

# ACTION PLAN

## Introduction

- This Action Plan is a live document, designed to allow the Partnership to be agile in responding to any new challenges and opportunities that may arise over the next 5 years.
- It sets out how, as a Partnership, we will deliver the aspirations in our Partnership Plan 2026-2031 including our 5-year Objectives (to 2031), setting us on the right trajectory to achieve our longer-term Ambitions and Vision for the Lake District (to 2051).
- The Action Plan is a 2-year one and will be subject to regular review.
- The Action Plan illustrates the thread through the Ambition, Objective and Measures of Success to the Actions.
- The Action Plan is divided into 9 themes, mirroring the Plan's Objectives and Ambitions.
- For each theme, activity is divided into two sections: a) Actions which the Partnership has agreed to collaborate on together in the first two years, and b) other projects and activities that Partners are already delivering/committed to delivering which will also support the Plan's Objectives: these are briefly summarised and web links provided where available.
- Our Partnership collaborative actions include a named lead from a Partner organisation who will be responsible for leading the delivery of the action and reporting on progress to the Partnership.
- All of our actions and Partner projects and activity deliver for the National Park and the World Heritage Site. However, there is some additional Partnership activity which is specific to the World Heritage Site and which will help us deliver for the cultural landscape over the life of the Plan. This includes:
  - Completion of the State of Conservation Report 2026 - supporting the State Party (UK Government) in reporting to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee by 1 December 2026, including: the development of an Agro-pastoral System strategy and the monitoring of the use of Unsealed Roads (HE, LDNPA, EA, LDNPP, NE)
  - Continuing delivery of the World Heritage Site Interpretation Strategy Action Plan (LDNPA, FE, LDF, BTF, CT, NT)
  - New Entrants Group - encouraging new farmers to enter the farming industry (NT, LDNPA with the Farmer Network)
- The 9 themes of the Plan are all interlinked and our Actions will often deliver multiple benefits for more than one Objective. This is illustrated in the table below:

## KEY TO OBJECTIVE SYMBOLS USED IN THE TABLE BELOW

|                                                                                    |                       |                                                                                     |                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|   | Nature Recovery       |  | Viable farming     |
|   | Clean plentiful water |  | Heritage rich      |
|   | Reduce emissions      |  | Inspiring people   |
|   | Climate resilience    |  | Sustainable travel |
|  | Thriving communities  |                                                                                     |                    |

| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Develop and begin to deliver a Cumbria Grasslands Action Plan by March 2028 (Lead: Tanya St Pierre, CWT; supporting LDNPA, NE, NT, WF&FC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Develop and deliver a Red Squirrel Strategy and species recovery action plan and design a programme of survey and analysis to establish baseline population estimates for five other Local Nature Recovery Strategy priority wildlife species by March 2028 (Lead: Jenny Willams, NE; supporting FC, LDNPA, CWT, NT, NE, FE, FBA)                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Undertake a strategic review of the risks facing our lakes, meres and tarns and design a programme of prioritised fundable interventions, by March 2028 (Lead: Jodie Mills, WCRT; supporting: LRT, ERT, SCRT, FBA, EA, NE, LDNPA, W&FC, CC, CWT, UU)                                                                                                                                                                |      |
| Deliver a communication and engagement campaign, by March 2028, that increases the numbers of businesses, visitors and local communities taking positive action for water (Lead: Ellyse Mather, EA; supporting: LDNPA, WCRT, SCRT, LRT, ERT, NE, FBA, W&FC, UU, NT, RSPB, CT, CC, CALC, BTF)                                                                                                                        |      |
| Deliver four prioritised retrofit campaigns by March 2028, targeting specific building types, that will provide advice, guidance and support for funding that provides the greatest benefit to homeowners and businesses (Lead: Sarah Swindley, LDF; supporting: LDNPA, HE, CC, W&FC with support from Futureproof Cumbria)                                                                                         |      |
| Contribute to the development pipeline and delivery of Cumbria Peat Partnership's peat under restoration programme to ensure at least 500 ha (1,236 acres) of peat restoration works is undertaken each year (Lead: Gemma Jennings, CWT; supporting: LDNPA, NE, NT, UU, WCRT, EA, FC, RSPB)                                                                                                                         |                                                                                         |
| Partners and stakeholder will collaborate to deliver the existing woodland creation pipeline and to identify additional opportunities for tree and woodland establishment to meet statutory targets of 250 hectares per year over the five-year plan period (Lead: Jake Thompson, FC; supporting delivery: FE, FoLD, LDNPA, NE, NT, RSPB, UU, WCRT)                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Progress Windermere Gateway by securing an outline planning application for affordable and local-needs homes and employment space, confirming government commitment and funding for development of the Lakes Line passing loop business case, and obtaining further investment to deliver improvements to the Lakes Line and Windermere Station by March 2028 (Lead: Angela Jones, WF&C; supporting: LDNPA, NT, EC) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Work with Cumbria Combined Authority (the transport authority) to commission a study of the Wasdale and Ullswater valleys to transform visitor movement and behaviour, and then implement the recommended measures by March 2028 (Lead: Steve Ratcliffe, LDNPA; supporting: W&F, CC NT; CT)                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Secure funding for, and begin development of, an integrated farm advice network that meets the needs of Lake District farmers and commoners and is grounded in a shared holistic place-based strategy. (Lead: Alice Collier, LDNPA; supporting: CLA, CWT, EA, HE, LDF, NE, NT, NFU, RSPB, SCRT, UU, W&FC, WCRT, with support from the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership, the Woodland Trust and the Farmer Network) |     <br>  |
| Identify, assess and deliver 12 heritage conservation projects that: reduce the number of Grade 2 buildings at risk by 2; reduce the number of sites on the Heritage at Risk Register by 2 (Western Range and Inner Terrace Wall, Lowther Castle), and improve the condition of 8 non-designated heritage sites (Lead: Eleanor Kingston, LDNPA; supporting: HE, NT, NE, UU, FE, FC)                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| By July 2027, deliver a coordinated programme of promotional, cultural and community activities that uses the Tour de France to showcase the Lake District and leaves a lasting legacy of increased active travel and healthier lifestyles, with measurable behaviour change outcomes (Lead: Jointly led by Michael Barry CC, Gill Haigh CT, Steph Cordon and Angela Jones W&FC; supporting: LDNPA, BTF, FE)       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Prepare a joined-up strategy of engagement and volunteering programmes, and identification of funding to deliver an associated action plan, by March 2028 for how to better 'inspire people' together (Jointly led by Sarah Calderbank and Ruth Suddaby, LDNPA; supporting: ACT, LDF, LAF, FE, CT, WCRT, LDNPA)                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Prepare a plan for improvements in sustainable and active travel to drive behavioural change by March 2028 (Lead: Steve Ratcliffe, LDNPA; supporting: W&FC, CC, CT)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Deliver/implementation of the Lake District Active Travel Network Plan (progressing six prioritised active travel projects) by March 2028 (Lead: Emma Moody, LDNPA; supporting: CC, W&FC)                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS PLAN

