



Lake District
National Park
Partnership

Annual Report 2022 – 2023

Lake District National Park Authority | September 2023



From the Chair

I am delighted to be able to introduce the Lake District National Park Partnership's Annual Report for 2022-2023. This is the first time that the Partnership has produced an annual report that explains how we are doing in delivering actions in the Partnership's Management Plan to enhance and improve the Lake District National Park and English Lakes World Heritage Site. It is part of our collective aspiration to better explain what the Partnership does and why it matters, to celebrate successes, but also to be honest about areas where we know there is more work to do.

I have only recently taken on the role of Partnership Chair but am already impressed by the range of projects and activity that we are undertaking. This is a testament to the hard work of our Partner organisations but also our delivery partners and local communities who are all committed to looking after our beautiful Lake District. I hope that in reading this report that you will agree!



Dr Celia Caulcott, Chair of the Lake District National Park Partnership

Introduction

This is the Partnership's first annual report since 2015 and the first ever in this format, reporting against the actions in the Partnership's Management Plan for the Lake District.

The Appendix sets out all the Plan actions, identifies those on which we are reporting this time and where in the report the information can be found. It also sets out the status of actions where we are not reporting, for instance, some pieces of work have not yet started, others require further research before a baseline from which to measure progress can be established.'

The annual report should be read in conjunction with the Partnership's Plan with hyperlinks between the two, and other key documents, provided for ease.

Cover photo: Patterdale c/o National Trust
Image/John Malley



The Langdale Viewpoint from Brockhole on Windermere

About the Lake District

The Lake District is a national park, protected because of its beautiful countryside, wildlife and cultural heritage. Designated as a national park in 1951, the Lake District possesses a number of [Special Qualities](#) which combine to produce a landscape of remarkable beauty and distinctive character that is cherished and enjoyed by the nation. It is England's largest national park, home to Scafell Pike, England's highest mountain, and renowned for its varied and beautiful Lakeland mountains, fells, valleys, lakes and coastline.

In further recognition of the special character of this landscape the Lake District was inscribed by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) as a World Heritage Site in 2017 as a cultural landscape of international significance. UNESCO's [Statement of Outstanding Universal Value](#) explains why the Lake District's cultural significance is so exceptional as to be of global importance for present and future generations of all humanity. The Lake District offers fantastic opportunities for recreation to support the nation's health and wellbeing, and attracts millions of visitors each year to enjoy this unique living-working landscape.



What is the Lake District National Park Partnership?

The Lake District National Park Partnership was established in 2006. It brings together 21 organisations (the 'Partners') from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors with the shared goal of working for the betterment of the national park.

Partnership Vision

The Partnership has an agreed shared Vision that by 2030 the Lake District will be:

An inspirational example of sustainable development in action. A place where its prosperous economy, world class visitor experiences and vibrant communities come together to sustain the spectacular landscape, its wildlife and cultural heritage.

Local people, visitors, and the many organisations working in the Lake District or have a contribution to make to it, must be united in achieving this.

How this vision will be achieved is set out in the [Partnership's Management Plan](#) for the National Park and World Heritage Site.



Sunrise over Blea Tarn



Lake Windermere

Challenging global/ national context

The current Partnership Plan was written and is being delivered during a time of considerable global and national challenge with consequent impacts on the Partnership's ability to move forward in delivery as quickly as we would have liked.

We have lived through a global (Covid-19) pandemic, which required new ways of working to ensure that the Partnership was able to finalise its Plan. The impact of climate change as a matter of extreme global concern, and the need to reverse the severity of biodiversity loss, have also required a re-focus of the Partnership's resources.

At a national level there has been considerable change to the landscape of government including new legislation and policy, such as: the impacts of Brexit; the publication of the government's Glover report on protected landscapes, its Environment Improvement Plan and the Levelling Up Bill. The Partnership has needed to respond to these changes with some agility. The delay in finalising replacement schemes for agricultural and land management grants and subsidies, at a time when the Basic Payment Scheme is being phased out, continues to present challenges in delivery for our Farming, Forestry, Nature Recovery and Climate Change Key Outcome.

At a county level, Cumbria's local councils have been re-organised, moving from a model of a county council and six district councils to two unitary authorities from 1 April 2023. The transitional phase - during the reporting year - has also had an impact on the Partnership while key delivery colleagues have moved into new roles. We look forward to working with the new authorities going forward.

There is now a war in Ukraine and a related cost-of-living crisis which is impacting both our residents and our visitor economy. The Partnership must respond, particularly through its Vibrant Communities and a Prosperous Economy key outcome, while Partner organisations are also impacted in terms of their own resources to support delivery.

In spite of these challenges, we have achieved a great deal over the last year. We hope that this annual report provides an interesting and useful summary of the Partnership's achievements for the Lake District National Park during 2022-2023.

The Partnership Plan

What is it?

How the Partnership's Vision will be delivered is set out in the [Partnership Plan](#) - a joint management plan for the National Park and World Heritage Site. This was collectively shaped by all the Partner organisations, in consultation with other interested parties and the public, and which we are now focused on delivering. The current Plan covers the five-year period between 2020-2025.

Key Outcomes

The Partnership Plan is focused on five Key Outcomes, tested at Plan development stage with the public to ensure that they are the right priority areas of attention for the Partnership over the life of the Plan to 2025. These are:

- Climate action – achieving net zero and adapting to climate change
- Securing the Future of Farming and Forestry, Nature Recovery, and Climate Change
- A Lake District for Everyone
- Sustainable Travel and Transport
- Vibrant Communities and a Prosperous Economy following Covid-19

Each Key Outcome has a Key Outcome Group responsible for delivering action on the ground. For each Key Outcome there are a number of transformative actions that the Partnership is focused on delivering over the life of the Plan, as well as subsidiary actions that the Partnership would also like to deliver if it has the resources to do so. This annual report summarises progress in each area of work, as well as reporting on specific projects relating to the Lake District as a World Heritage Site.

Photo: Catbells looking towards Skiddaw



Why it matters

The Partnership Plan represents a holistic approach to managing the nationally and internationally significant Lake District. It is also the statutory management plan for the Lake District National Park Authority (a Partner organisation), adopted in autumn 2021, and is exceptional in managing both the Special Qualities of the National Park and the Outstanding Universal Value of the English Lake District World Heritage Site.

The collaborative power of the Partnership in bringing together the skills and expertise of 21 organisations to write and deliver a management plan for the area has made it a more effective tool. Through the Partnership Plan, this precious living-working landscape, with its many unique nationally and internationally significant characteristics, can therefore be sustained and improved for future generations.

How do we monitor success?

It is important that the Partnership monitors how it is doing against the actions set out in its Plan. The Partnership needs to understand whether it is delivering, and we want to be able to celebrate success where it is merited, but also redeploy resources to support actions where delivery is proving challenging.

Monitoring and evaluation is an on-going process and the Partnership undertakes a qualitative stock-take at the end of every quarter, as well as quantitative reporting for each action at the end of each year. Both elements are reflected in this annual report.

Throughout the life of our Plan, the Partnership has set itself low, medium or high targets to achieve. They are illustrated on the following graphs, where possible, as red for low, orange for medium and green for high. This enables us to closely monitor our successes or where we need to focus our efforts.



Climate Action

| Peat restoration in progress on Armboth Fell. Photo c/o of Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Climate Action – achieving net zero and adapting to climate change

What is it?

Globally and nationally the response to addressing climate change has not been adequate. Global warming reached 1°C in 2017, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assesses that it is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate. Indeed, there is now growing concern that even this threshold will be crossed. Climate change is therefore a universal pressure on, and threat to, the Lake District, its environment, economy and communities. The UK Government passed laws in 2019 to end its contribution to global warming by 2050. This means the UK will be required to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

Urgent actions to reduce carbon emissions are required and the Lake District must play its part. The impacts of climate change are evident now and will impact all aspects of the National Park. Increasing our focus on adapting to a changing climate and increasing the resilience of the Lake District, particularly around water resources management, is a pressing need. What we are trying to achieve is set out in the Partnership Plan here:

[Climate action – achieving net zero and adapting to climate change](#)

The Lake District National Park carbon budget

To enable us to use the latest data and evidence for understanding the current carbon budget for the Lake District National Park, the Partnership has worked with Small World Consulting to re-baseline the consumption-based greenhouse gas footprint assessment made in 2019.

It assessed the full footprint of industry and lifestyles, as well as goods and services related to residents and visitors travelling to and from and moving around the National Park. It also updated the carbon footprint for land use and land management. The budget used a range of data, such as emissions factors for industry and fuels, through to DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) land use emissions for national parks and the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) habitat baseline map.

The results showed an increase in car journeys and gave us new understanding about how land based non-CO2 equivalent emissions (such as from agricultural methane and nitrous oxide) contribute. The updated 2019 baseline (showing for each sector in the graph below) now totals 2,048,662 tCO2e (tonnes of CO2 emissions) per year. (The tailpipe emissions from a typical petrol car doing average mileage of 7,500 is 2 tCO2e per year, so this

is equivalent to the annual emissions from over a million cars). This increase of 349,048 tCO2e per year compared to the original 2019 budget of 1,773,080 tCO2e per year makes our work more urgent and critical. However, it has not changed our ambition for net zero by 2037 nor our commitments and actions in the Plan.

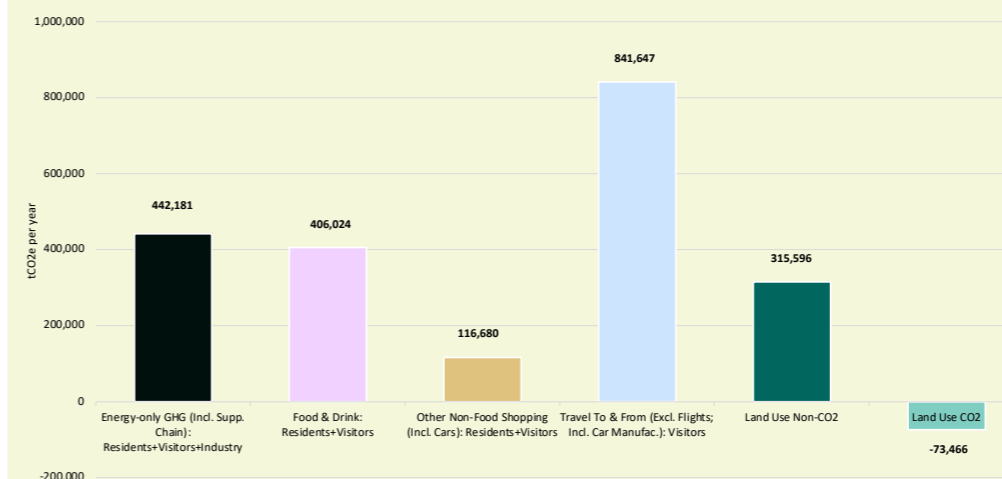
The new budget proposes a reduction pathway, for each of these sectors, shown in the descent curve graph on page 8. These are aligned to the wider Cumbria carbon budget and integrated with the work we do with Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP) to reduce emissions in the county between the Lake District National Park Partnership's Key Outcome Groups and ZCCP's sector groups. This will help us deliver actions across the Partnership Plan in:

- Developing and agreeing a pipeline of new Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership sector projects for climate action to move towards addressing the gap identified between our current position and net zero;
- Decarbonising transport;
- Reducing the contributions farming and land management make to greenhouse gas emissions in line with the National Farmers Union net zero goal and support farmers and land managers on adaptation of their land.

We hope to be able to re-calculate our carbon budget on an annual basis in order to monitor our progress.

