



Lake District
National Park
Partnership

Lake District National Park Partnership

Annual report

2024 - 25

November 2025

LAKE DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP PLAN

Annual Report 2024-2025

Chair's Foreword

I am delighted to introduce to you our third Partnership Annual Report for the 2024-25 financial year.

The production of the report is always a helpful moment, allowing us to look back, take stock of what we have achieved together as a Partnership, but also to reflect on where there is more work to do and what we could do better. Our report summarises this, providing data showing how delivery is progressing year-on-year as well as some project case studies.

I am particularly pleased that we have published our very first interpretation strategy for the World Heritage Site, and that we are successfully working with local communities in Wasdale and Ullswater on visitor management.

We are delighted that over the last year we have gained two new Partners. Both the Freshwater Biological Association and the West Cumbria Rivers Trust (representing all four of the Cumbrian Rivers Trusts – West, South, Eden and Lune) have long been supporters of the Partnership, but it is an important milestone that they have now committed to our shared vision, aspirations and Plan delivery. They are most welcome! This took our number of Partners to 23 in 2024-25 with a breadth of organisations across the public, private, voluntary and charitable sectors.

We have continued to focus our Partnership meetings on particular themes. These 'deep dives' allow us all to understand and discuss issues which affect our landscape, environment, local communities and businesses. In 2024-25 these included a highly informative visit to Ullswater to discuss visitor management challenges and solutions with the National Trust at Aira Force, Ullswater Steamers, the Friends of Ullswater Way and Sustainable and Integrated Transport for Ullswater. It was impressive to see what is being achieved in this valley through collaboration.

In July last year we held an important meeting at Bassenthwaite with a focus on youth voice. We were delighted to host and hear from young people as our future guardians of the area. Representatives from John Ruskin School, Cumbria Young Farmers and young people who had been working with the West Cumbria Rivers Trust shared their views on challenges the Lake District is facing and their hopes for the future. Both of these meetings reinforced how much more we can achieve as a Partnership when we work with and listen to our local organisations and communities: this has long been a cornerstone of the Partnership's ways of working and will always continue to be so.

While we continue - until 2026 - to deliver our current Partnership Plan, we have also started work to develop our next ambitious five-year Plan. Our project delivery on the ground is an important foundation for this, as are the views of our Partners, delivery partners, local communities and visitors. We would like to hear from you about what matters to you about the Lake District, and how you would like to see the National Park and World Heritage Site shaped over the next Plan period, but also looking ahead to 2051 when the Park will be 100 years old. Please do give us your thoughts through our consultation which will run until 30 January 2026:

<https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/PartnershipConsultation>

I hope you will enjoy reading the report. Please do get in touch if you have questions about the content or have any other questions about the Partnership: LDNPP@lakedistrict.gov.uk

Dr Celia Caulcott

Independent Chair of the Lake District National Park Partnership



Caption: Celia Caulcott, c/o Milton Haworth

Introduction

Welcome to the 2024-25 Annual Report for the Lake District National Park Partnership. In these pages you can explore our progress on the key themes of our 2020-2026 joint Partnership Plan for the Lake District National Park and English Lake District World Heritage Site. These themes include: Climate Action; Securing the Future of Farming, Forestry, Nature Recovery and Climate Change; A Lake District for Everyone; Sustainable Travel and Transport; Vibrant Communities and a Prosperous Economy and the English Lake District World Heritage Site.

Many of our projects are supported by different combinations of Partnership members; this enables us to address complex issues, with each organisation bringing its own expertise to the table. Whilst this allows us to be pragmatically efficient with our limited resources, more importantly it demonstrates that solving many of our challenges can deliver multiple benefits simultaneously. We have included information under each case study to show this.

The Annual Report Key Outcome pages highlight some recent successes and developments, whereas the table sets out a full statement on our progress on Plan delivery. Here summaries of our achievements are colour-coded. Green denotes those targets that have been achieved or have exceeded expectations. Amber represents those which are on course to achieve their target. Red indicates those which have yet to be achieved. Grey represents those targets which have no data reported for this year, sometimes because reporting periods from various organisations do not match the timetable for this review.