|       |                                           |
|-------|-------------------------------------------|
| ACT   | Action with Communities in Cumbria        |
| BTF   | Business Task Force                       |
| CALC  | Cumbria Association of Local Councils     |
| CLA   | Country Land & Business Association       |
| CC    | Cumberland Council                        |
| CT    | Cumbria Tourism                           |
| CWT   | Cumbria Wildlife Trust                    |
| ERT   | Eden Rivers Trust                         |
| EC    | Enterprising Cumbria                      |
| FBA   | Freshwater Biological Association         |
| FoLD  | Friends of the Lake District              |
| FC    | Forestry Commission                       |
| FE    | Forestry England                          |
| HE    | Historic England                          |
| EA    | Environment Agency                        |
| LDF   | Lake District Foundation                  |
| LAF   | Local Access Forum                        |
| LDNPA | Lake District National Park Authority     |
| LRT   | Lune Rivers Trust                         |
| NFU   | National Farmers Union                    |
| NT    | National Trust                            |
| NE    | Natural England                           |
| RSPB  | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds |
| SCRT  | South Cumbria Rivers Trust                |
| UU    | United Utilities                          |
| UoC   | University of Cumbria                     |
| WCRT  | West Cumbria Rivers Trust                 |
| W&FC  | Westmorland & Furness Council             |

## NATURE

*We know that nature is in crisis with habitats and species being lost at an unprecedented rate. Our plan for 2026-2031 is ambitious but necessary to halt this decline so that we can deliver our long-term ambition of a nature-rich Lake District.*

**Ambition for 2051:** Habitats are restored, and species are recovering, enabling nature to flourish in a better-connected landscape.

### **Objective for 2031:**

Deliver nature's recovery through:

- Improving the condition of protected sites
- Securing improved management for nature and creating more species-rich habitats outside of protected sites to enhance connectivity

### **Measures of success by 2031:**

- Increase Core Nature Areas from 15% to 30% (baseline 87,394 acres (35,367ha) or 15% in 2023-24, analysis of Natural England and Forestry Commission data)

- 60% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition (baseline 47%, May 2025, PLTOF)
- 60% of SSSIs are assessed as having actions on track to achieve favourable condition (baseline 20.9%, May 2025, PLTOF)
- 33% (1,060 ha) more wildlife-rich habitat created or restored on non-protected sites (baseline 3,127 hectares, May 2025, PLTOF)
- 65% of land managers have adopted nature friendly farming across at least 10% of their land holding [baseline TBC: awaiting this PLTOF indicator development by Natural England, due in April 2026, to confirm detail of measure, obtain data and set baseline]
- 80% of the 12 Lake District priority wildlife species requiring bespoke action identified in the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy have action plans that are in place and being implemented (baseline = 2 species have actions in place; 2026 analysis of the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Lake District Nature Recovery Plan data)

**Our Partnership actions for 2026-2028 are:**

1. Develop, and begin to deliver, a Cumbria Grasslands Action Plan by March 2028 (Lead: Tanya St Pierre, CWT; supporting: LDNPA, NE, NT, W&FC)
2. Develop and deliver a Red Squirrel Strategy and species recovery action plan, and design a programme of survey and analysis to establish baseline population estimates for five other Local Nature Recovery Strategy priority wildlife species by March 2028 (Lead: Jenny Williams, NE; supporting: FC, LDNPA, CWT, NT, NE, FE, FBA).

The above actions have been selected to ensure that we have laid the groundwork in terms of strategy and baseline survey preparation in the first 2 years of our Plan, and will then focus on delivery in these areas in years 3 to 5 (2028-29 - 2030-31)

See also other Partnership actions that will be delivering for nature under **Water, Reducing Carbon, Farming, Climate Resilience**

**Other projects and activity being delivered, or supported, by Partners that will help us deliver for nature over the life of the Plan include:**

- Caldbeck Common Upland Heath project (LDNPA)
  - Targeted temporary grazing enclosures to help upland heath, heather and bilberry recover while supporting commoning
  - Weblink: [caldbeck-common-enclosures-project](#)
- Cumbria Connect (restoring nature programme) (RSPB, CWT, NE, UU, ERT & LRT)
  - Landscape-scale nature recovery programme linking farmers, landowners and communities across the Penrith-to-Kendal arc
  - Weblink: [connectfornature.org.uk](#)
- Big Campaign to restore nature, 2026-2027 (NT)
  - National Trust campaign to mobilise support and delivery for nature recovery across its Lake District places
- Wild Ennerdale (NT, FE, UU, NE)
  - Long-running valley-scale wilding partnership allowing natural processes to shape a more diverse and resilient Ennerdale
  - Weblink: [wildennerdale.co.uk](#)
- Wild Haweswater (UU, RSPB)
  - RSPB and United Utilities partnership restoring upland habitats, rivers, peat and nature-friendly farming around Haweswater
  - Weblink: [wild-haweswater](#)
- Upper Duddon Landscape Recovery Project (NT, SCRT, UoC, FE, NE)
  - 20-year landscape recovery scheme with farmers and partners restoring habitats, rivers and species in the Upper Duddon
  - Weblink: [storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f0bd04c230a6453c87605110cfcb0f1d](#)
- Thirlmere resilience (UU)
  - United Utilities programme to strengthen catchment, water supply and landscape resilience around Thirlmere
- Skiddaw Forest (CWT)
  - Cumbria Wildlife Trust's long-term vision for England's highest nature reserve, restoring peatland and temperate rainforest
  - Weblink: [skiddaw-forest](#)
- Water Industry Natural Environment Programme (WINEP) investment (EA, UU)
  - Regulated water-industry investment programme funding environmental improvements, including nature-based solutions
  - Weblink: [water-industry-national-environment-programme-winep-methodology](#)
- Species - re-introductions programmes e.g. Pine Marten (actively being reintroduced; UoC) and Pear Mussel (reinforcement; FBA)

- Species recovery work supporting carefully planned reintroductions and reinforcement for priority native wildlife
- Cumbrian River Restoration Strategy (EA)
  - County-wide partnership restoring modified rivers, reconnecting floodplains and improving river habitats
  - Weblink: [cumbria-river-restoration-strategy-from-local-to-international-success](#)
- Developing Landscape Recovery Round 2 applications - [Eastern Fells \(RSPB\)](#), [Penrith 2 Kendal Arc \(RSPB\)](#), [Resilient Glenderamakin \(WCRT\)](#)
  - Pipeline development for large-scale, long-term landscape recovery proposals across select Lake District landscapes
- Implementing the Lake District Deer Management Strategy (LDNPA, FC)
  - Coordinated deer management to reduce habitat pressure, support woodland, scrub and nature recovery, support stalking and game larders and create a Lake District wild venison brand
- Wildlife-rich Habitat Creation programme — 91ha (LDNPA, RSPB, NT, WCRT, ERT, SCRT, LRT with delivery partners)
  - Programme creating or restoring wildlife-rich habitats with land managers and delivery partners across the Lake District
- Hedges and edges project (FoLD)
  - Project improving hedgerows, field boundaries and edge habitats for wildlife and landscape character

See also projects/activity which will support nature's recovery under **Water, Reducing Emissions, Climate Resilience, Farming**

# WATER

*The Lake District contains highly significant water bodies - not only our lakes but also rivers, tarns and coast - and careful management of these and connected spaces is needed to achieve our ambition for water for 2051.*

**Ambition for 2051:** Water is clean and plentiful for people and nature through restoring natural processes and reducing pollution.