2019 Baseline Emissions

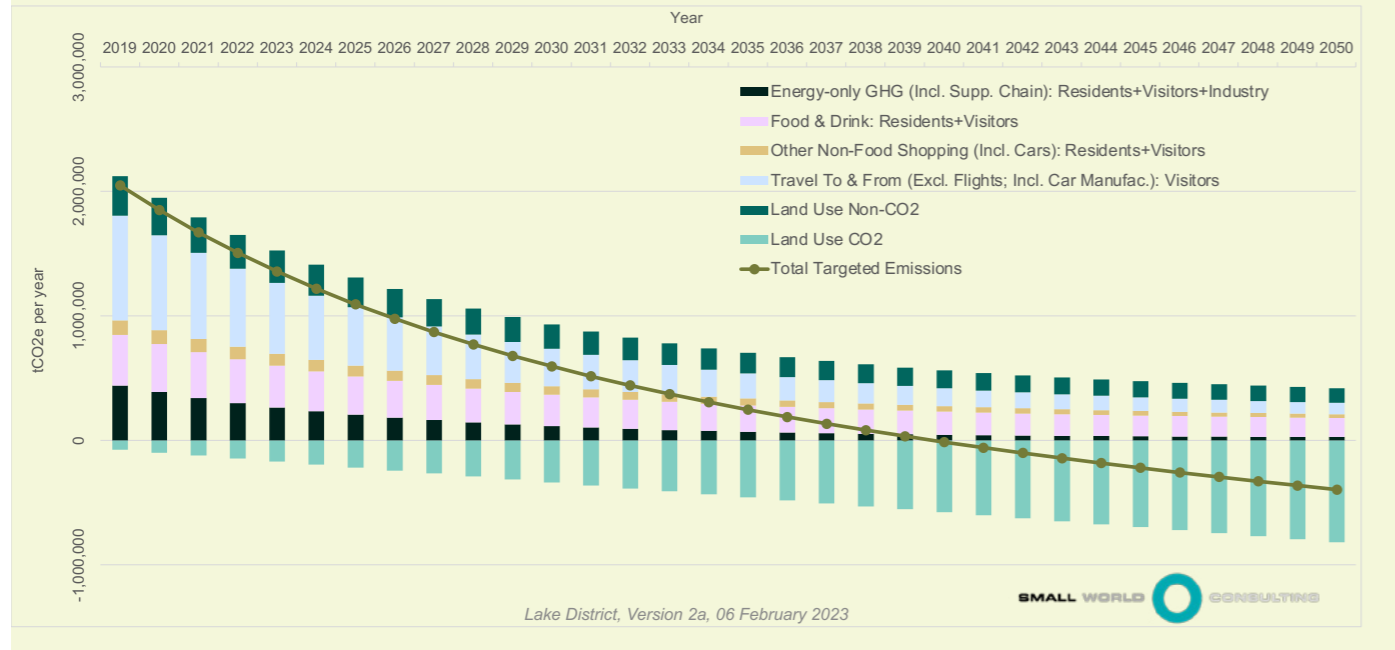
Total = 2,048,661 tCO₂e per year



(‘Land Use CO₂’ represents land use emissions excluding agriculture, soils, livestock and energy use and can include, for instance, sequestration of carbon in peat and woodland)

Source: Small World Consulting

A possible Net Zero pathway



Securing agreement, by all Partners, on significantly reducing carbon emissions

The Partnership has committed to delivering carbon savings by integrating climate action into Partner business plans. Partners (surveyed at the time before the creation of the unitary authorities in April 2023) are at different stages in their planning and progress on emission reductions. More than half are aligned to the ambition for Cumbria to be net zero by 2037. Many have published their own net zero date and transparently report on emissions from their own business activities and those which are related to them outside of their organisation. We will be working together to improve progress in this area across the Partnership in 2023 with the aim of all Partners integrating climate action into business plans by 2024.

Carbon Reduction and Community Energy Support for Local Councils

Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) and Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CafS) are working together to explore ways in which they can help Local Councils (town and parish councils) reduce the carbon footprints of their own operations, their residents and communities.

The two local authorities in Cumbria have acknowledged the seriousness of the climate emergency and have joined the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership whose 85+ members have made a commitment to achieving net zero in Cumbria by 2037.

In March 2023 CALC and CafS created and emailed an online survey to town and parish councils, which focused in particular on carbon reduction and community energy. The results of the survey will be analysed in the hope

that the knowledge gained will enable both organisations to support town and parish councils to reduce the carbon footprints of their own operations, their residents and communities using a targeted approach. The intention is to create a support pack for town and parish councils on the topic, as well as organising and hosting an on-line event in 2023 where people can find out more about relevant support and activities in relation to community and renewable energy.

— Sonia Hutchinson, Cumbria Association of Local Councils

Buttermere and Wasdale Shuttle Buses

Through partnership working with the Cumbria Tactical Visitor Management Group (a group comprising senior representatives from Cumbria Constabulary, Cumbria Tourism, Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, National Trust, Forestry England, Cumbria Fire and Rescue, Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue

Association, Cumberland Council, Westmorland and Furness Council and the Lake District National Park Authority) the Partnership secured funding to run popular shuttle buses to Buttermere and Wasdale in summer 2022. The aim was to reduce the number of cars travelling into and parking in the two valleys by providing sustainable and low-cost public transport alternatives. The fares were kept deliberately low so as to be attractive to visitors.

The shuttle buses helped to support two Key Outcomes in the Partnership Plan: Climate Action (through reducing the amount of carbon emitted from cars in the valleys) and Sustainable Travel and Transport (though encouraging the use of public transport).

The shuttle buses have returned in summer 2023 with the Buttermere shuttle, run by Stagecoach, operating between Cockermouth and Buttermere via Lorton, and the Wasdale Shuttle, provided by Sim's travel of Eskdale (as last year), operating between Ravenglass station and Wasdale Head, with a shuttle bus service between Nether Wasdale and Wasdale Head offering a park and ride facility in the valley.



The Wasdale Shuttle Bus



Preparation for the installation of solar panels at the headquarters of Crosby Grainger Architects (photo c/o Lake District Foundation)

Cumbrian businesses win £1.25m low carbon funding

Ninety-two Cumbrian businesses have received grants totalling £1.25m to reduce their carbon footprint. They have benefited from the Low Carbon Lake District Fund administered by The Lake District Foundation.

Over three years the fund has supported small to medium-sized businesses across the length of the Lake District including village shops, hotels, community-owned pubs, cinemas, breweries and arts venues. They have received funding for everything from electric vehicle charging points, LED lighting, air source heat pumps, solar panels (installation pictured above), and more environmentally friendly appliances. It is estimated that resulting carbon savings of all

these projects amounts to more than 400 metric tons of carbon. Qualifying groups and businesses were awarded up to 60% of project costs, with all projects completed by spring 2023.

Managed by The Lake District Foundation, the Low Carbon Lake District Fund was led by the Lake District National Park Authority; other key Partners included the National Trust, Westmorland and Furness Council (formerly South Lakeland District Council) and Cumbria Tourism. The Fund was supported by the European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF).

– Dickie Felton, Lake District Foundation

Traditional Building Pilot Project

Traditional barns can be found in every settlement and valley in the Lake District; there are thousands of them across the National Park. Some are still used for agriculture, many have been converted to homes or other uses, but a large number have no beneficial use. Nonetheless, their contribution to the historic environment, cultural landscape and natural environment of the Lake District is invaluable. Traditional barns not only demonstrate the agro-pastoral practices for which the Lake District was inscribed as a World Heritage Site, they also provide valuable habitats for owls, bats, birds and other small mammals. They were often built with owl holes incorporated into the gable wall, and the rubble construction and slate roofs provide an ideal habitat for bats and small birds to utilise.

Repairing traditional buildings is an inherently environmental thing to do; the embodied carbon is often lower than most new buildings as the materials used are natural, sustainable and sourced from the local area. Repairing and, where possible, reusing existing buildings will almost always have a lower carbon footprint than putting up a new one. Conserving and repairing these vernacular buildings delivers multiple benefits for people and wildlife, as demonstrated in the barn repair projects completed over the past four years. Between 2019 and 2022, 10 barns were conserved as part of a DEFRA-funded pilot project jointly managed by Historic England and Natural England, with the Lake District National Park Authority leading delivery.

As we think about ways to reduce our carbon footprint the historic environment is often not at the forefront of everyone’s minds, but these traditional buildings can offer us some useful pointers about sustainable living which were being practised centuries ago; source local sustainable materials; reduce transportation as much as possible; repair not replace; repurpose rather than demolish, and make space for wildlife.



Arklid Barn, Nibthwaite, before and after repairs

Summary

Climate action is an acknowledged priority area of the Partnership’s work. It is positive that we now have a newly-calculated carbon budget for the Lake District such that we can understand the very significant challenges the Partnership and other partners face in getting to net zero.

This has identified that the gap between our current position and net zero is greater than previously thought, but we are working from a more accurate baseline. There is therefore more work to be done to get to net zero by 2037 but we remain committed to this trajectory.

All Partner organisations have made a positive commitment to carbon reduction and net zero pathways; and we will work together to ensure that these commitments are in each Partner’s business plan going forward, while also working outside of the Partnership to encourage Lake District residents and visitors to engage with this essential area of our work.



Future of Farming and Forestry, Nature Recovery and Climate Change

| Young farmer with lamb

Future of Farming and Forestry, Nature Recovery and Climate Change

What is it?

The Lake District National Park faces the biggest change in half a century with the implementation of the Agriculture Act 2020 and the government's ambitions as set out in its 25 Year Environment Plan. Our farming traditions, our natural environment and our climate are in crisis. Recovering from these crises drives the priorities and objectives for our Plan.

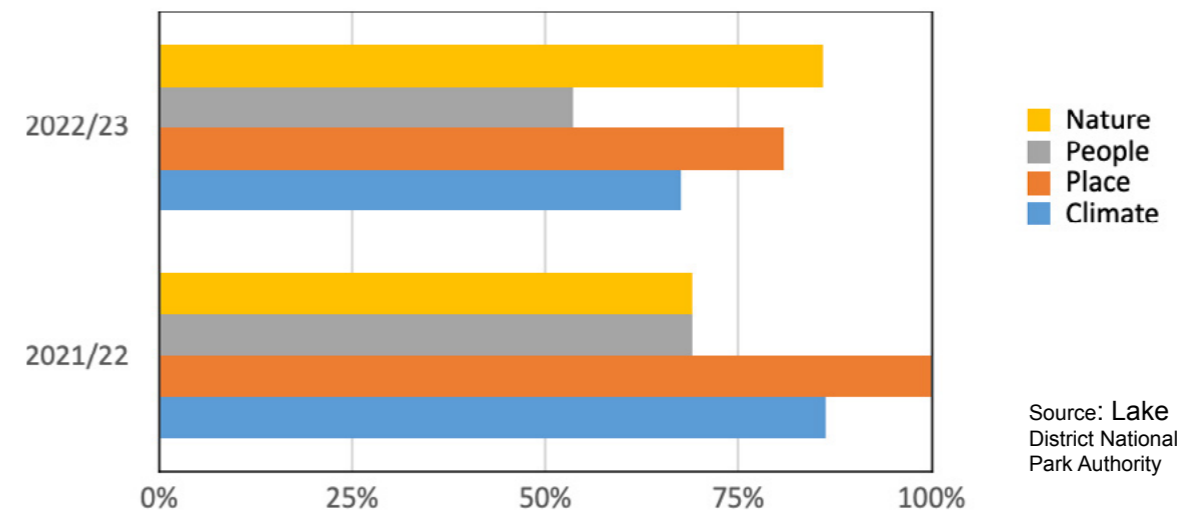
What we are trying to achieve is set out in the Partnership Plan here:

[Securing the future of farming and forestry, nature recovery and climate change](#)

Farming in Protected Landscapes

Farmers in the Lake District National Park can benefit from the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme (FiPL), part of DEFRA's Agricultural Transition Plan, with grants available that contribute to one of four themes: Nature, People, Place and Climate.

Percentage of FiPL Projects Addressing Each Theme



Source: Lake District National Park Authority

In Year 1 there was an emphasis on PLACE and CLIMATE projects being submitted and supported. In our second year, NATURE and PLACE became the dominant themes for projects. Many projects in both years addressed all four themes together demonstrating how interconnected our nature and culture are to help address climate change and biodiversity loss. So far, FiPL has spent over £1.5m on projects in the Lake District. There has been a rapid increase in farmers benefiting from the

project over the last two years with over 220 in total across 105 projects; this includes targeting individual farm businesses and farmer clusters, as well as large-scale valley and fell activities. Grants have ranged in size from £5,000 to over £350,000 depending on complexity, geographical area and value for money. We are now in Year 3 and look forward to supporting another year of innovation and ideas by our farming community in 2024-25 (Year 4).



Photo: Herdwicks at Tilberthwaite, c/o John Hodgson

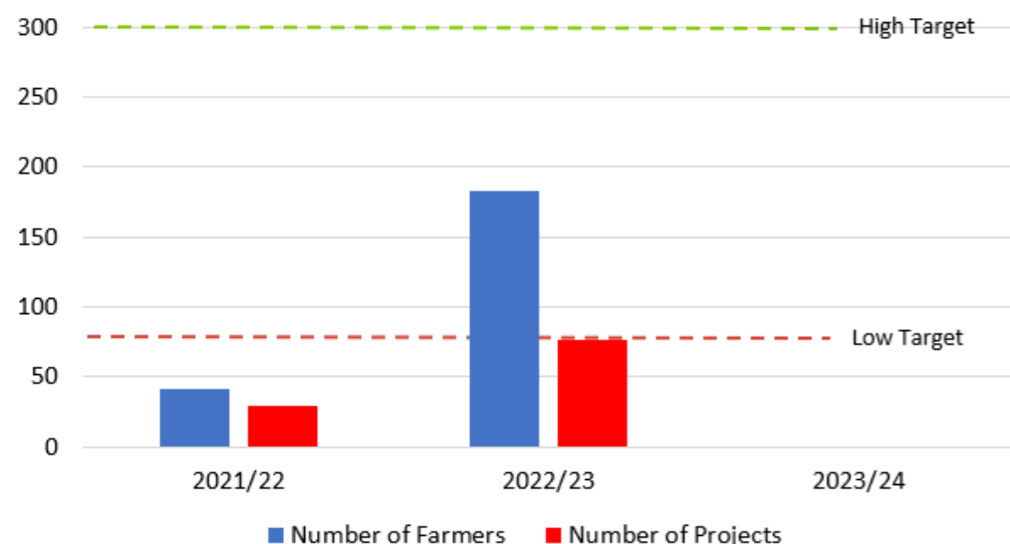
Traditional Farm Buildings

As part of the FiPL funding programme, the Lake District National Park Authority has received a large number of enquiries from farmers and landowners for support with traditional building repairs. The LDNPA has worked with owners to fund roof repairs on two barns and a replacement timber floor in a traditional bank barn. The Authority has also secured funding from FiPL to commission feasibility reports for a further 25 barns where the scale of works needed is more complex, and condition, structural and wildlife surveys are needed. The LDNPA now has estimated costs for the repair of these 25 sites and is working to allocate capital funds for the highest priority sites.



