

## Section 1: Key questions answered

### **What is the State of the Park 2005 report?**

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#### **The special qualities of The National Park are:**

- complex geology
  - diverse landscape
  - concentration of common land
  - unique mosaic of lakes, tarns and rivers
  - wealth of habitats and wildlife
  - extensive semi-natural woodlands
  - history of tourism and outdoor activities
  - opportunities for quiet enjoyment
  - open nature of the fells
  - rich archaeology
  - distinctive settlement character
  - celebrated social and cultural roots
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Source: Lake District National Park Management Plan, 2004

No-one can look after the Lake District National Park effectively without reliable information about the state of the key elements that make up the National Park. This State of the Park report aims to help build the commitment and framework to provide this reliable information. If we follow this commitment, future reports will help everyone to:

- monitor trends and changes within the National Park;
- identify issues and pressures which may affect the work of the Lake District National Park Authority and other organisations;
- measure whether the overall 'quality of life' is improving within the Lake District National Park and whether the special qualities are being conserved; and
- improve understanding of when we need to take action.

### **Who is the report for?**

Any individual or organisation with an interest in the Lake District National Park should read this report. We hope it will help people understand the key characteristics of the National Park.

Most importantly, the report is for anyone who may be planning to do something that may affect the National Park. They will be able to use this information to plan more effectively.

However, this report is only a summary. A great deal of technical information and research has been brought together in the production of the document. Anyone with a specific interest in a particular theme can request a supporting technical report by emailing [stateofthepark@lake-district.gov.uk](mailto:stateofthepark@lake-district.gov.uk)

### **How does the report fit with the National Park Management Plan?**

The State of the Park report essentially measures the state of key elements within the Lake District National Park Management Plan.

The current Lake District National Park Management Plan (2004) was created by a partnership of key organisations led by the Lake District National Park Authority. It sets out the guiding principles, vision, long-term aims and policies for managing the National Park. These are grouped according to the key elements that make up the National Park, based on its special qualities.

If the report highlights changes taking place in the National Park, it will provide a clear message when we review policy or actions in the National Park Management Plan. It will help us monitor changes that may affect the special qualities of the National Park in a positive or negative way.

It will also provide background information and evidence for the creation of plans and policies in the emerging Local Development Framework – a framework which will control and facilitate the development and use of land in the Lake District National Park.

### ***How has this report been produced?***

A partnership, made up of organisations committed to working together to provide reliable information about the state of the Lake District National Park, was established. The National Park is a complex area, so we first agreed what it comprises and decided what we need more information about. A decision was made that the key elements of the National Park would be those 'themes' defined by the current National Park Management Plan.

The report will, therefore, describe the state of the following:

- landscape
- nature conservation
- farming and land management
- historic environment
- learning, interpretation and information
- access and recreation
- tourism
- sustainable communities
- traffic and transport.

There are many ways of measuring the state of each of these themes, so taking a focussed approach was important. We first looked at a long list of measurements that would provide us with information about each theme. Because the National Park is so diverse, this first list of measurements was endless. To narrow it down, the key measurements that we thought would provide the broadest indication about the state of each theme and changes over time were chosen.

Some of these measurements could be calculated from data available now. However, because this is our first report, some measurements were agreed as highly important for us to take in the future, even though we did not have data immediately.

### ***When will the report be reviewed?***

This first report establishes a framework for collecting information in the future with a commitment from partners. There is a great deal of information to collect in order to monitor the state of the National Park. Some information will be collected annually, some bi-annually, some every five years, and some every ten years. On this basis, there will always be some new information available each year but clearly not enough to create a new report each year.

Therefore, a live database will be kept, so that anyone can collect the technical information they need at any time. This information will be available on the web. [www.lake-district.gov.uk](http://www.lake-district.gov.uk)

The next report will coincide with the next review of the Lake District National Park Management Plan. It will show how the National Park has changed since this report.

### ***How do I find out more information about the state of the National Park?***

For more information on the state of the National Park, go to the Lake District National Park website, at [www.lake-district.gov.uk](http://www.lake-district.gov.uk) You can also speak directly to the person responsible for co-ordinating the State of the Park report. Contact the Lake District National Park Authority Community Development Manager on 01539 792673 or email [stateofthepark@lake-district.gov.uk](mailto:stateofthepark@lake-district.gov.uk)