## **Objective for 2031:**

Improve the condition of our lakes, tarns, rivers and floodplains for nature and people by:

- reducing pollution
- restoring natural processes and freshwater habitats

## **Measures of success by 2031:**

- More than 75% of waterbodies will be achieving good ecological status (baseline 43%)
- 100% of current Designated Bathing Waters are achieving an 'excellent', 'good' or 'sufficient' status (baseline 78%: 66% are classified as excellent status; 12% good, 0% sufficient, 22% poor, 2024)
- 100% of Lake District actions within Diffuse Water Pollution Plans have been achieved, or are on track to be completed (baseline 0%, 80 actions)
- Ensure delivery of new spill reduction projects on 23 overflows to reduce spills across the Lake District by 90% (baseline = 0, United Utilities))

- Improve levels of pollution from abandoned metal mines in at least 13.7 miles (22km) of river; 20% of rivers currently impacted (baseline 68 miles/110km, Environment Agency)
- At least 18.64 miles (30km) of river restoration works have been delivered (baseline 58.7 miles/88km, Environment Agency)

**Our Partnership actions for 2026-2028 are:**

1. Undertake a strategic review of the risks facing our lakes, meres and tarns and design a programme of prioritised fundable interventions, by March 2028 (Lead: Jodie Mills, WCRT, supporting: LRT, ERT, SCRT, FBA, EA, NE, LDNPA, W&FC, CC, CWT, UU, FoLD)
2. Deliver a communication and engagement campaign, by March 2028, that increases the numbers of businesses, visitors and local communities taking positive action for water (Lead: Ellyse Mather, EA; supporting: LDNPA, WCRT, SCRT, LRT, ERT, NE, FBA, W&FC, UU, NT, RSPB, CT, CC, CALC, BTF, FoLD)

Many initiatives are already in progress to tackle the most well-known challenges facing some of our waterbodies. Our priority as a Partnership over the next two year is to ensure better collaboration across all the organisations and groups working on these issues, to enable us to target of our collective resources and effort to greatest effect across the Lake District and inspire a whole society commitment to recognise the value of and protect our water environment.

See also other Partnership actions that will be delivering for water under **Nature, Reducing Carbon, Climate Resilience, Farming**

**Other projects or activity being delivered, or supported, by Partners that will help us deliver for water over the life of the Plan include:**

- Buttermere Nutrients Investigation Project (EA)
  - Investigation to understand nutrient sources and identify actions to protect water quality in the Buttermere catchment
- Love Windermere Action Plan (Love Windermere Partnership, which includes UU, EA, LDNPA, W&FC, NT, SCRT, NFU, LDF, CT)
  - Coordinated science-led action plan to improve water quality and ecological health in the Windermere catchment

- Weblink: [lovewindermere.co.uk/action-plan](https://lovewindermere.co.uk/action-plan)
- Deliver the Cumbria River & Floodplain Restoration Strategy – restoring rivers to a more natural form, improving rivers for fish and other wildlife, whilst reducing the impacts of climate change on people and wildlife (EA, NE, WCRT, SCRT, ERT, NT and partners)
  - Partnership delivery of river and floodplain restoration to reinstate natural form, habitats and flood resilience
  - Weblink: [cumbria-river-restoration-strategy-from-local-to-international-success](#)
- Implementation of Lakes Biosecurity Strategy, including trialling the deployment of mobile washdown units at a minimum of 2 high risk lakes (WCRT, SCRT, ERT, NT)
  - Practical biosecurity work, including washdown trials, to reduce the spread of invasive species between lakes
- Derwent Water Bathing Water Action Plan (WCRT, EA)
  - Catchment action responding to bathing water designation and monitoring at Crow Park, Derwent Water.
  - Weblink: [westcumbriarivertrust.org/friends](https://westcumbriarivertrust.org/friends)
- Coniston Bathing Water Action Plan (EA, UU, LDNPA)
  - Partner action to understand pressures and improve bathing water performance at designated Coniston sites
  - Weblink: [three-wild-swimming-spots-coniston-given-bathing-water-status](#)
- Undertake River Basin Management Plan update for the Northwest (EA and partners)
  - Environment Agency-led update of statutory river basin planning priorities and measures for the North West
- Delivery of activity by the West Cumbria Catchment Partnership (WCRT); Becks to Bay (SCRT) Catchment Partnership; Eden Catchment Partnership (WCRT; SCRT; ERT)
  - Catchment partnerships delivering local water quality, habitat, natural processes and community engagement priorities
  - Weblink: [CatchmentPartnership/WEIF1701](#)
- Subject to DEFRA approval, delivery of Resilient Glenderamakin Landscape Recovery Scheme (WCRT)
  - Landscape recovery proposal focused on catchment resilience, water, habitat and natural process restoration
  - Weblink: [Resilient Glenderamakin](#)
- Delivery of water company Asset Management Plan 8 2025-2030, including Waste Water Treatment Works improvements, combined sewer overflow spill reductions, infrastructure removal, Resilient Thirlmere and Resilient Haweswater (UU)
  - Investment programme for wastewater, storm overflow, infrastructure and catchment resilience improvements
- Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) funding for nature-based solutions (EA, UU)
  - Funding route for water-company environmental improvements, including catchment and nature-based solutions.
  - Weblink: [water-industry-national-environment-programme-winep-methodology](#)