Medieval 'barn' at Garth Row, Underbarrow

Number of Farmers and Projects Benefiting from the Farming in Protected Landscape Programme



Our targets are for the number of farms in the National Park funded through a FiPL scheme.

Source: Lake District National Park Authority



Borrowdale gather (photo c/o Viv Lewis)

Revising the Shepherds' Guide is a Partnership Plan action, to establish a baseline and description of fell going flocks to understand and support the viability of hefted flocks; also supporting the broader ambition of maintaining, celebrating and strengthening traditional Lake District farming systems which is a key ingredient of World Heritage Site status.

20 years. The current project, managed by the Federation of Cumbria Commoners, will result in a new publication in 2025.

Alongside the hardback book, for the first time the Shepherds' Guide will be available in digital format on a new website, with search and update facilities. This is being developed with our Kendal-based web designers A Digital. In this way we can keep the Shepherds' Guide 'live' through recording changes over the next twenty years.

Fell and Farm, Flock and Family: Exploring the past to shape the future of farming with the updated Lakeland Shepherds' Guide.

Over the last two centuries hill farming in the Lake District has undergone many changes. Flock numbers have risen and fallen, and land management has adapted to social, economic, environmental and political pressures. Yet despite these changes, some elements of the farming cultural landscape have endured including the Shepherds' Guide.

We will also conduct further evidence-gathering with farmers to explore the ways in which they think that fell farming has changed over the past 45 years.

As is traditional, the information on fell-going flocks in the 13 valleys is collected by Lakeland farmers. In November 2022, we invited fell farmers to get involved and over 60 came to a meeting at Mitchells Auction Mart, Cockermouth. We recruited the 35 Area Collectors needed: many were the same as 20 years ago, while some passed the job down to their sons and daughters, and some new faces emerged. Area Collectors are now gathering information from those who had an entry in the 2005 guide.

It was first published in 1817 by J Walker, a shepherd from Martindale, and is updated every

– Viv Lewis, Federation of Cumbria Commoners



The upper Duddon valley (photo c/o John Hodgson)

The DEFRA-funded Environmental Land Management (ELM) pilots for landscape recovery aim to support farmers, landowners, and land managers to take a large-scale, long-term approach to recovering nature and producing environmental and climate goods and services on their land. Landscape-scale recovery is an important element of the Partnership Plan, with the Partnership committed to supporting these pilot projects and influencing ELM policy. We are also interested to explore how such schemes can support nature recovery in a cultural landscape.

Upper Duddon Landscape Recovery project

The Upper Duddon Landscape Recovery project brings farmers, landowners and environmental organisations together to achieve nature recovery over 2,750 hectares of the upper Duddon Valley in the southwest of the Lake District National Park. This multi-partner project (including tenant farmers, private landowners, National Trust, Forestry England, South Cumbria Rivers Trust, Natural England, University of Leeds, and University of Cumbria) builds on existing environmental projects in the upper Duddon Valley. Local farmers will continue to work towards sustainable and environmentally friendly land management, with support from the National Trust and Natural England.

The project aims to restore a rich mosaic of native woodland, wood pasture, montane scrub, heath, bog and meadows. These habitats will allow rare native species like red squirrels to thrive. The project is being designed with local

farmers, so that land management supports both farming and nature. It is hoped the project will help upland fell farms have a more sustainable and resilient future. Restoring nature will also provide new local job opportunities.

The two-year DEFRA-funded development phase is in progress to scope out ways to farm and manage the land to help nature thrive and recover. At the end of this phase, local farmers involved in the partnership will have the option to enter a long-term agreement to implement the changes on their land that they have helped design. Habitats and species in the valley are being surveyed to inform where and how to restore or create new habitats. The feasibility and suitability of the valley for reintroducing species, like the water vole, is also being explored.

– Dominick Spracklen, University of Leeds and project lead for the Upper Duddon Landscape Recovery pilot

The Partnership works with individual farms, farm clusters and community farming initiatives to increase understanding of options for nature and climate recovery, identifying and co-creating farming-led local schemes.

West Lakes Community Interest Company



The West Lakeland Farmer-Led Nature Recovery CIC is a not-for-profit, community interest company. It was formed in 2021 by local farmers and is based in the western valleys of the Lake District National Park, encompassing an area of approximately 25,000 acres (100,000km² or 40 square miles). The area includes the upland commons of Nether Wasdale, Stockdale Moor and Kinniside, the freehold fells of upper Wasdale and upper Ennerdale and the farmland of the lower valleys.

The CIC has been set up to be led from the grassroots by those involved in the stewardship of the area. It aims to resolve complex issues faced by the farmers, by the local communities and by the natural environment. The Directors and others involved in the planned projects will do this by engaging with local individuals, agencies, businesses, groups and Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) to reinforce the fabric of local communities and the farming landscape.

The emphasis is on a farmer-led nature recovery partnership that recognises the individuality and idiosyncrasies of each valley and works with the community to maintain the uniqueness, character and beauty of each place. It is recognition that the local knowledge, pragmatism, care and dedication of farmers and local communities will create the sustainable and bio-diverse future to the benefit of all.

Local knowledge and experience of traditional pastoral farming practices on the western commons of Kinniside, Stockdale and Nether Wasdale joining the two iconic lakes of Wastwater and Ennerdale is to be collected and collated to create a plan for positive change. A landscape-scale scheme is proposed to support local farming, the local communities and to continue nature-positive farming practices, maintain animal welfare standards and produce high quality foods for UK markets and abroad.

– West Lakeland CIC

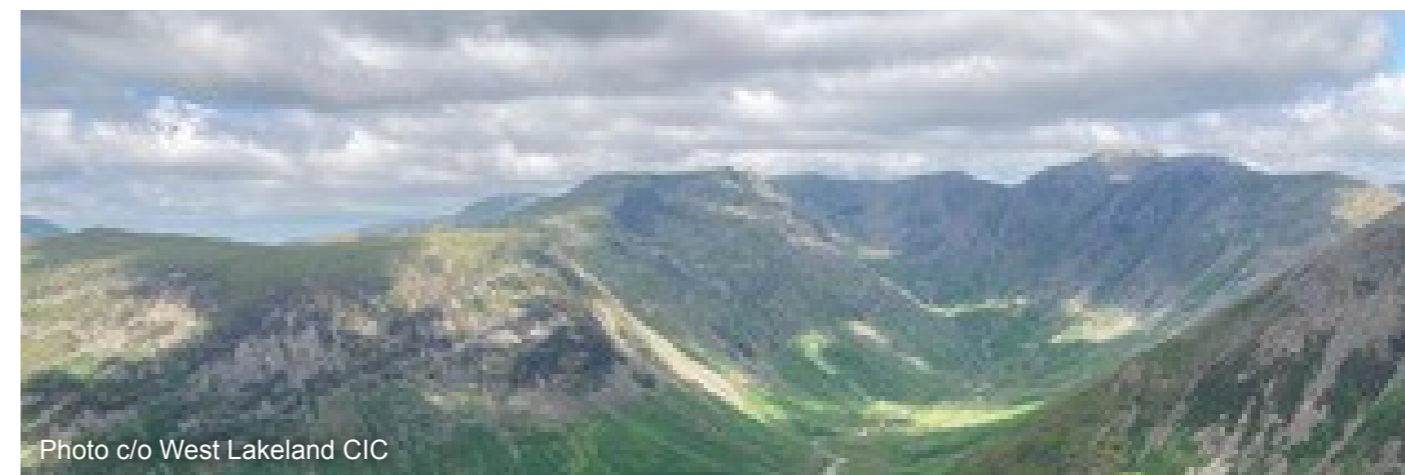
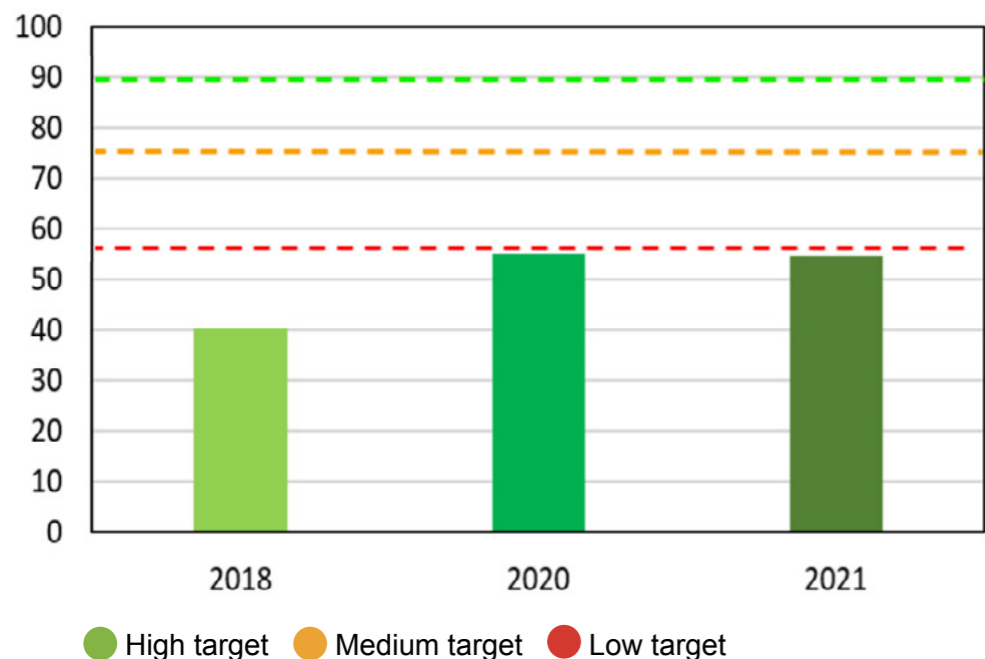


Photo c/o West Lakeland CIC

Percentage of Land under Agri-Environment Agreements



The overall trend in the area of land dedicated to Agri-Environment schemes has increased, taking into account the expansion of the National Park boundary, with a small decrease in area in 2021. This means that we have not yet met our low target of maintaining the percentage of land in these schemes at 2020 levels. Many agreements are time extensions to existing ones given the pending roll out of the new Environmental Land Management Scheme.

Source: Natural England



Tree planting at Moorside Farm (photo c/o: Caitlin Pearson)

In partnership with Natural England and the Forestry Commission, and engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, the Lake District National Park Authority has developed and published Woodland Creation and Tree Establishment Guidelines to promote woodland creation and support good decision making.

The intention is to get more of the right trees in the right places for the right reasons in the National Park landscape and reach the Partnership’s ambition of 17% woodland cover by 2050. The guidelines highlight the main issues to consider in this special place and provide further sources of advice; see [Woodland creation](#).

The Partnership aims to reduce the contributions that farming and land management make to greenhouse gas emissions, supporting farmers and land managers on adaption to deliver schemes to reduce their risk from climate change.

to the village of Bootle downstream whilst providing a range of other benefits.

The work included creating two storage ponds, restoring a floodplain meadow and installing a series of ‘leaky dams’ to slow the flow. Several watercourses were fenced off from livestock and riverside trees planted. As well as reducing runoff, this will create shade over the streams, keeping water cool for wildlife in high summer temperatures.

Most recently, the farm has received an England Woodland Creation Offer grant from the Forestry Commission for planting 1.5ha of native woodland. The incentive payment and ongoing maintenance payments, in addition to the capital grant, have provided a source of income from a bracken-dominated field that was not suitable for grazing due to the high tick load. Collectively, these projects will help also the farm become carbon neutral.

– Caitlin Pearson, Catchment Officer, West Cumbria Rivers Trust

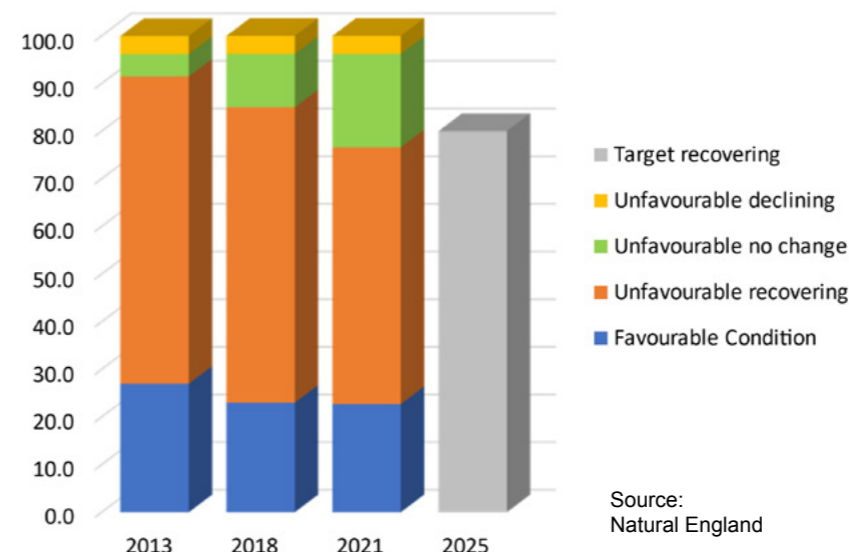
The Nature Recovery Plan sets out the Partnership’s aim to restore nature in the National Park, by improving its functioning and resilience to future climate change and providing a wonderful green destination, whilst at the same time supporting the local economy. It describes how the Partnership will contribute to restoring nature on 30% of land by 2030. The plan will be published later in 2023.