Update on our Targets 2024-25

The chart below summarises how we are progressing towards all our Partnership Plan targets.



Caption: the chart shows that approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of the actions are either on target or have exceeded our target, but that means that we have either no data or are below target for the remaining $\frac{1}{3}$.

Summary of Activity

The following table summarises our progress to date. Where we can, we have identified numerical targets which we set at the beginning of the plan in 2020. In other instances, there are case studies describing various projects undertaken by different combinations of Partners, organisations, businesses and/or individuals. The rest of the report provides more detail, facts and figures on each of the actions as well as short case studies.

	Action		Targets and Outputs		Status				
Green targets are those that have been achieved or have exceeded expectations, and orange targets are those which are on course to achieve their targets. Red targets are those which have yet to be achieved. Grey represents those targets which have no data reported this year									
Above Target			On Target			Below Target		No data	
CLIMATE ACTION									
1	All Partners’ business plans contribute towards Cumbria’s net zero by 2037.			100% of Partners' plans contribute towards Cumbria’s Net Zero targets has been achieved.					
2	Pipeline of new Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership sector projects to address the gap identified.			Delivery of projects from each ZCCP Sector Group			See case study		
SECURING THE FUTURE OF FARMING AND FORESTRY, NATURE RECOVERY AND CLIMATE CHANGE									
Action 1: Develop and deliver a coordinated Partnership transition support programme to enable business adaptation, nature and climate recovery, and maintenance of the cultural landscape and supporting support young entrants by securing the high take-up of options within the Government’s Agricultural Transition Plan 2021-2024.									
1a	Environmental advice for farmers, foresters and land managers			Environmental advice is provided to farmers, foresters and land managers.					
1b	Delivering the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme.			100% of FiPL funds allocated have been spent.					
				50% of projects fit each of the FiPL four themes, where a target of 25% was set.					
				FiPL has reached over 500 farm businesses, where a target of 300 was set.			See case study		
1c	Support and share knowledge about project delivery and future bids to Landscape Recovery Schemes (LRS).			7 partners have engaged, where a target of 10 was set.					
				50% of LRS have Heritage Impact Assessments.					
				LRS projects share learning with others.					

1d	High take-up and secure successful delivery of Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier schemes.	55% of the Lake District is registered as Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier Scheme land, remaining static since 2020, with no improvement.	See case study
1e	Blended finance projects opportunities for natural capital from private, charitable and public.	15 blended finance projects are developing exceeding our target of 5 across the Lake District.	See case study
Action 2: Supporting the emerging Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) by delivering the Lake District National Park Nature Recovery Plan, championing and resourcing the recovery of priority and protected habitats and species.			
2a	Increase understanding within the farming community regarding nature and climate recovery, maintaining cultural heritage, and Local Nature Recovery projects.	A target of at least 12 Partnership LNRS advocacy events was set.	
2b	Delivering targets for woodland creation and restoration schemes	A target of woodland cover increasing by 253ha per annum was set. 63ha has been achieved this year.	
2c	Delivering targets for peatland restoration	A target of 468ha of Peatland restored per year was set. In 2024, 1199ha was restored, exceeding target.	
		A target of 700 tCOe per year was set. In 2024, 1926 tCOe was sequestered exceeding target.	
2d	Supporting the delivery of the species recovery projects for Pine Marten and Freshwater Pearl Mussel.	Research projects were conducted	
		A target of 3 translocations/ releases per year was set. Two were achieved, pine martens and freshwater pearl mussel.	See case study
		A target of two Reintroduction Engagements per year was set.	
		A target of 1 Captive Breeding programme per year was set. One was achieved for beavers.	
2e	Work with the Cumbria LNRS team and partners to develop an effective and efficient Cumbria-wide partnership approach for the extent and condition of priority habitats.	A target to undertake data collation and sharing through a coordinate process or platform was agreed, subject to funding.	
2f	Preparation of a Wild Deer Management Strategy by March 2025.	The target of publishing a Wild Deer Management Strategy was set and achieved in March 2025.	See case study
Action 3: Reduce 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			
3a	Carbon budget assessments for individual farms, farm clusters and community farming initiatives.	A target of 100 farm business carbon audits per year was set. Five were achieved in 2024.	