- Freshwater Invasive Non-native Species management: Lakes Biosecurity Priority Area - developing a freshwater invasive species strategy to stop the spread of invasive species in the Lake District (SCRT, WCRT, ERT)
  - Strategy and operational work to prevent, detect and manage freshwater invasive species in Lake District waters
- Monitoring Invasive Non-native Species through the Derwent Invasives Partnership - which has installed signage, developed Derwent specific 'Check, Clean, Dry' materials and introduced biosecurity guardians around the lake to monitor new INNS introductions (WCRT, LDNPA, EA, NT)
  - Local biosecurity and monitoring partnership using signage, materials and biosecurity guardians around Derwent Water
- Water and Abandoned Metal Mines Programme (EA)
  - Programme tackling pollution from historic metal mines affecting rivers and water quality
  - Weblink: [water-and-abandoned-metal-mines-programme](#)
- Prepare Diffuse Water Pollution Plans (DWPP) to help identify nutrient pathways and remedial action. Focusing on Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Derwent, Kent, Ehen and Eden (EA).
  - Plans identifying pollution pathways and actions needed to reduce nutrient impacts on protected water bodies
- Delivery of Catchment Sensitive Farming (Natural England)
  - Advice-led programme helping farmers reduce agricultural water pollution and improve soil and nutrient management
  - Weblink: [catchment-sensitive-farming-reduce-agricultural-water-pollution](#)
- Delivery of Lakes Surveillance Network (LSN) - providing surveillance and monitoring of lakes >2 hectares; providing data and evidence on the condition of the lake resource (EA).
  - Monitoring network providing evidence on the condition of lakes over two hectares
- Delivery of Bassenthwaite Lake catchment-based integrated interventions to address water quality, natural process and landscape resilience (LDNPA, WCRT, FBA, EA, NE, FC, FE)
  - Integrated catchment work to improve water quality, restore natural processes and strengthen landscape resilience
- Establishing finance models to connect investors to natural capital investment opportunities through Nature North (national representatives for the following partners: (NT, RSPB, CWT, WCRT, SCRT, ERT, EA, NE, LDNPA)
  - Developing investment models to connect private finance with nature recovery and natural capital opportunities

See also projects/activity which will support water under **Nature, Reducing Emissions, Climate Resilience, Farming**

## REDUCE EMISSIONS

*There is a global climate emergency and the Lake District must play its part in mitigating the impact of this: we have made a commitment to deliver the Lake District component of the Cumbrian Net Zero target by 2027. To do this we need to step up our approach to reducing emissions.*

**Ambition for 2051:** Carbon emissions from human activity are reduced and the Lake District stores more carbon than it emits.

**Objective for 2031:**

Reduce emissions by:

- Reducing carbon from travel
- Reducing agricultural greenhouse gases  
Inspiring and enabling more people to retrofit buildings to improve energy efficiency and retain embodied carbon in the built environment

**Measures of success by 2031:**

- Reducing Carbon emissions overall by 77%, aligned to achieving Carbon net zero by 2037 (baseline, Lake District Carbon budget, Summer 2025)
- At least a 15% reduction in carbon from visitor travel from a 2018 baseline (baseline = 1,608ktCO<sub>2</sub>e whilst in Cumbria; target alignment with the Cumbria Destination Management Plan)
- Agricultural greenhouse gases reduced by 21% (63,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, methane and nitrous oxide)
- A coordinated retrofit support offer is in place for the Lake District, delivered through Cumbria-level or partner programmes (including retrofit guidance published and maintained, clear routes for people to access advice and funding)

## Our Partnership action for 2026-2028 is:

1. Deliver four prioritised retrofit campaigns by March 2028, targeting specific building types, that will provide advice, guidance and support for funding that provides the greatest benefit to homeowners and businesses (Lead: Sarah Swindley, LDF; supporting: LDNPA, HE, CC, W&FC, with support from Futureproof Cumbria)

This action has been selected for Partnership focus as the retrofit of traditional buildings can make a significant impact to emission reduction. There are large numbers of traditional buildings in the Lake District which are a key component of its distinctive character. Maximising the embodied carbon that is already within these buildings by repurposing them, but also making them more energy efficient (reducing emissions) and fit for modern purpose without eroding their historic character is an important Partnership aim.

See also other actions that will reduce emissions under **Nature, Water, Climate Resilience, Farming, Inspiring People, Thriving Communities, Transport**

## Other projects being delivered, or supported, by Partners that will help us deliver emission reduction over the life of the Plan include:

- Delivery of Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership Sector Emissions Reduction Action Plans for each relevant Sector Group:
  - Coordinated sector plans to cut emissions across land use, transport, buildings and other priority areas
  - Weblink: [zerocarboncumbria.co.uk](https://zerocarboncumbria.co.uk)
  - Farming and Other Land Use (LDNPA, NFU, CC, W&FC, NT, FoLD, CWT, FC) - delivering benefits for the National Park from low carbon feed and fertiliser, regenerative farming and improved soil management
  - Reducing agricultural emissions through low-carbon inputs, regenerative farming and soil management
  - Transport and Mobility (LDNPA, W&FC, CC, CT, ACT, FoLD)
  - Supporting lower-carbon travel, modal shift and cleaner transport across Cumbria and the Lake District
  - Buildings (LDNPA, HE, W&FC, CC, ACT)
  - Improving energy efficiency and reducing building emissions, including retrofit of traditional buildings

- Undertake Farm carbon audits (funded by FiPL) (LDNPA, NFU, NT, with support from Future Proof Cumbria)
  - Farm-level assessments to identify practical options to reduce emissions and build business resilience
  - Weblink: [farming/fipl](#)
- EV charger installation – a Department of Transport-funded strategic network of EV chargers for residents and visitors – with a focus on enabling people without their own off-street parking space to own an EV (CC, W&FC)
  - Strategic charging network to support residents and visitors to switch to electric vehicles
- Delivery of Carbon reduction in community buildings (e.g. Satterthwaite Parish Room, Battery Storage for Village Halls Guidance) (ACT)
  - Support and guidance to help village halls and community buildings reduce energy use and emissions
- Go Car free campaign (CT)
  - Visitor marketing campaign encouraging car-free travel to and around the Lake District
  - Weblink: [car-free-lake-district](#)

See also projects/activity which will support emission reduction under **Nature, Water, Climate Resilience, Farming, Inspiring People, Thriving Communities, Transport**

## CLIMATE RESILIENCE

*There is a global climate emergency and the climate is changing rapidly, including in the Lake District. We must adapt to these changes by being more resilient to the impacts of the changing climate, on both our landscape and our communities.*

### **Ambition for 2051:**

The Lake District is more resilient to the effects of the future climate

### **Objective for 2031:**

Increase the resilience of the landscape, and its carbon storage potential, through:

- Restoring peatland
- Increasing tree and woodland cover and improving management
- Improving soil health
- Improving catchment management

### **Measures of success by 2031:**

- Additional 6,168 acres (2,500 ha) peatland restored (baseline = 3,000 ha restored since 2020, an average of 500 ha per year, Cumbria Peat Partnership)
- Additional 3,089 acres (1,250 ha) of tree and woodland cover (baseline 35,800 ha in 2025, National Forest Inventory and Forest Research Trees Outside Woodland data)
- Increase sustainable woodland management to 75% (baseline = 70.5%, 2024-25, Forestry Commission)
- The area of species rich grassland increases beyond the 2026 levels. (baseline = 1,782 hectares under agri-environment scheme land management options, DEFRA statistics)

- At least 18.64 miles (30km) of river restoration works have been delivered (baseline 58.7 miles/88km in 2026, Environment Agency)
- 50% increase in number of Wildfire Response Plans covering areas within the Lake District (baseline = 15 in 2026, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service)

**Our Partnership actions for 2026-2028 are:**

1. Contribute to the development pipeline and delivery of Cumbria Peat Partnership's peat under restoration programme to ensure at least 500ha (1,236 acres) of peat restoration works is undertaken each year (Lead: Gemma Jennings, CWT; supporting: LDNPA, NE, NT, UU, WCRT, EA, FC, RSPB)
2. Partners and stakeholders will collaborate to deliver the existing woodland creation pipeline and to identify additional opportunities for tree and woodland establishment to meet statutory targets of 250 hectares per year over the five-year plan period (Lead: Jake Thompson, FC; supporting delivery: FE, FoLD, LDNPA, NE, NT, RSPB, UU, WCRT)

The selected actions contribute to the government's Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework aspirations for nature.