Farm Climate Adaptation

Moorside Farm in Corney, West Cumbria combines sheep and beef farming, horse stables and luxury glamping pods. Increasingly environmental works are in the mix, bringing benefits to the farm business as well as enhancing wildlife, improving water quality and providing climate resilience.

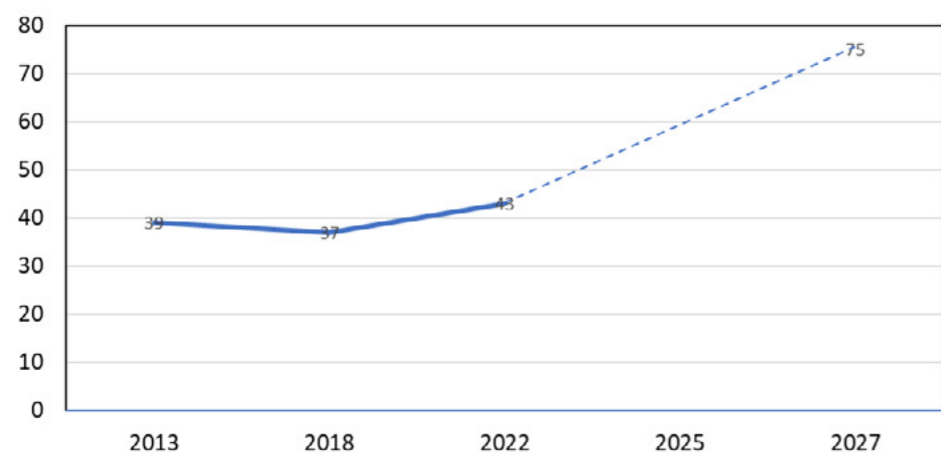
Working with West Cumbria Rivers Trust, Moorside Farm has undertaken a series of environmental improvements over the last three years, funded by the Environment Agency’s Natural Flood Management pilot. This project aimed to help reduce flood risk

SSSI Condition 2013 to 2025



In 2021, 22.7% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSIs) were in favourable condition compared to 27.0% in 2014. Whilst there has been a decline, there has been an increase in those sites which remain stable but still in unfavourable condition.

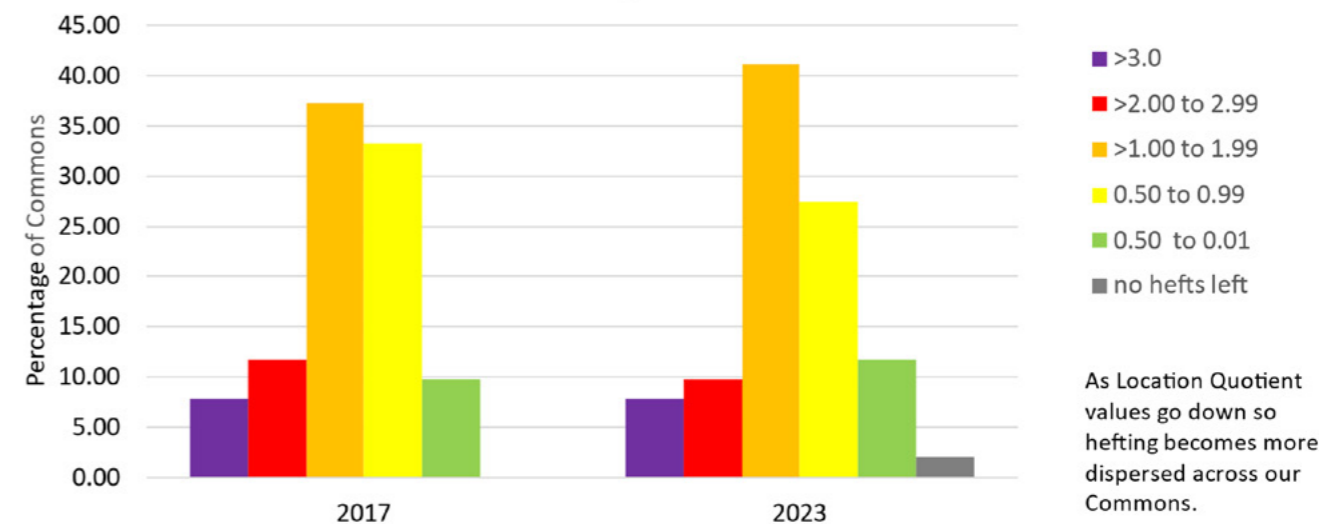
WaterBodies Assessed as having Good Ecological Status



Continuing the classification of water bodies using the EU Water Framework Directive, the Lake District has seen an improvement of those with GOOD ecological status since 2018. Our target is 75% by 2027 into the next plan cycle.

Source: Environment Agency

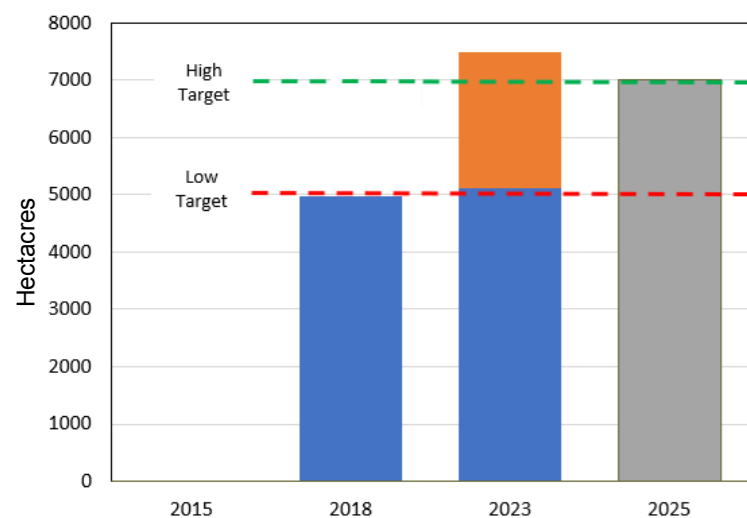
Concentration of Hefting on Commons in the Lake District



Source: World Heritage Site Technical Advisory Group

The overall situation is that between 2017 and 2023 the Lake District has lost 27 hefts (roughly equivalent to 9%). Hefting is becoming more concentrated onto fewer commons, with fewer hefts per common. One common has been lost completely due to a change in landlord policy.

Peatland Restoration



■ Peatland Restoration Target 2025
 ■ Peatland surveyed with restoration plans
 ■ Cumulative area of peatland restored

Between 2015 and 2018 several thousand hectares of peatland were restored. While restoration has since slowed, good progress has been made on restoration planning, laying the groundwork for reaching our target of 7,000ha restored by 2025.

Source: Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Planned Peatland Restoration Projects

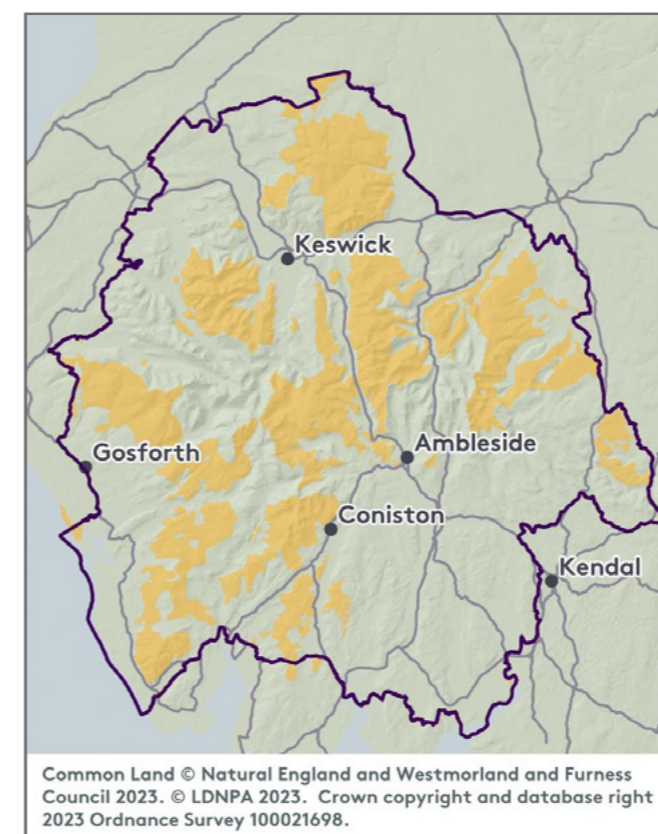


- Roundthwaite Common
- Bretherdale Common
- Bretherdale Banks Common
- Birkbeck Fells Common
- Eskdale Common
- Grasmere Common
- Branstree
- Matterdale Common
- Watermillock Common
- Westhead Farm

The total area of peatland restored last year was 154.5ha and this equates to a saving of 15,586 tonnes CO2 equivalent over the next 50 years (Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme calculator), the equivalent of the emissions from nearly 8,000 petrol cars.

Source: Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Registered Common Land in the Lake District National Park 2023



2018

66,252ha

of common land

2023

66,218.65ha

of common land

Since 2018 34.39ha of common land has been removed from the Register. This is represented by small parcels of land spread across 17 commons (which may include land that was incorrectly registered). 1.04ha of land at Eskdale Common has been added.

Source: Commons Registration Service, Westmorland and Furness Council.

The Partnership is committed to supporting the delivery of four community-led land management initiatives to increase nature recovery, climate recovery and maintain cultural heritage.

Ullswater Catchment Management Community Interest Company

Ullswater Catchment Management Community Interest Company (CIC) is run by Danny and Maddy Teasdale. The company was set up by Danny following the devastating floods of Storm Desmond in 2015. These were particularly damaging to their home village of Glenridding and other communities around Ullswater. Projects were initially small scale and local but they now work throughout the whole of the Ullswater and adjacent catchments, and have delivered work throughout Cumbria. They work with farmers and landowners to improve flood resilience and the natural environment through practical projects and solutions, showing how farming and nature can exist and flourish together. They believe that by improving soil and habitat management, farming can be part of the solution to nature recovery, carbon sequestration, and flood resilience, whilst also producing sustainable healthy food.

Their projects are varied but include river restorations, wetland and pond creation, hedgerow creation and restoration, wood pasture creation, and wildflower planting. So far they have planted over 10km of hedgerows and built 300 tree cages.

Many of the projects are compatible with the Environmental Land Management schemes (ELM) that are available to farmers and landowners. Projects are proposed and led by the farmers and landowners, and the work is completed by either themselves or local contractors. They use supplies from local businesses where possible, to help support the local economy. They also host a cluster group of farmers and landowners in the area, and organise information and knowledge sharing talks and farm visits for the group to attend.

Ullswater Catchment CIC now has a proven track record of delivering projects, and has developed excellent working partnerships with the Environment Agency, the Woodland Trust, the National Trust, Lake District National Park Authority and Natural England. They are also supported in their work by the Farmer Network and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

– Maddy Teasdale, Ullswater Catchment Management CIC



Tree cages being built in Gowbarrow Park, Ullswater, by one of the CIC's local contractors. Photo c/o Maddy Teasdale.



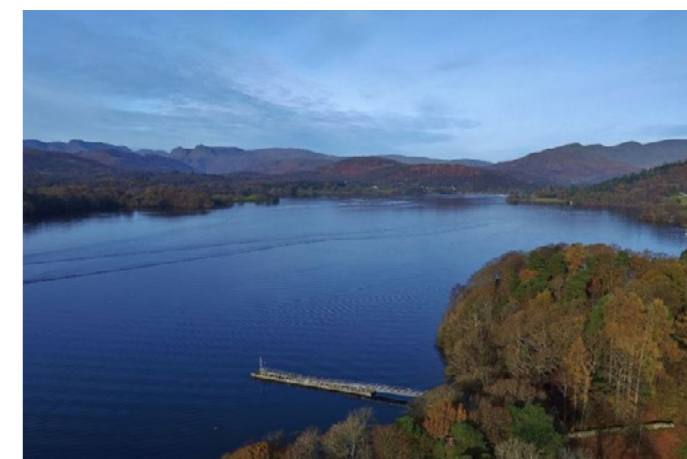
Love Windermere

The Love Windermere Partnership is a collaboration of ten partners and a range of stakeholders. Chaired by the Environment Agency, the partnership is working towards a long-term Vision which aims to ensure the Lake Windermere and its catchment is healthy, more resilient to climate change and nutrient levels are reduced; where the community are its custodians and contribute to a healthy lake and local economy.

In order to achieve the Vision a partnership approach has been embraced to facilitate positive collaborative action with stakeholders that have influence over the water environment. Key drivers for the partnership include understanding the human and climatic pressures on water and how collectively partners can collaborate on themes including: the Public Sewage Network, Non-Mains Drainage; Land Management; Sustainable Finance; Data; Science and Evidence, and Communication & Engagement. The partnership is aiming to demonstrate within Cumbria and nationally how the health of the natural capital of the lake and surrounding catchment affects the quality of the ecosystem services it provides (e.g. water quality, flood management, biodiversity, climate resilience, recreation, social and economic services.)

Early work includes:

- Delivering four Windermere citizen science water quality surveys with 100 sample areas and hundreds of hours of volunteer time to allow local communities to be part of the planning of future interventions.
- Sharing science, projects, key messages and providing opportunities to get involved through the creation of the [Love Windermere](#) website.
- Delivering a septic tank campaign with partners, encouraging best practice and supporting this through community emptying scheme grants.
- Developing an action plan.



