.
- Annual Archaeology in the Lake District Conference with over 130 attendees.
- Successful completion of projects with support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and other external funding sources including Coniston Copper; Rusland Horizons (Hidden Heritage); Windermere Reflections (Reflections on History); Romans in Ravenglass and Duddon Valley Exploring Medieval Longhouses project.
- Conservation of Duddon Iron Furnace with £60,000 of external funding from Historic England.
- Community Archaeologist of the Year 2019 – awarded to Eleanor Kingston.
- Leaflets and teaching packs (Access to Archaeology, Romans in Ravenglass and Coniston Copper projects).
- Publications (Rings Cairns to Reservoirs Project, Reflections on History).
- On-site interpretation (Castlerigg stone circle, Hodgson Hill medieval site, Carrock mine, Coniston Coppermines, Castle How Hillfort).

We now have experience in project management and have been extremely successful in obtaining over £1million of external funding.