See also other Partnership actions that will be delivering for climate resilience under **Nature, Water, Farming**

**Other projects and actions being delivered, or supported, by Partners that will help us deliver climate resilience over the life of the Plan include:**

- Fix the Fells programme (NT, LDNPA, LDF, NE, FoLD)
  - Upland path repair programme reducing erosion, protecting habitats and improving access resilience
  - Weblink: [fixthefells.co.uk](https://fixthefells.co.uk)
- Delivery of Ullswater Catchment Management (EA, NE, NT, W&FC, LDNPA)
  - Integrated catchment work to improve natural processes, reduce flood risk and support nature around Ullswater
- Delivery of RAISE Cumbria Community Forest (CC, W&FC, FC, NT, WCRT)
  - Community forest programme creating woodland and green infrastructure across Cumbria

- Weblink: [raisecumbria.org.uk](https://raisecumbria.org.uk)
- Cumbria Innovative Flood Resilience project continuation and expansion (EA, NE, W&FC)
  - Flood resilience programme testing community and property-level measures to reduce flood impacts
  - Weblink: [cumbria-innovative-flood-resilience](https://cumbria-innovative-flood-resilience)
- Delivery of Hedges and Edges Project (FoLD)
  - Delivery work restoring hedgerows and edge habitats to support wildlife, climate adaptation and landscape character
- HEART Programme micro-grants for community landscape resilience (LDF)
  - Lottery-funded grants programme enabling communities to deliver local landscape, heritage and resilience projects
  - Weblink: [Heart Programme](https://heartprogramme.org)
- Catchment Partnerships delivery of their catchment management plans e.g. West Cumbria, Lune, Eden, South Cumbria (WCRT representing LRT, ERT, SCRT)
  - Catchment partnership plans coordinating water, habitat, flood and community actions across river systems
- Undertake River Basin Management Plan update (EA)
  - Updating the River Basin Management Plan
- Cumbria Wildfire Forum activity (LDNPA, NE, FE, EA, UU, CWT, RSPB, NFU, CC, W&FC)
  - Multi-agency forum raising wildfire awareness, in particular the increased risk from the impact of climate change, and coordinating actions to reduce landscape fire risk

See also projects/activity which will support nature's recovery under **Nature, Water, Farming**

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

*Sustainable communities are fundamental to the Lake District's character, resilience and long-term future. The Lake District is a living, working landscape, shaped over centuries by the people who call it home. Vibrant communities sustain local services, support schools and businesses, and help maintain the cultural landscape that makes the Lake District internationally significant.*

### **Ambition for 2051:**

Rural communities are thriving, supported by a diverse economy and regenerative tourism, enabling more people to live and work in the Lake District.

### **Objective for 2031:**

Help rural communities to be sustainable and vibrant by:

- Increasing the supply and mix (size, ownership/rent) of affordable and occupancy-restricted homes and controlling the proportion of houses used for second homes and short-term holiday letting
- Expanding and diversifying the workforce through upskilling and creating training and job opportunities
- Creating conditions for economic growth through infrastructure and place-based investment, and promoting a regenerative visitor economy
- Reducing recreational pressures on communities, landscapes, and the environment

### **Measures of success by 2031:**

- Planning permission secured for 400 dwellings (including affordable, local occupancy and permanent occupancy homes) (baseline = 0, Lake District National Park Authority Local Plan Annual Monitoring report)

- Completion of 400 dwellings (including affordable, local occupancy and permanent occupancy homes) (baseline = 0, Lake District National Park Authority Local Plan Annual Monitoring report)
- No increase in the proportion of homes in non-permanent occupancy by parish (baseline = 29.5% of houses used as second homes/holiday lets across all parishes, Westmorland & Furness and Cumberland Council Tax data)
- Increase in the number of people aged 19 and above participating in further education and skills learning (including apprenticeships), per 100,000 people in the Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness council areas (baseline = Cumberland 5,339; Westmorland & Furness 5,824 per 100,000 people in 2024-25)
- Increase in small business startups in the Lake District (target = 1,300; baseline = 20 startups in the Lake District in December 2025, Cumbria Economy Tracker)
- Increase in the percent of growing businesses in the Lake District (10% increase in employment and/or turnover in past year)(baseline = 5.4%, January 2026, Cumbria Economy Tracker)
- Increase in the percentage of Lake District properties that are gigabit connected by 2030 with a target of 96.7% (baseline = 52.9%, January 2026, Connecting Cumbria)
- Reduce the number of reported incidents by a % (tbc) through improved Partner engagement and presence (baseline = number of incidents reported to the two Council's Public Space Protection Order email addresses or subsequent mechanisms, and the number of joint visitor management patrols, during the 2026 season, target to be set by December 2026, Strategic Visitor Management Group).

### **Our Partnership actions for 2026-2028 are:**

1. Progress Windermere Gateway by securing an outline planning application for affordable and local-needs homes and employment space, confirming government commitment and funding for development of the Lakes Line passing loop business case, and obtaining further investment to deliver improvements to the Lakes Line and Windermere Station by March 2028 (Lead: Angela Jones, W&FC; supporting: LDNPA, NT; EC)
2. Work with Cumbria Combined Authority (the transport authority) to commission a study of the Wasdale and Ullswater valleys to transform visitor movement and behaviour, and then implement the recommended measures by March 2028 (Lead: Steve Ratcliffe, LDNPA; supporting: W&F, CC, NT; CT)

These actions have been selected as consultation feedback confirmed that visitor management is a major community concern, justifying a focused action to reduce these pressures. Housing is also a concern and partnership working has already secured planning approval for the highways infrastructure needed to facilitate the Windermere Gateway project, and continued collaboration will be vital as delivery progresses.