Lake Windermere

Summary

The Future of Farming and Forestry, Nature Recovery and Climate Change Key Outcome is one of the most ambitious in the Partnership Plan and includes a large number of actions which by their very nature are not going to be quick fixes. Nature and landscape-scale recovery, farm adaptation and resilience projects, for instance, will inevitably continue beyond the life of the current Plan.

Finding the resources (both people's time and money) to deliver some of the projects in this area is challenging. However, the Partnership is currently exploring opportunities to support nature recovery through private finance. Continuing uncertainty from the government as to its intentions for a new raft of agri-environmental schemes for farmers and land managers is also inhibiting our delivery, as well as creating considerable uncertainty for those responsible for looking after the Lake District's living-working landscape.

There are some significant achievements however, with work on the Shepherds' Guide and our Lake District Nature Recovery Plan well advanced. We are working with a wide range of stakeholders to share intelligence and build collaborative projects in other areas. Our Farming in Protected Landscapes programme has been so successful that we have been the recipient of additional funding from government to fund more projects. Examples of some of this work can also be found in the World Heritage Site section of this report.



A Lake District for Everyone

| Walkers on the newly-opened West Windermere Way

A Lake District for Everyone

What is it?

National Parks contain the most beautiful, spectacular and dramatic areas of countryside in England. The government's 2019 Landscapes Review: National Parks and AONBs (known as the Glover Review) rightly highlights that these places are national assets supported in part through state funding and therefore are available for everyone to enjoy and support the nation's health and wellbeing. However, Glover highlighted that visitors are not always representative of the full spectrum of British society.

As part of Covid-19 recovery, the time is right to begin addressing the disconnect of some groups, and help the nation's recovery from the global pandemic by supporting people's health and wellbeing through access to the outdoors.

What we are trying to achieve is set out in the Partnership Plan here: [A Lake District for everyone](#)

Celebrating the 50th accessible 'Miles without Stiles' route

Bowness and Windermere celebrated the opening of the Lake District National Park Authority's 50th accessible 'Miles without Stiles' route to the top of Alfred Wainwright's first fell: the Lake District National Park Authority has created an easier access path to the summit of Orrest Head, which can now be used by people with limited mobility, including people with powered-wheelchairs and families with prams and pushchairs.

Pam Black, the local resident who performed the opening ceremony, said:

'It's great to be able to get up to the summit on my electric scooter. I was really quite emotional at being able to reach the viewpoint for the first time in years. It was an amazing feeling and I now use the route regularly.'

Further updates on other accessible routes can be found in the Sustainable Travel and Transport section of this report.

Cumbria Accessible Partnership

As part of Cumbria Tourism's ambition to position Cumbria as the most accessible destination in the North West, representatives from the Partnership, including the Lake District National Park Authority, the National Trust and Forestry England are working together to improve information, upgrade infrastructure and take part in business training to help make the county more accessible.

A conference was held earlier this year to discuss creating a long-term programme and identify training needs. As a result, the group are part of a consultation with Visit Britain to develop a new toolkit for tourism businesses and destinations across the country.



Accessible Cumbria Conference 2023



Pam Black and friend, at the Orrest Head summit, overlooking Lake Windermere.



Generation Green

The Lake District National Park Authority and The Ernest Cook Trust created a new partnership in response to the Government’s £40 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund. As well as restoring priority habitats, the project – which was awarded funding in August 2021 - developed an engagement programme for young people from urban backgrounds to connect with nature. It provided training to upskill young people in habitat restoration/ conservation skills to help with accreditation for jobs in the environmental sector. The project worked directly with 3,000 young people (under 26 years) over a 15-month period.



The 2022 Visitor survey also highlights that visitors are engaged in different kinds of activities to previously, for example, watersports, paddleboarding and kayaking have seen significant increases between 2018 and 2022. This could be at least partly attributed to the change in visitors coming to the Lake District.

Changing visitor demographics

The latest Cumbria Visitor Survey results highlight increased numbers of younger people and a more diverse audience visiting.

In 2018 52% of visitors to Cumbria were under 50, by 2022 there had been an increase to 74% who were under 50. In 2018 2% of visitors in the Lake District responded that they or someone in their party considered themselves to be a member of an ethnic minority community, whereas in 2022 this figure had increased to 16% for Cumbria and 22% in the Lake District.

Partner organisation survey and Journeys Project

In 2022 a questionnaire was sent to all Partners and Key Outcome Group members to establish a baseline of understanding of relevant Lake District for Everyone activity, policy and Partner demographics. The survey found that there is successful and meaningful engagement and educational work taking place by a variety of Partners and organisations in the Lake District.

However, work undertaken by individual organisations is not coordinated with other delivery organisations and, particularly from a

Partnership perspective, this excellent work is not celebrated.

The survey found that Partners and other relevant organisations who deliver Lake District for Everyone activities are less active beyond the Lake District National Park boundary. This is now an area of collective focus.

To make sure we sustain the demographic shift in our visitor population and to ensure that all sectors of society who visit the Lake District have a welcoming and beneficial experience, the Partnership has identified three audiences to focus on: disabled people; people from black, brown and racially minoritised groups, and

deprived/underserved communities from within Cumbria. The aim of our Journeys project is to establish the barriers the individuals face in accessing the Lake District, also potential gaps in service provision, to help identify how the Partnership can best design engagement and outreach work beyond the national park boundary. The first phase of the project is to plan a journey into the Lake District with three individuals from each of our key audiences.



Summary

We have brought together a range of stakeholders who have not previously worked together to identify synergies, share resources, and collaborate on new ideas. This has led to a greater understanding of the substantial amount of activity already been delivered and has allowed the Partnership to identify audiences and projects that will deliver the most change going forward.

However, this is a topic with huge scope and resources to deliver are challenging so the Partnership must therefore focus on activity where it can achieve most impact.

We are currently exploring funding opportunities for our Journeys Project in order to drive this important area of work forward as it will inform how we can make the National Park more accessible.



Sustainable Travel and Transport

A family of cyclists on the Keswick to Threlkeld trail

Sustainable Travel and Transport

What is it?

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the vast majority of visitors arrived in the Lake District by private motor vehicle; this has increased further since 'lockdown' restrictions have eased. The challenge for the Lake District is to be a place where everyone, regardless of wealth or ability, is able to access the National Park sustainably via different modes of transport. Low carbon travel needs to be the obvious and most attractive choice for essential and leisure travel. The nation's mental and physical health-benefits from active travel in an inspirational landscape need to be secured.

What we are trying to achieve is set out in the Partnership Plan here: [Sustainable travel and transport](#)

Accessible Routes

The Lake District National Park manages a network of 50 accessible routes known as Miles without Stiles which are very popular with a range of visitors, including families with pushchairs or small children, disabled people and visitors or residents who need or prefer an easy-to-follow scenic route with a good surface.

Since the Partnership Plan was written this network has been improved by:

- Reopening the Keswick to Threlkeld Trail
- New routes at Dunmellard (Pooley Bridge) and Orrest Head (Windermere; see the Lake District for Everyone section of this report)

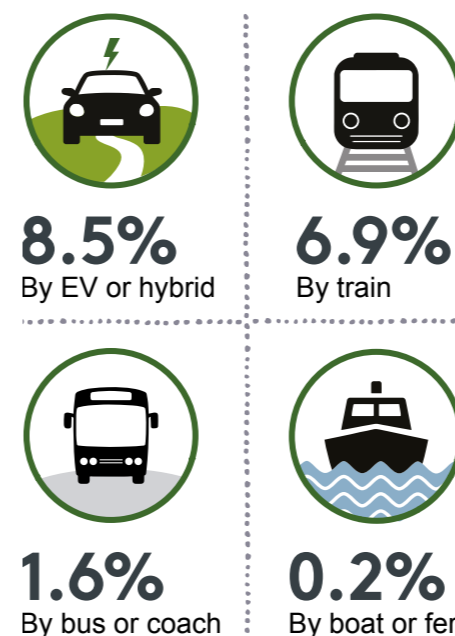
In 2023-23 the Lake District National Park Authority supported the National Trust to develop new accessible routes at Sizergh and Grasmere, funded through the government's Access to all Fund. The first part of the West Windermere Way also opened in Spring 2023 with the remainder due to open in the summer. Forestry England has also just opened a new accessible trail, the WOW trail, in Whinlatter forest.

Keswick to Threlkeld Trail

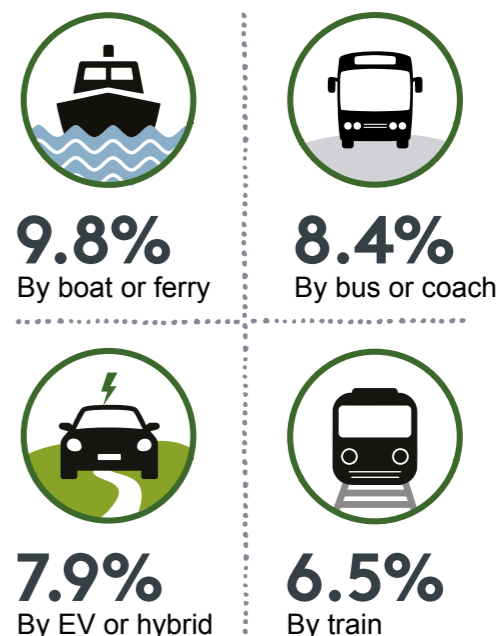
Following major damage in Storm Desmond in 2015, this popular 5km route was rebuilt in an £8 million project led by the Lake District National Park Authority and supported by Highways England, Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership and funded through the European Social Investment Fund and the Lake District Foundation's visitor-giving programme. The work involved excavating a tunnel and rebuilding or refurbishing bridges, resurfacing the whole route, re-grading a substantial section to improve accessibility and creating seating and interpretation.

The trail reopened in December 2020 and proved immediately popular with both residents and visitors. It has been particularly welcomed by disabled people and families with pushchairs. In its first year alone (the 2021 calendar year) 265,000 people used it, who also spent £15 million in the local economy, benefiting local businesses. This is in comparison to 110,000 users before 2015. Figures continue to be high in 2022. The total distance travelled on the trail by bike, on foot and by wheelchair since opening is estimated as 2.8 million km (1.8 million miles) resulting in significant carbon savings.

Sustainable travel to Cumbria and the Lake District



Sustainable travel around Cumbria and the Lake District



Source: Cumbria Tourism Visitor Survey 2022

Electric Vehicle (EV) charging

Moving towards lower carbon electric vehicles is one way in which we can reduce the carbon emissions from visitor and resident travel. However, in order to use them the related infrastructure must be available to allow people to charge their vehicles.

The Cumbria EV Charging Partnership of public and private sector representatives has been awarded £1.3 million of government funding to develop a range of charging solutions both on and off street.

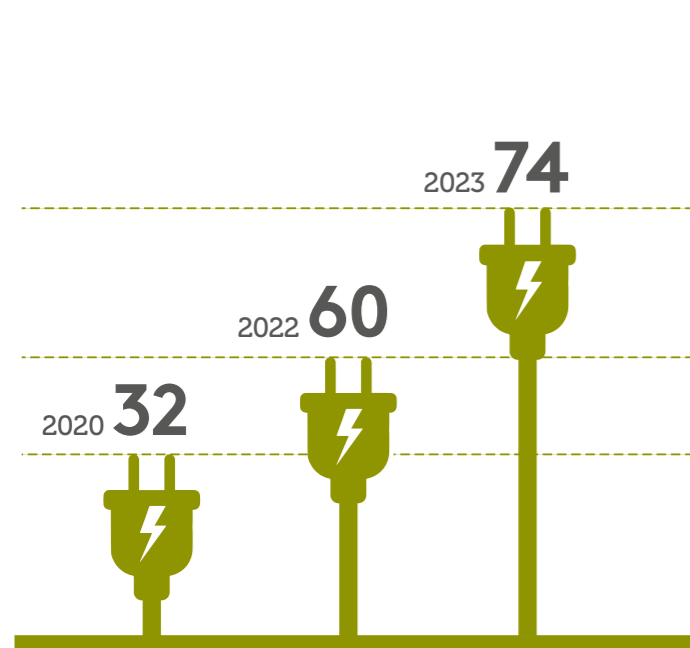
Since the launch of the Partnership Plan the number of EV charging locations has increased from 32 to 74 with many more in the pipeline, including chargers in Hawkshead, Ambleside and Ravenglass installed by the Lake District National Park Authority as part of a programme in partnership with BMW and Podpoint. Support for community chargers has been offered from the Low Carbon Lake District Programme, which also supported a successful business engagement event in Keswick.

We are on course to hit our ambitious target of 108 EV chargers by 2025, there is still some work to do regarding geographical distribution especially in the west, north and east areas of the Lake District.