See also other Partnership actions that will be delivering for sustainable communities under **Climate Resilience, Farming, Historic Environment, Inspiring People, Transport**

### **Other projects and activity being delivered, or supported, by Partners that will help us deliver for sustainable communities over the life of the Plan include:**

- Undertake the Local Plan review (LDNPA)
  - Review of Lake District planning policies to support housing, economy, climate, nature and place outcomes
  - Weblink: [local-plan-review](#)
- Strategic Visitor Management Group's delivery of education, engagement and enforcement around visitor management (LDNPA, W&F, UU, CC, NT, FE, EC)
  - Partnership approach to visitor pressures through communications, engagement, presence and enforcement
- Undertake a Community Inquiry in 2026 for the communities of Keswick, Bassenthwaite, Buttermere, Above Derwent together (ACT)
  - Community-led inquiry to understand local priorities and shape future visitor and place interventions

- Preparation of a Visitor Management Action Plan (VMAP) in Borrowdale and Buttermere informed by the Community Inquiry (LDNPA, CC, ACT, NT)
  - Action plan for Borrowdale and Buttermere informed by community evidence and partner priorities
- Delivery of improved broadband coverage through collective working with Connecting Cumbria (W&F, CC, LDNPA)
  - Partnership work to extend digital connectivity and support rural communities and businesses
  - Weblink: [connectingcumbria.org.uk](https://connectingcumbria.org.uk)
- £200 million investment to reduce spills across Windermere from storm overflows (UU)
  - United Utilities investment to reduce storm overflow spills affecting Windermere
- Delivery of Going for Growth: Cumbria's Economic Strategy 2025-2045 (EC)
  - Cumbria-wide economic strategy supporting productivity, skills, investment and inclusive growth
  - Weblink: [going-for-growth](https://going-for-growth.org.uk)
- Skills Bootcamps and connect to Work scheme (EC)
  - Skills and employment programmes helping people access training, jobs and progression routes
- Delivery of Economic Strategies for each unitary authority (CC, W&F)
  - Local authority economic strategies guiding investment, jobs, infrastructure and growth priorities
- Roll out of the Cumbria Coastal Route programme (CT, CC)
  - Visitor economy and travel programme promoting the coastal route and western gateways
- Promote the brand and networks of Discover Carlisle and Western Lake District and Coast (CC)
  - Promotion of destination brands and networks supporting lesser-known places and local businesses
  - Weblink: [discovercarlisle.co.uk](https://discovercarlisle.co.uk) and [Western Lake District and Coast](https://westernlakedistrict.co.uk)
- Delivery of the Cumbria Destination Management Plan actions including:
- Creation of a responsible tourism education strategy (CT, LDNPA, LDF, BTF)
  - Education and communications to encourage responsible visitor behaviour and stewardship
- Programme to teach and inspire young people about the countryside and environmental awareness (CT, CC, W&F)
  - Learning activity to build young people's understanding of countryside, environment and responsible use
- Visitor safety management strategy (CT)
  - Coordinated visitor safety planning and messaging across the visitor economy
- Improve accessible and inclusive facilities across the visitor economy infrastructure (CT, W&F, CC)
  - Investment and guidance to make visitor infrastructure more accessible and inclusive
- Support 'warm welcome' programmes to make all visitors welcome (CT)

- Customer welcome and inclusion activity supporting a positive visitor experience
- Support tourism businesses to develop ways to increase their positive impact on the environment (CT)
- Support for businesses to reduce impacts and contribute positively to nature, climate and communities
- Area Action Plan delivery for Wasdale, Ullswater, Hawkshead and Langdale (LDNPA, ACT, CT, CC, W&F, NT)
- Place-based action plans tackling visitor pressures and improving local outcomes in priority valleys
- Weblink: [destination-management-plan](#)
- Fairer Housing, Stronger Communities Campaign (FoLD)
- Drawing on 2025 research, a campaign to support local communities by calling for measures to level the playing field and reduce the proportion of the housing stock given over to second homes and holiday lets and increasing the number of houses occupied by full-time, permanent residents.
- Weblink: [Fairer Housing, Stronger Communities](#)

See also projects/activity which will support sustainable communities under **Nature, Water, Climate Resilience, Farming, Inspiring People, Historic Environment, Transport**

# FARMING

*For centuries, farming has shaped the Lake District landscape and still defines the character of the area today. Farming is at the heart of Lake District communities, a core part of the economy, and contributes to the enjoyment of millions of visitors every year. It plays a vital part in the Lake District's future, evolving to continue to deliver high quality food and a healthy environment whilst shaping and sustaining this national park and world heritage landscape.*

## **Ambition for 2051:**

Farming is viable, nature-friendly and delivers quality sustainable produce while maintaining the Lake District's distinctive agricultural practices.

## **Objective for 2031:**

Improve the viability and resilience of farms by:

- Enhancing the provision of farm advice through a joined-up network of farm advisors
- Increasing the adoption of nature-friendly farming practices
- Maintaining functioning hefting and commoning systems
- Maintaining a vibrant tenant farming sector
- Improving opportunities to develop, promote and champion quality produce
- Supporting farmers to establish new and alternative income streams through farm business diversification

## **Measures of success by 2031:**

- A joined-up, integrated farm-advice network has been established, that empowers farmers and commoners to lead nature-positive change alongside a viable farm business (baseline = 0)
- 65% of land managers have adopted nature friendly farming across at least 10% of their land holding [Baseline TBC - awaiting this PLTOF indicator development by Natural England, due in April 2026, to confirm detail of measure, obtain data and set baseline]
- No significant change to the number of hefted flocks grazing on Lake District commons (baseline = 313 (2017), 286 (2022), Heft Index data)
- Tenanted farm businesses in the Lake District continue to be supported through advisory, grant and partnership programmes during the agricultural transition (baseline = 0; number of Farming in Protected Landscapes applications from tenant farms, LDNPA)

**Our Partnership action for 2026-2028 is:**

1. Secure funding for, and begin development of, an integrated farm advice network that meets the needs of Lake District farmers and commoners and is grounded in a shared holistic place-based strategy. (Lead: Alice Collier, LDNPA; supporting: CLA, CWT, EA, FoLD, HE, LDF, NE, NT, NFU, RSPB, SCRT, UU, UoC, W&FC, WCRT, with support from the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership, the Woodland Trust and the Farmer Network)

The above action has been selected for delivery in the first 2 years as it is essential to ensure that we can deliver progress against multiple objectives for Farming.

See also other Partnership actions that will be delivering for farming under Nature, **Water, Reducing Carbon, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Communities, Inspiring People**

**Other projects and activity being delivered by or supported by Partners that will help us deliver for farming over the life of the Plan include:**

- Farming in Protected Landscapes programme (LDNPA)

- Delivery of this DEFRA-funded programme to support farming in Protected Landscapes
  - Weblink: [farming/fipl](#)
- Hedges and edges project (FoLD)
  - Project improving hedgerows, field boundaries and edge habitats for wildlife and landscape character.
- Delivery of the NFU uplands vision (NFU)
  - Promoting a viable, resilient future for upland farming and food production
- Delivery of NT new strategy (NT)
  - Strategy delivery supporting nature, climate, heritage and people outcomes on its estate
- Love Windermere farmer engagement workstream (NFU, NT, SCRT, EA, LDNPA)
  - Coordinated science-led action plan to improve water quality and ecological health in the Windermere catchment
  - Weblink: [lovewindermere.co.uk/action-plan](#)
- Support the [Cottam project](#) (the 'Uplands Experiment')(Partners to be determined as the project evolves)
  - Emerging Government-led project exploring new approaches to farming, nature, climate and rural resilience in the uplands
- Agri-environment scheme opportunities for farmers, land managers and commoners (NE)
  - Natural England advice and scheme opportunities supporting nature-friendly and sustainable land management
- Develop an agro-pastoral system strategy (LDNPA, NE, DEFRA, HE)
  - Strategy to safeguard and evolve the Lake District's World Heritage agro-pastoral system
- Rollout of Venison Lake District Brand (LDNPA)
  - Local wild venison brand supporting deer management, local markets and sustainable produce

See also projects/activity which will support farming under **Nature, Water, Reducing Emissions, Climate Resilience, Historic Environment, Inspiring People, Sustainable Communities**

## HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

*The historic environment is the context and setting for everything we do, providing a sense of place and distinctive character which makes the Lake District special. It includes elements of our cultural landscape, rich archaeology, distinctive buildings and settlement character. It is a vital engine for economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development. Heritage-led interventions can drive local investment, unlock new housing, and boost the visitor economy and creative industries, while also delivering quantifiable social and wellbeing benefits. As one of the Special Qualities and integral to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site, the conservation and protection of the historic environment is essential.*

### **Ambition for 2051:**

The distinctive historic environment of the Lake District is conserved and enhanced, ensuring it is better understood and looked after for future generations

### **Objective for 2031:**

Improve the management of the historic environment by:

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

### **Measures of success by 2031:**

- Decrease the number of heritage assets on the national Heritage at Risk Register by 4 (baseline 22 monuments and 8 listed buildings in 2025, Historic England)
- 16 conservation projects delivered that have improved the condition of a non-designated heritage asset (baseline = 0, Lake District National Park Authority data)
- 2% (18 miles<sup>2</sup>/47 km<sup>2</sup>) increase (to 37%) of area that has a Level 1 archaeological survey (baseline = 35% of the Lake District surveyed 2026, Lake District National Park Authority)
- Decrease the number of Grade II buildings at risk by 4 (baseline = 70 as of October 2025, Lake District National Park Authority)
- Publish and promote a Heritage Crafts/Traditional Skills register (baseline = 0)
- Deliver heritage skills training on 5 conservation projects (baseline = 0)

**Our Partnership action for 2026-2028 is:**

1. Identify, assess and deliver 12 heritage conservation projects that: reduce the number of Grade 2 buildings at risk by 2; reduce the number of sites on the Heritage at Risk Register by 2 (Western Range and Inner Terrace Wall, Lowther Castle), and improve the condition of 8 non-designated heritage sites. (Lead: Eleanor Kingston, LDNPA; supporting; HE, NT, NE, UU, FE, FC)

This action has been selected in the first 2 years because it is essential to ensure that we can deliver against the Government's Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework target for Heritage at Risk.

See also other Partnership actions that will be delivering for the historic environment under **Nature, Reducing Emissions, Climate Resilience, Farming, Sustainable Communities**

**Other projects and activity being delivered by or supported by Partners that will help us deliver for the historic environment over the life of the Plan include:**

- Dry-stone walling training, hedge laying training and competitions (FoLD)
  - Traditional skills activity maintaining craft knowledge and landscape features
- Guidance for repair and retrofitting of historic buildings (LDNPA, HE)
  - Guidance helping owners repair and retrofit historic buildings sensitively and effectively
- Historic Environment Strategy actions (LDNPA)
  - Delivery of the Authority's priorities for understanding, conserving and enhancing the historic environment
- Preparation of Greenside Lead Mine NLHF project, to remove the site from the Heritage At Risk Register, deliver interpretation and nature recovery (LDNPA, NT, EA)
  - Project development for heritage restoration, interpretation and nature recovery at Greenside Lead Mine
  - Weblink: [heritage-at-risk/list-entry/](#)
- Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)(LDNPA)
  - Delivery of the DEFRA-funded Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, in particular supporting farmers and landowners to maintain and repair traditional farm buildings and other historic environment features
  - Weblink: [farming/fipl](#)
- Complete the Listed Building Condition Survey (LDNPA)
  - Survey work establishing building condition evidence and supporting targeted conservation and skills activity
- Delivery of National Trust Strategic Plan 'to inspire millions' (nature and history) (NT)
  - Activity connecting more people with nature, heritage and responsible enjoyment on the National Trust estate

See also projects/activity which will support the historic environment under **Nature, Water, Reducing Emissions, Climate Resilience, Inspiring People, Farming**

## INSPIRING PEOPLE

*The Lake District's value as a National Park and World Heritage Site depends on people understanding its Special Qualities and Attributes of Outstanding Universal Value and helping to protect them. By improving wellbeing through access to nature and inspiring responsible, sustainable behaviour, the Partnership strengthens its ability to maintain a landscape that is rich in nature, culturally resilient and socially vibrant.*

### **Ambition for 2051:**

The Lake District is improving people's wellbeing, and they are inspired to value, look after and enjoy it through living, working and visiting responsibly and sustainably

### **Objective for 2031:**

Inspire people to enjoy, understand and care for the Lake District, through:

- Using our understanding of the health and wellbeing benefits of being active outdoors to support greater access to the countryside and nature
- Improving and maintaining the rights of way network, Miles without Stiles and related facilities
- Increasing volunteering opportunities
- Delivering more engagement programmes

### **Measures of success by 2031:**

- Increase in the percentage of visitors choosing to visit the Lake District for health and wellbeing benefits. Target = 65% (baseline = 50%, Cumbria Tourism Visitor Survey 2025)

- 65% of the Public Rights of Way Network passes the 'ease of use' condition (baseline - 58.2%, June 2025)
- 74% of Miles without Stiles meet their route standard (baseline = 58% (29/50), December 2024)
- 6 miles (10km) of paths have been improved to improve accessibility and active travel by meeting Miles without Stiles standards (baseline = 0)
- Establish a joined-up, collaborative network to increase the number and range of volunteering opportunities and engagement programmes within the Lake District (baseline = 0)

**Our Partnership actions for 2026-2028 are:**

1. By July 2027, deliver a coordinated programme of promotional, cultural and community activities that uses the Tour de France to showcase the Lake District and leaves a lasting legacy of increased active travel and healthier lifestyles, with measurable behaviour change outcomes. (Lead: Jointly led by Michael Barry CC, Gill Haigh CT, Steph Corden & Angela Jones W&FC; supporting: LDNPA, BTF, FE, FoLD)
2. Prepare a joined-up strategy of engagement and volunteering programmes, and identification of funding to deliver an associated action plan, by March 2028 for how to better 'inspire people' together (Jointly led by: Sarah Calderbank & Ruth Suddaby, LDNPA; supporting: ACT, LDF, LAF, FoLD, FE, CT, WCRT, LDNPA)

These actions were chosen because they are deliverable early in the Plan, supported by secured funding and strong partnership working; the 2027 Tour de France offers a major opportunity to inspire people and raise the Lake District's profile; and the Partnership needs a shared baseline for health, wellbeing, engagement and volunteering to guide future work.