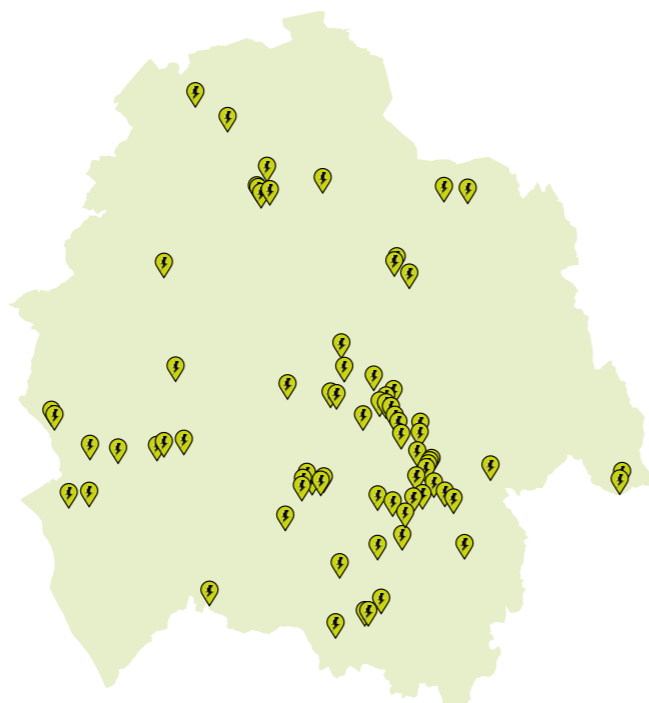


BMW EV charging in the Lake District (photo c/o Tom Kahler)

Electric Vehicle Charging Points in the Lake District

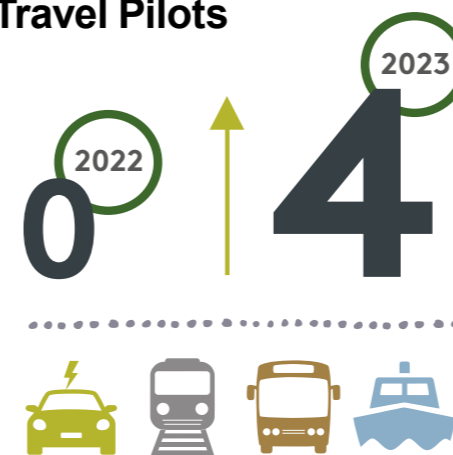


Source: Zap-map.com



The Partnership is keen to develop a network of e-bike charging points. Most e-bike users find that their batteries last for as long as they need them without needing to recharge but welcome a safety-net of locations that offer charging facilities 'just in case'. Cumbria Tourism and the Lake District National Park Authority are therefore working together to collate information on businesses that will offer this.

Community Sustainable Travel Pilots



Source: Lake District National Park Authority

The Partnership aims to work in collaboration to secure the decarbonisation of transport, including supporting carbon reduction technology on buses, trains and water transport. New Euro6 low emission buses were launched in April 2023 on the 555 bus route which runs between Keswick and Lancaster through the Lake District. Two other potential projects are in development.

Currently only one train per hour can run on the Lakes Line. A business case for railway capacity improvement has therefore been developed by Cumbria County Council with consultants Mott McDonald and has been submitted to the Department for Transport with letters of support from the Partnership. An outline business case for improvements to the Cumbria Coast Line railway has also been submitted. We await a decision on both of these.

The Partnership is also committed to station accessibility improvements on all lines, and in particular at Ulverston and Staveley. Schemes have been submitted for Ulverston, Oxenholme, Millom and Workington through Network Rail's Access For All Fund. A bid has also been prepared by Community Rail Cumbria and is supported by Partners.



Electric vehicle charging station powered by solar panels at Brockhole on Windermere

Summary

This area of the Partnership's work has seen good progress in the 2022-23 financial year. Electric Vehicle charging points are increasing in number. Shuttle buses, providing summer access to some of the more congested valleys, operated in 2022 and return this summer. More 'Miles without Stiles' have opened.

Progress with initiatives relating to rail travel, have been slow, partly because of the difficulties faced by this industry at present

(including rail strikes), but also as we await the outcome of business cases and funding bids, which are critical to improving rail services and accessibility.

Residents, businesses and visitors are currently being surveyed to seek their views on transport provision including sustainable transport options. We await the results with interest which will help to steer the Partnership's work in this area going forward and into the next Partnership Plan.



Vibrant Communities and a Prosperous Economy following Covid-19

| Student Housing at the University of Cumbria's Ambleside campus.

Vibrant Communities and a Prosperous Economy following Covid-19

What is it?

As well as building on a strong visitor economy, we need to enable a diverse range of employment opportunities, capitalising on Cumbria's attractiveness as a place to live and work. Our communities are ageing and this will present pressure on rural services and the sustainability of our settlements. Across Cumbria there is an urgent need to attract and retain young people to visit, live and work, but in some communities in the Lake District over half the housing stock is being used as second or holiday homes meaning many young people and working families cannot afford to buy open market homes.

What we are trying to achieve is set out in the Partnership Plan here: [Vibrant communities and prosperous economy following Covid-19](#)



Windermere Gateway

The Partnership is working to establish a transformational new gateway for Windermere which sustainably connects to the onward travel network and significantly contributes to the vibrancy of the town by delivering affordable and local needs housing, employment opportunities, and improved sustainable travel opportunities for residents and visitors. The Windermere Gateway project continues to make progress, following the adoption of the Windermere Gateway Transport Infrastructure Delivery Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in 2021 and recruiting of a dedicated Project Manager resource in 2022.

The Windermere Gateway Programme, split into five distinct workstreams (see figure above) seeks to deliver a number of outcomes to achieve the Windermere Gateway Vision including; highways improvements and access infrastructure along the A591; provision of new affordable and local needs homes; and an employment hub on the Orrest Head farm site, as well as station improvements and transport interchange proposals around the railway. Progress has been picking up pace, including:

- The award of £45,000 from the UK Government, through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund administered by Westmorland and Furness Council, which has facilitated progress on the Windermere Station improvements

feasibility studies, to improve sustainable transport and future-proofing of the station interchange.

- Discussions with Homes England, who are seeking funding support for the project, to bring forward enabling infrastructure for the Orrest Head allocated site.
- Working with developers Urban Splash on proposals for the main housing and employment site but also the highways and access infrastructure into the development and off the A591. Urban Splash, and their consultants, are looking to deliver junction and highways improvements which meet Manual for Streets standards, appropriate to this rural setting, within a World Heritage Site and National Park.
- Working closely with partners and stakeholders to ensure that all works meet the overall ambition of the Vision.

The next few months are going to be busy for the team working across all workstreams of the project. A hybrid planning application will be brought forward for Windermere Gateway; this application will include housing and employment uses as part of a single masterplan.

There is lots to look forward to and we are excited to make further progress in 2023.

– Abi Patel, Strategy Planner, Windermere Gateway Project

Tourism in the Lake District

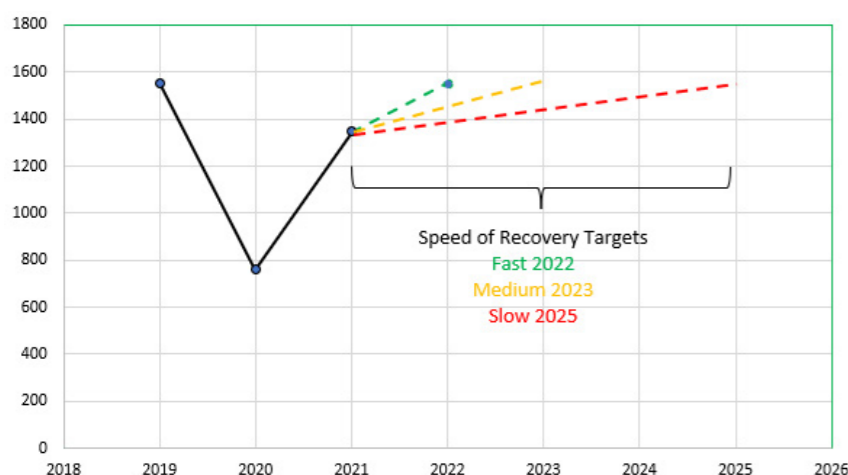
The Cumbria Tourism Survey has been asking visitors since 2012 the question ‘based on what you have seen and done during your visit to Cumbria and the Lake District, how would you rate your overall experience of visiting? Satisfaction levels are high, with no negative comments received in 2021, and 96% rating their satisfaction as either good or very good.

This was the same percentage as in 2018 when the last survey was undertaken. Last year’s survey also noted that those visiting South Lakeland, or staying visitors, were more likely to give the ‘very good’ rating.

While these results only represent a snapshot from the visiting public it is pleasing once again that satisfaction rates remain high.

Covid-19 affected the Lake District negatively, almost halving the economic value of tourism. Since this time, there has been a renewed resurgence in visitors coming back. Early signs indicate we will return to pre-Covid levels of the value of tourism by the end of 2023, which will be an amazing achievement by everyone involved.

Economic Value of Tourism (£m)



Source: Cumbria Tourism STEAM (Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor) survey data, published 2022)



Digital Connectivity

Connecting individuals, communities and visitors through decent broadband provision is an important action for the Partnership, enabling both leisure and business activity.

In 2022 the Partnership acknowledged that 4G mobile phone coverage was an essential resource for residents and visitors alike and therefore agreed to add a new action to the Plan to ensure that improvements in coverage are delivered.



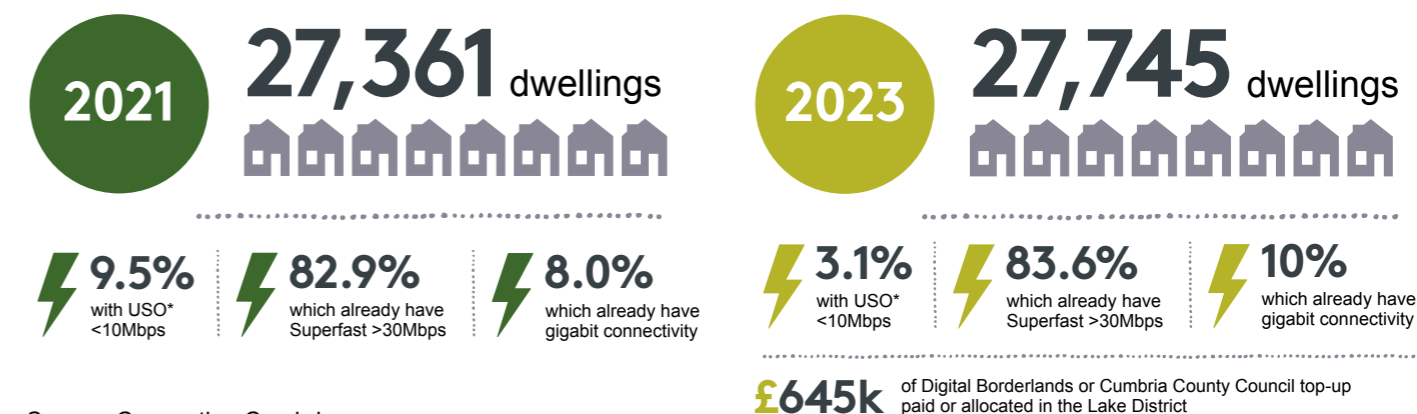
48.3%
of the Lake District has 4G coverage.

Source: Connecting Cumbria

We know, from a comparison of coverage in 2020 to 2022, that while the situation is improving there are still a large number of ‘not spots’, particularly on the high fells in the west, centre and north of the Park.

Geographic coverage in the Lake District from all four Mobile Network Operators currently stands at 48.3% (compared to a Cumbria-wide figure of 63.9%) so there is clearly more to do.

Broadband Coverage



Source: Connecting Cumbria

*USO (Universal Service Obligation) refers to a universal right to a decent broadband connection (at greater than 10 mega bits per second).

The extreme shortage of affordable housing, to buy or to rent, is a major issue in the Lake District, both because of its impact on the vibrancy of local communities and on the availability of employees, which has reached critical proportions for many local businesses. The Partnership has written to the Government to urge a change in use classes, so that the conversion of principal residences to second homes or holiday lets requires planning permission, and to ask that holiday lets be subject to the council tax regime. The Levelling Up Bill provides for the possibility of increased council tax for second homes; the Government is considering introducing a change in use classes; and a proposal to require registration of holiday homes is out to consultation.

Summary

Some initial progress has been made in our efforts to improve the availability of affordable housing, but clearly further national policy changes will be needed for significant results to be achieved. Good progress is also being made in improving both 4G mobile phone and broadband coverage in the National Park as an essential resources for residents, businesses and visitors.

While the Windermere Gateway project is progressing well, there are still important issues to resolve, particularly in relation to highways improvements and access to the site, and also funding for the housing/tourism site.

Work has already started to translate the success of the Covid-19-established Tactical Visitor Management Group and evolve into a fully-funded and jointly-delivered endeavour that becomes ‘business as usual’ for the partner organisations involved.



English Lake District World Heritage Site

| Looking up Langdale

English Lake District World Heritage Site

What is it?

To be part of the World Heritage Site family, sites must be of outstanding universal value. The English Lake District became a World Heritage Site in 2017 under UNESCO's Cultural Landscape category, meaning that it is globally important for 'the combined works of nature and of man'.

There are three themes which sum up why the Lake District is so important. They are all interlinked and helped to shape the Lake District both in terms of its land use and protection:

1. A landscape of exceptional beauty, shaped by persistent and distinctive agro-pastoral traditions and local industry which gives it special character.
2. A landscape which has inspired artistic and literary movements and generated ideas about landscapes that have had global influence and left their physical mark.
3. A landscape which has been the catalyst for key developments in the national and international protection of landscapes.

More information on these can be found here: [The English Lake District](#)



Theme 1: A view of Eskdale. The Lake District's agro-pastoral system, based on the rearing of cattle and native breeds of sheep, with a landscape shaped and adapted for over 1,000 years to its spectacular mountain environment.



Theme 2: Claife Viewing Station, built in the 1790s to allow early tourists to enjoy panoramic views of Lake Windermere, The Picturesque and Romantic movements promoted different ways of experiencing and engaging with the Lake District's landscape.