See also other Partnership actions that will be delivering for inspiring people under **Nature, Water, Historic Environment, Farming, Sustainable Communities**

**Other projects and activity being delivered by or supported by Partners that will help us inspire people over the life of the Plan include:**

- Miles without Stiles (LDNPA, NT, FE, CC, W&FC, UU)

- Delivery of Miles without Stiles work with partners to improve accessibility of trails, including delivering DEFRA's Access for All programmes
  - Weblink: [mileswithoutstiles](#)
- WHS Interpretation Strategy Action Plan (LDNPA, FE, LDF, NT)
  - Programme improving understanding and interpretation of the World Heritage Site
  - Weblink: [whs/interpretation-strategy](#)
- Deliver Rights of Way agency agreement (LDNPA)
  - LDNPA management of the 3,230km of rights of way in the national park on behalf of the two unitary authorities
  - Weblink: [rights-of-way](#)
- Fix the Fells programme (LDNPA, NT, LDF, FoLD)
  - Upland path repair programme reducing erosion, protecting habitats and improving access resilience
  - Weblink: [fixthefells.co.uk](#)
- Green social prescribing (WCRT)
  - Nature-based wellbeing activity connecting people with outdoor and riverside places
- Curriculum-based education sessions (all Rivers Trusts)
  - Rivers Trusts education sessions linked to curriculum learning about rivers, catchments and nature
- Watery Walks with podcasts and nature trails (WCRT)
  - Self-guided walks and audio trails encouraging people to explore and value local water environments
- Delivery of National Trust Strategic Plan 'to inspire millions' (nature and history) (NT)
  - Activity connecting more people with nature, heritage and responsible enjoyment on the National Trust estate
- Work parties e.g. litter picks, hedge planting (FoLD)
  - Volunteer work parties delivering practical conservation and community stewardship
- Delivery of West Cumbria Rivers Trust conservation groups and work parties (WCRT)
  - Regular conservation groups and work parties delivering practical river and catchment improvements
- Delivery of Active Forests Programme at Whinlatter Forest (developing new activities and programmes to get more people active) (FE)
  - Using Whinlatter Forest to encourage more people to be active outdoors
  - Weblink: [whinlatter-forest](#)

See also projects/activity which will support nature's recovery under **Water, Reducing Emissions, Climate Resilience, Farming**

## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

*Transport is integral to this plan, cutting across the other themes including Sustainable Communities, Reducing Emissions and Inspiring People. There was a high level of support for this theme identified in the consultation responses.*

### **Ambition for 2051:**

Public transport and active travel are the preferred ways of moving around, allowing more people to get where they need to go, when they need to get there, reducing the impacts of private vehicles on the Lake District

### **Objective for 2031:**

Improve integrated sustainable travel for everyone and reduce dependency on private vehicles through:

- work with relevant authorities to create and deliver a plan for improvements in sustainable and active travel
- greater provision of services, infrastructure, information and marketing

### **Measures of success by 2031:**

- Increase the share of visitors arriving into the Lake District by train/bus/coach to 15%, and reduce the share arriving by private vehicle to 85% (Lake District baseline 9% for train/bus/coach, 90% for private vehicles, 2025 Cumbria Visitor Survey; targets aligned with the Cumbria Destination Management Plan for 2030)
- Of those arriving into the Lake District by private vehicle, increase the share of visitors arriving by electric or hybrid vehicle to at least 25% (Lake District baseline 17%, 2025 Cumbria Visitor Survey; target aligned with the Cumbria Destination Management Plan for 2030)

- Increase the share of visitors for whom the main mode of getting around the Lake District is sustainable or active travel to 40% (Lake District baseline 21%, 2025 Cumbria Visitor Survey; target aligned with the Cumbria Destination Management Plan for 2030)

**Our Partnership actions for 2026-2028 are:**

1. Prepare a plan for improvements in sustainable and active travel to drive behavioural change by March 2028 (Lead: Steve Ratcliffe, LDNPA; supporting: W&FC, CC, CT, FoLD)
2. Delivery/implementation of the Lake District Active Travel Network Plan (progressing six prioritised active travel projects) by March 2028 (Lead: Emma Moody, LDNPA; supporting: CC, W&FC)

These actions are selected because the first is critical for transport and needs to happen at pace in preparation for working with and influencing the Combined Authority's transport planning for Cumbria. The second brings together the delivery of complex active travel schemes that are in design and development but not yet delivery phase, including Borderlands Growth Deal See More Lake District improvements, and Active Travel England funded design and development programme for 2026/27.

See also other Partnership actions that will be delivering for sustainable travel and transport under **Reducing Emissions, Inspiring People, Sustainable Communities**

**Other projects and activity being delivered by or supported by Partners that will help us deliver for sustainable transport over the life of the Plan include:**

- Creation of 'BEAT Route' from Barrow to the Esk (CC, W&FC, LDNPA, working with the BEAT Route group)
  - Community-led active travel route connecting Barrow and the Esk corridor
  - Weblink: [beatroute.org.uk](https://beatroute.org.uk)
- Supporting the Sustainable and Integrated Transport for Ullswater (SITU) initiative (ACT, W&F, LDNPA, CT, working with SITU)
  - Community-led integrated travel improvements around Ullswater

- Weblink: [SITU](#)
- Supporting Wasdale Action Group to deliver the recommendations from the Citizens Panel (ACT, CC, LDNPA, CT, NT, with Wasdale Action Group)
  - Support for delivery of locally-developed visitor management and movement in the Wasdale valley
- Continuation of joint sustainable transport campaigns and marketing (such as Car Free days) (CT, LDNPA, NT, W&FC, CC)
  - Joint campaigns encouraging car-free, lower-carbon and responsible visitor travel
- Continuation of 'You Smart Thing' online information service to influence visitor travel (CT)
  - Journey-planning information service helping visitors choose sustainable travel options
  - Weblink: [yousmartthing.com](https://yousmartthing.com)
- Delivery of Heart of the Lakes See More Lake District Programme (W&FC, CC, LDNPA)
  - Borderlands Growth-deal-funded active travel connectivity improvements between Grasmere and Keswick
  - Weblink: [seemorelakedistrict](#)
- Preparation of transport research and advocacy (FoLD)
  - Research and advocacy to support stronger sustainable transport policy and investment

See also projects/activity which will support sustainable travel and transport under **Reduce Emissions, Inspiring People, Sustainable Communities**