Theme 3: A view of the Langdale Pikes. The origin of the National Trust movement, the concept of national parks, and the World Heritage Site cultural landscape category all developed in the Lake District.

Photo c/o Michael Carter.

The World Heritage Site Steering Group

The World Heritage Site Steering Group provides specialist advice to the Partnership on World Heritage Site issues, and oversees a programme of activity designed to sustain the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value including actions set out in the Partnership Plan which relate to World Heritage. The group also acts as an interface between the State Party (the UK government), UNESCO and the Partnership, and is responsible for reporting on the condition of the World Heritage Site.

In 2022 the Steering Group contributed to the State of Conservation Report, prepared by Historic England (a Partner) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Requested by UNESCO, this allowed the UK Government to report on the condition of the World Heritage Site as a whole, and any particular issues. This year the group has been data gathering for the Partnership's periodic

reporting to the DCMS for submission to UNESCO. Periodic reporting is something all World Heritage Sites have to do world-wide, on a rolling six-year programme, and is aimed at capturing their condition. The next report will be submitted to UNESCO later in 2023.

The Steering Group also raises the profile of the World Heritage Site for instance, through the development of a marketing brand for the English Lake District. Using the brand associates a business with an internationally-recognised badge of quality and specialness, adding value to produce and services in the World Heritage Site. The branding guidelines help to communicate the unique selling points and brand values of the Lake District. See the 'Promoting local farm produce' case study for an example of this.



The Langdale Valley

Farm Survey

In 2022 a farm baseline survey was undertaken to plug a gap in understanding about Lake District farm ownership, farm types, land use, livestock numbers, farm sizes and the nature of the labour force. We also wanted to know more about the structures on farms (such as stone walls), and traditional processes (including hefting).

The survey was specifically designed to explore the features of Outstanding Universal Value created and maintained by farm businesses. About 8% of farms in the World Heritage Site responded representing a good range of the types of farm business found in the National Park. We also wanted to understand changes that have taken place since the Lake District became a World Heritage Site in 2017, and to ask the farming community for their views on the future.

The report makes a number of recommendations on how to support farmers and the agro-pastoral system of farming going forward, which is such an important element of the World Heritage Site.



Through a leaflet produced in 2023 and additional information on the World Heritage website, the project provided the opportunity for people to learn about the environment and how farming, including its local livestock, shapes this cultural landscape.



WHS Marketing material for a FiPL project

Farming in Protected Landscapes programme

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme (FiPL) supports a number of projects which conserve, protect or enhance the World Heritage Site. Below are a few examples from the last year. (Updates on other FiPL-funded projects can be found in the Farming, Forestry, Nature and Climate section of this report.)

Promoting local farm produce

A recent FiPL project promoted local farm produce, adding value to it through association with the World Heritage Site branding. It also focused on promoting links between the product and the cultural landscape in which it is produced. This enables local people and visitors to engage with the cultural landscape and generate a better understanding of farming and its contribution to the World Heritage Site.



World Heritage Site tweed

FiPL has provided funding to create [Lake District Tweeds](#) representing the 13 valleys of the World Heritage Site from locally sourced wool. Maria Benjamin from Dodgson Wood, Nibthwaite Grange Farm is creating 13 new local tweeds and cloth, using wool sourced from each of the Lake District valleys. It is a project which connects people to the history and culture of wool production in the Lakes. Importantly, farmers get a good price for their wool plus 10% of the profit from the sale of the cloth. Maria's business brings together farming, cultural heritage and sustainable production, to support farmers and value the local economy. Some tweeds were designed in 2021-22, with a further four created in the 2022-23 reporting year.



The repaired bridge (photo c/o Richard Austin)

Restoration of a clapper bridge in Longsleddale

A clapper bridge, believed to be the original drovers' route through Longsleddale valley dating back to medieval times, has been restored. It is the tenant sheep farmer's only vehicular access to their fell land. The footing for the bridge had been washed out by storm flow in the ghyll it crosses, so the project reinforced the riverbank, rebuilding the footing and facing it with dry stone walling, before replacing the original large clapper stones, which were still on site. The restoration followed construction methods sensitive to the historic structure in its original style.



Sheep fleece used to suppress weeds around new planting

Renovation of Ruskin's upland agricultural experiments at Brantwood Estate

John Ruskin, a Victorian writer, artist, and social reformer, used several areas of the Brantwood Estate on Coniston Water to conduct his agricultural experiments. The Brantwood team has now begun to reinstate these areas. FiPL has helped to fund the planting of several cropable plants that Brantwood's Head Chef is keen to make available to the public. The plants include a small tea plantation, unusual edible plants and a range of Birch and Acer species that are going to be used for tree syrup production experiments. These experiments will ensure that John Ruskin's legacy continues, and visitors have the opportunity to learn about his role in Lake District history.



The mobile broadband system to enable card payments

Support for agricultural shows

The Herdwick Sheep Breeders' Association (HSBA) provides equipment and support to organisers of Cumbrian Agricultural Shows and Shepherds' Meets. About 20 shows take place each year across the Lakes, some of which are centuries old in origin. In the 2021-22 financial year FiPL funding was used to enable cashless payments to be made in areas with no, or poor broadband through the purchase of a bespoke, mobile satellite broadband system. This was supplemented in the current reporting year with funding for three gazebos, a suitcase generator, and 12 hand-held, portable, two-way radios to improve on-site communications. The FiPL funding supplements a bigger package of support provided by HSBA, thereby securing the long-term viability of the shows.

Archaeology Volunteer Network: 10th anniversary

In February we celebrated ten years of the Archaeology Volunteer Network. The Network was established in 2013 as a response to diminishing resources and the recognition that volunteers could help us to conserve and research the archaeology of the National Park. We have around 50 people involved in caring for and discovering the archaeology and history of the Lake District.

The Network is organised into three geographical areas – the south, north east and north west - with supervisors leading work parties and survey days in those areas. As well as training and field trips we have a bulletin that is distributed on a twice-yearly basis to keep all the volunteers informed.

Over the ten years the volunteers have completed nearly 2,000 hectares of archaeological survey; three scheduled monuments have been designated following their research; numerous lime kilns, smelters, potash kilns, the Duddon Iron Furnace, Boot Mill and the Rusland Tannery have benefitted from conservation work parties, and bracken control has contributed to 50 sites being removed from the Heritage at Risk register.

The achievements of the Archaeology Volunteer Network have been phenomenal; the quantity and quality of this work is extremely high. The volunteers have achieved so much, from the conservation of scheduled monuments, the surveying of large areas of the National Park, improving our knowledge of the Lake District and, not to mention, the creation of lifelong friendships.



Cutting back bracken on an archaeological site



Excavating at Ravenglass

Romans in Ravenglass 2022 - 2023

This community archaeology project aims to uncover new information about the Roman archaeology and landscape development of Ravenglass through a programme of survey and excavation funded by Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, Copeland Community Fund and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The project has four central aims:

- To develop greater interest in the site amongst the local community and encourage future involvement in its investigation and protection.
- To provide members of the community with an opportunity to investigate the history of their locality, to engage with it and to learn new skills.
- To give the local community a better understanding of the development of their local landscape and their place within it.
- To provide wellbeing and learning opportunities for people in the local community, particularly young people and school children.

The project has actively liaised with local community well-being groups, such as Copeland's Social Prescribing Team which aims to connect residents with groups, activities and services that might be beneficial to health and wellbeing.

Three trenches were excavated in March 2022 with one revealing evidence of a Roman road, another a probable building, and the third contained waste pits associated with the settlement. Lots of Roman pottery was found, including mortaria (for food preparation), amphora (for storage) and samian ware (high quality dining ware).

The public was able to come and see the excavation taking place, including a number of visits by schools: we hope to be able to soon share how many school children visited and also how many people attended through the Copeland Social Prescribing initiative.

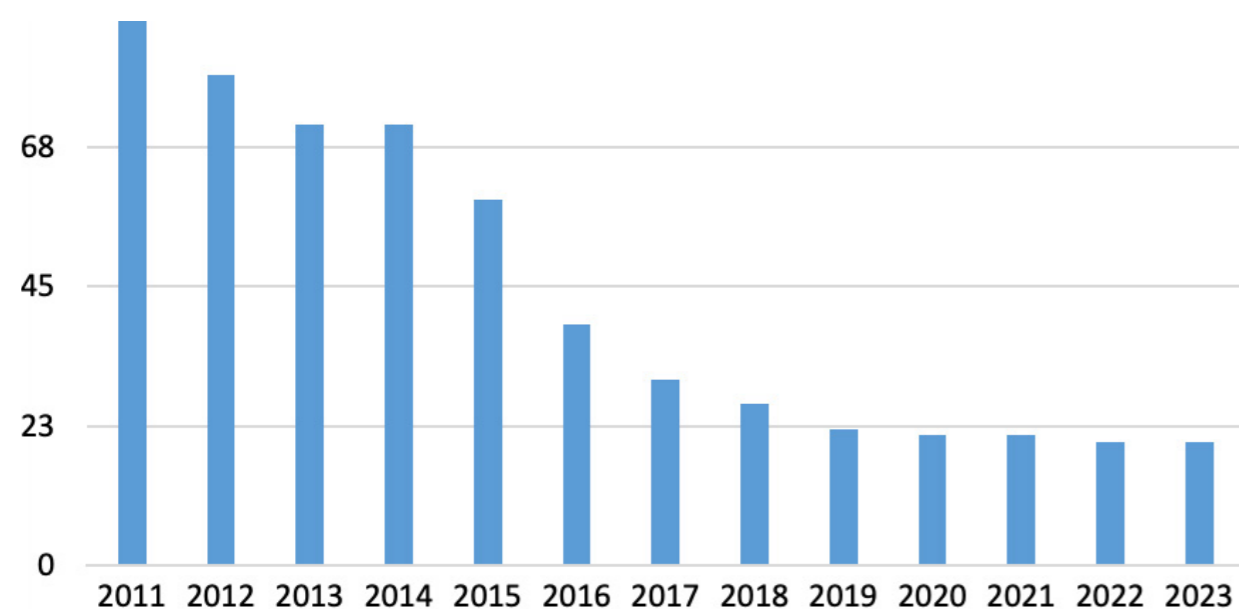


Bridget Gerry finding the base of a Roman pot. Photo c/o AOC Archaeology Group



Shard fencing in the Lickle Valley which is being restored with FiPL funding

Heritage no longer At Risk



Over the last 12 years the amount of ‘Heritage at Risk’ in the Lake District has substantially declined in relation to listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments. The rate of removal from the register has slowed recently, as the last few present more complex management challenges requiring more resource.

Building Preservation notices and new listings

In 2022, the Lake District National Park Authority issued five Building Preservation Notices (BPN) which resulted in a number of significant, but previously un-listed sites being added to the National Heritage List (the ‘List’). A BPN can be issued by the Local Authority where a site is identified as having high levels of heritage significance. The BPN in effect ‘lists’ the site for a period of six months, in which time Historic England carry out their official assessment and decide whether to recommend the site to the Secretary of State for inclusion on the List. Sites where a BPN was served and the site added to the List at Grade II include:

[Beckside Farmhouse](#) and two barns, near Crook. This grouping of a seventeenth-century farmhouse and eighteenth-century barns is a rare unaltered farmstead, with a wealth of historic original interiors including extensive oak panelling in the farmhouse and intact slate and timber boskins (divisions between animal stalls) inside the bank barn.

[Mireside Farmhouse](#) and bank barn, near Crosthwaite. This seventeenth-century farmhouse and eighteenth-century bank barn, along with a later-nineteenth-century barn, form a characterful, unaltered farmstead.

[Coombe Gill Mill](#) and the nearby [packhorse bridge](#) in Borrowdale. This former corn mill has been a source of artistic inspiration for several centuries; painted by John Constable and William Green in the early nineteenth century, it now regularly appears on photo-sharing social media sites.

Underhousing at the newly-listed Grade II bank barn at Mireside Farm, Crosthwaite



Local Heritage List

In March 2023 the Lake District National Park Authority approved its first ever Local Heritage List. The LDNPA has been working with colleagues from local councils on a project to develop a Cumbria-wide list since it was successful at gaining funding for the project in 2021. Some buildings, sites, places, monuments and gardens have heritage value, and should be recognised as making a contribution to local character and distinctiveness. These are not already designated as listed buildings as they are of local rather than national importance. For this reason, entries on the local list are known as 'non-designated heritage assets' (along with other sites which are not locally listed).

Keeping non-designated heritage assets from harm is an aim of the planning system. However, being on Cumbria's Local List does not confer any extra level of planning control in its own right, but local listing does provide clarity, consistency and strategy. Members of the public are invited to nominate sites which they feel are locally important, add character to the area and have some heritage value. Nominations are judged against set criteria and are reviewed by an independent panel.

More information can be found here: [Local list: Lake District National Park](#)



This unusual stile, on Cunswick Fell near Plumgarths, is now on the Local List.

Summary

In 2022-23 the Partnership has kept Historic England and the DCMS updated on management issues as they have arisen. This is important in providing evidence that the Lake District is in good condition and that we are collectively working to sustain and enhance its Outstanding Universal Value. At a more local level, the FiPL programme has funded some exciting new projects and initiatives which positively benefit the World Heritage Site.

We are moving towards a better understanding of the relationship between fell-going hefted flocks, deer management and grazing regimes on the fells. These are complex inter-connected issues relating to the management of commons and nature recovery. It is hoped that the Partnership will agree a position statement in later 2023 to guide our work going forward, at the same time working towards a more integrated system of deer management across the Park.

We are now developing an Interpretation Strategy to better explain the importance of the World Heritage Site and its three themes to local communities and visitors; also supporting local businesses in maximising the use of the English Lake District World Heritage Site brand.



Each of the Chairs or Lead Officers for the themes in this report were asked what they felt would be most noteworthy for their area of work in 2023-24, whether it was likely to be the biggest challenge or the project that they were most looking forward to working on or seeing delivered. They responded as follows:

Climate Action: Electric vehicle charging roll-out across the park; also new infrastructure for off-road walking and cycling such as the West Windermere, Eamont and Eskdale trails, along with better bike and ebike provision to use the expanding network. All the above will help to reduce carbon emissions.

Sustainable Travel and Transport: Completing the Travel in the Lake District research, then using the results to inform the group's future work. Also continuing to work in a collegiate way as a Key Outcome Group as the participation in 2022-23 has been excellent encouraging reporting of innovation and sharing of best practice.

Farming, Forestry, Nature and Climate: the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, now with an extra year and additional money from DEFRA to deliver more projects across its four themes; the publication of our Nature Recovery Plan; continuing our journey on blended finance to deliver nature recovery in a cultural landscape, and the next phase of the Love Windermere project, which includes a long-term plan to restore the water quality of Windermere and its catchment.

The Partnership looks forward to working to deliver these and many other actions and activities in the current financial year across the National Park. In December 2023 the next State of the Park report will be produced. This will assess the condition of the Lake District National Park and what has changed - for better or worse - since the last report was published in 2018. The Partnership will use this report, in conjunction with an assessment of how much has been delivered from the current Plan, also reflecting on current challenges in the Lake District, to inform the drafting of the next Partnership Plan which will cover the five-year period from 2025 to 2030.

World Heritage Site Steering Group: Delivery of the Interpretation Strategy for the World Heritage Site, which will better equip us to explain the significance of the World Heritage Site to both residents and visitors and to encourage local businesses to embrace the English Lake District World Heritage Site brand. Also the Windermere Villas project, a detailed survey of the eastern shore of Lake Windermere which will help us to properly understand the significance of this part of the Lake District.

Vibrant Communities and a Prosperous Economy: The Windermere Gateway project is the most exciting yet challenging action for this Key Outcome Group: if we can move this closer to the delivery stage then that would be a major achievement.

Lake District for Everyone: Our Journeys Project: an important step in understanding barriers to accessing the National Park for our three key audiences which will then inform our work to make the Lake District more accessible.

Acknowledgements

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Appendix – Climate Action		
Action No	Action	Annual Report Status
CA.act.1	Using evidence from the Carbon Budget and other sources, lobby Government to develop new net zero incentives to re-trigger an acceleration in renewable energy production	Not reporting: partner deliverer has not been able to supply this data
CA.act.2	Lobbying Government to reduce VAT on the maintenance, repair and retrofitting of traditional buildings as a pilot in the Lake District	Not reporting: work programmed to start in 2023-4 f/y but see related case study on pages 10 + 11
CA.act.3	By March 2024 secure agreement, by all Partners, on significantly reducing carbon emissions through business planning and delivering of carbon saving by integrating climate action into their business plans	See case study page 8
CA.act.4	By June 2023 develop and agree a pipeline of new Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership sector projects for climate action to move towards addressing the gap identified that can feasibly be implemented in the next 10,15, 20 years	Not reporting: under development
CA.act.5	Empowering locally led climate action by creating a network of 'climate champions' with communities by working with Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership to support delivery of local projects and community action	Not reporting: under development

Appendix – Future of Farming and Forestry, Nature Recovery and Climate Change		
Action No	Action	Annual Report Status
FFNC.act.1	Develop and deliver a coordinated Partnership transition support programme to enable business adaption, nature and climate recovery and maintenance of the cultural landscape and supporting young entrants by securing the high take up of options within the Government's Agricultural Transition Plan 2021-2024, through:	
FFNC.act.1a	Delivering business (including succession planning) and environmental advice and support to those farmers, foresters, and land managers who request it to help develop and adapt their business plans to apply for schemes within the Agricultural Transition Plan	Not reporting: work in progress
FFNC.act.1b	Delivering the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme to secure the climate, nature, people, and place themes	See graphs and case studies on pages 13 + 14 and cases studies on pages 38 + 39
FFNC.act.1c	Delivering the Environmental Land Management test and trial pilots, and influence Environmental Land Management policy that secures the future of the special qualities and attributes of OUV	See case study page 16
FFNC.act.1d	Assist farmers with advice in securing and delivering Countryside Stewardship schemes between 2021 and 2023	See figure on page 18
FFNC.act.1e	Developing and securing a mix of finance opportunities for natural capital and public services projects from private, charitable, public crowdfunding sources	Not reporting; baseline needs to be established
FFNC.act.2	Make on-the-ground contributions to deliver the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy by developing the Lake District National Park Nature Recovery Prospectus and delivering it through:	
FFNC.act.2a	Working with individual farms, farm clusters and community farming initiatives to increase understanding of options for nature and climate recovery and identifying and co-creating farming led local nature recovery and landscape scale recovery schemes	See case study page 17

Appendix – Future of Farming and Forestry, Nature Recovery and Climate Change		
Action No	Action	Annual Report Status
FFNC.act.2b	Championing and resourcing the recovery of priority and, or protected habitats and species across the Lake District through restoration schemes. This will include their long-term protection and management	Not reporting due to lack of Partner resource
FFNC.act.2c	Delivering targets for woodland creation and restoration schemes in line with the Partnership's "Tree planting and woodland creation guidelines"	See statement on page 19. Not reporting on new woodland cover due to lack of Partner resource
FFNC.act.2d	Delivering targets for peatland restoration schemes through schemes at Rusland Moss National Nature Reserve, Caldbeck Common, Barf Common, Linking the Valleys	See graph and pie chart page 20
FFNC.act.2e	Pursuing the restoration and reintroduction of key species (including 'Back on our map' - BOOM)	Not reporting; baseline needs to be established
FFNC.act.2f	Improving the system to assess condition and extent of priority habitats	Not reporting; baseline needs to be established
FFNC.act.2g	Supporting the delivery of 4 community-led land management initiatives to increase nature recovery, climate recovery and maintain cultural heritage	See case study on page 22
FFNC.act.3	Reduce the contributions from farming and land management make to greenhouse gas emissions in line with the National Farmers Union net zero goal and support farmers and land managers on adaptation by:	
FFNC.act.3a	Securing resources, promoting, and delivering carbon budget assessments for individual farms, farm clusters and community farming initiatives	Not reporting; baseline needs to be established
FFNC.act.3b	Co-creating and delivering farming led carbon reduction or carbon storage measures through the funding packages available	Not reporting; baseline needs to be established
FFNC.act.3c	Co-creating and supporting farmers and land managers make adaptation part of their plans, and helping to deliver schemes to reduce their own risk to climate change, and deliver public benefits to reduce risks to local communities and the Special Qualities of the Lake District	See case study on pages 18 + 19; baseline needs to be established
FFNC.act.4	Maintain, celebrate and strengthen traditional Lake District farming systems by:	
FFNC.act.4a	Preparing and publishing an updated Lake District Shepherds Guide by 2023 to establish a baseline of fell going flocks to understand and support the viability of hefted flocks	See case study page 16. No Partner resource available to produce maps of hefting trends by common
FFNC.act.4b	Increasing number of Commons in successful agri-environment schemes and landscape recovery pilots and projects to sustain and enhance the value and benefit Commons provide	See map and infographic on page 21
Appendix – A Lake District for Everyone		
Action No	Action	Annual Report Status
LDfE.act.1	Create a dedicated Engagement and Outreach Team to provide progressive opportunities for engagement to target underserved groups either in local outdoor spaces or in the Lake District itself. The Engagement and Outreach Team will then identify priority activity to ensure the Lake District is a place for everyone whether connected through association or by a physical visit	See case study page 26 + 27
LDfE.act.2	Ensure the Lake District is welcoming for all by:	
LDfE.act.2a	Developing a 'Warm Welcome' certificated training scheme, applicable to the Tourism sector and other staff engaging with visitors. Embed the training as a requirement into existing staff professional development and into new staff roles	Not reporting; pre-work for this action in progress
LDfE.act.2b	Promoting the 'Warm Welcome' training scheme to businesses and organisations through existing networks to encourage its take up to develop staff skills	Not reporting; pre-work for this action in progress
LDfE.act.2c	Delivering greater coverage of 'on the ground ambassadors' by joining up and focusing visitor facing rangers, staff, and volunteers across the Partnership organisations, and where possible appointing additional rangers to fill gaps	Not reporting; pre-work for this action in progress
LDfE.act.2d	Developing and promoting a wider range of volunteering opportunities and packages (including volunteering holidays) that meet the needs of a diverse audience to create enjoyable experiences	Not reporting; pre-work for this action in progress

Appendix – Sustainable Travel and Transport		
Action No	Action	Annual Report Status
STT.act.1	Advocate and support initiatives for multi-modal ticketing and enhanced connectivity from the West Coast Mainline between Penrith and Keswick and from Oxenholme and Windermere Stations	Not reporting; no projects have yet been delivered, but there are ongoing discussions around Penrith to Keswick through tickets for bus and rail
STT.act.2	Lobbying and working with relevant bodies and organisations to support proposals for funding and delivery of following rail upgrades:	
STT.act.2a	Doubling of capacity on the Lakes Line	See statements page 31
STT.act.2b	Cumbria Coast Line improvements	See statements page 31
STT.act.2c	West Coast Main Line service stopping and capacity improvements. Direct services to/from London, Scotland and Manchester Airport	Not reporting; no change over the reporting year
STT.act.2d	Improved number of trains stopping at Penrith and Oxenholme and connectivity with HS2 to meet the needs of Lake District	Not reporting; no change over the reporting year
STT.act.2e	Station accessibility improvements on all lines, and in particular improved accessibility at Ulverston and Staveley	See statement page 31
STT.act.3	Develop marketing and ticketing initiatives for all sustainable and active transport modes. All Partners to promote sustainable travel through their own communications	See infographics page 29
STT.act.4	Work in partnership to secure the decarbonisation of transport including:	
STT.act.4a	Rolling out EV charging	See case study, infographic, map and statement on pages 30 + 31
STT.act.4b	Support carbon reduction technology on buses, trains and water transport	See statement page 31
STT.act.4c	Secure funding for and delivery of rail improvements on the Lakes Line to deliver passing loop, and electrification or other low carbon technologies	See statement page 31
STT.act.5	Develop high quality active travel measures including:	
STT.act.5a	Develop cycle corridors and spurs and set out in Cumbria Transport Improvement Plan and Borderlands See More Lake District Project	See case studies page 25 + 29
STT.act.5b	Develop a network of e-bike charging points	See statement page 31
STT.act.5c	Targeted traffic management in suitable locations through community pilots	Not reporting; no pilot project as yet
STT.act.6	Work with communities to pilot sustainable travel improvements	See infographic page 31

Appendix – Vibrant Communities and a Prosperous Economy		
Action No	Action	Annual Report Status
VCPE.act.1	Lobby Homes England to make the social rent funding available for all relevant housing schemes throughout the Lake District not just South Lakeland by 2022	Not reporting; to review in 2023-2024 with new local authorities to establish if this remains a relevant action
VCPE.act.2	Lobby central Government to agree to introduce a mechanism to control the conversion of first to second homes in the Lake District, and to remove the small business rates exemption for furnished holiday homes by 2023	See statement page 35
VCPE.act.3	Lobby mortgage lenders to agree to be more flexible when lending on properties with local occupancy controls, and review annually	Not reporting; this action has not yet started due to lack of Partner resource
VCPE.act.4	Deliver the projects within the Windermere Gateway area to improve Windermere Station, and deliver affordable housing (circa 160 units) and employment space through:	
VCPE.act.4a	Delivery of highway improvements	See case study page 33
VCPE.act.4b	Delivery of Windermere station improvements	See case study page 33
VCPE.act.4c	Delivery of site allocation CSE01M	See statement and case study page 33
VCPE.act.5	Continue to support the multi-agency visitor management response to the Covid-19 pandemic including delivering the Visitor Management Tactical Action Plans	See graph and infographic page 34 + summary page 35
VCPE.act.6	Work with businesses, transport operators and infrastructure providers to help connect people with jobs in rural areas they couldn't otherwise take through the provision of an effective and innovative rural bus service	Not reporting; no Partner resource to report
VCPE.act.7	Secure private financing in natural capital drawing on the partnerships investment ready schemes, including working through the National Park's Partnerships Net Zero for Nature programme	See infographic page 19
VCPE.act.8	To maximise the opportunities presented by the Project Gigabit Cumbria pilot project to connect gigabit capable broadband in hard-to-reach premises in the Lake District	See graph page 35
VCPE.act.9	For those premises which will not be covered by Project Gigabit, we will work with communities to help promote the opportunity presented by suppliers to connect rural communities to gigabit capable broadband	Not reporting; work in progress
VCPE.act.10	Monitor 4G coverage in the National Park as the shared Rural network delivers and assess whether further intervention is required so that no-one and no place is left behind	See infographic and statement pages 34 + 35



The remains of copper mining in Coppermines Valley, Coniston.
Photo c/o The Coppermines Lakes Cottages.