3b	Delivery of farming-led carbon reduction or carbon storage measures, including using the learning from farm carbon audits.	Farm business carbon reduction case study	
3c	Promoting and supporting farmers and land managers in delivering climate adaptation and resilience	A target of 100 farms engaged in natural flood management. Five group projects were developed in 2024.	See case study
		A target was set of 750 farmers engaged in Soil Health actions.	
Action 4: Maintain, celebrate and strengthen traditional Lake District farming systems by:			
4a	Preparing and publishing an updated Lake District Shepherds' Guide in 2025.	The Shepherds' Guide published hard copy should be published by Dec 2025.	
		Development of a fell going flocks index to monitor heft decline. 8.6% of hefted flocks were lost between 2017 and 2022.	
4b	Commons in successful agri-environment schemes (AES) and landscape recovery pilots	A target of increasing the amount of Common land in AES.	
		The number of Common Land and cultural heritage options have remained static across adopted AES schemes.	
5	Support the Love Windermere Partnership	The number of positive communications & engagements increases.	See case study
		Level of partners involvement in Love Windermere increases.	
		Partners contributing to Love Windermere projects increases.	
LAKE DISTRICT FOR EVERYONE			
Action 1: Identify priority activity and seek investment to ensure the Lake District is a place for everyone and where all are welcome, with particular focus on the identified key audiences of: black, brown and racially minoritised people; people with disabilities, and people from underserved/deprived areas of Cumbria, all with a particular focus on young people.			
1a	Seeking resource, delivering and sharing learning from the Journeys Project.	The Journeys Project secured funding, enabled Lake District visits for underserved groups and ran workshops.	See case study
1b	Supporting the Black Nature in Residence residency.	The Black Nature in Residence residency ran, conducted workshops leading to an exhibition.	See case study
1c	Developing joint ways of working to support the Accessible Cumbria Partnership.	Accessible Cumbria Partnership improved access to the Lake District through information technology and infrastructure.	See case study
1d	Delivering Collaboration Hub projects to support the LD4E Key Outcome.	A target of 12 Collaboration Hub events, whereas 8 were delivered.	

2	Consider whether Lake District for Everyone should be a cross-cutting theme for the Partnership and the next Plan.	Lake District for Everyone themes/activities will continue into the next Partnership Plan.	
SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT			
1	Initiatives for multi-modal ticketing and enhanced connectivity from the West Coast Mainline in 2024/5.	A target of 3 Multi-modal ticket projects per year was set and 1 was created.	
		A target of 5 onward bus route improvements was set and 3 were achieved.	
2	Support rail upgrades on all Cumbrian lines in 2024/5.	A target of 6 rail improvements was set and 4 were achieved.	
3	Develop marketing initiatives for all sustainable and active transport modes.	A target of 4 marketing initiatives for sustainable travel was set and 4 were achieved.	
4	Work in partnership to secure the decarbonisation of transport	A target of 108 EV charge points by end of the plan, achieved one year early in 2024/25.	
		A target of 30% visitors using EVs to arrive/ travel around Lake District. 7.9% in 2022. The next reporting will be from the 2025 Cumbria Visitor Survey when the date is made available.	
5	Develop high quality active travel measures	A target of 6 additional cycle routes per year. Preparation underway but no new routes in 2024-25.	
		Borderlands Business Case submitted March 2025. This is still in development.	
		Active Travel England plan submission complete.	
6	Pilot sustainable travel improvements with communities.	A target of 5 community sustainable travel improvements developed. Three were achieved around Keswick, Ullswater and Wastwater.	
7	Results from the research project develop and support delivery of a list of SMART actions.	Research project used for 6 further investigations and bids, as well as to develop SMART actions for the next Partnership Plan.	
8	Work with Councils to deliver and promote bus service improvements.	A target of 8 bus services to be improved, Westmorland and Furness Council used Bus Service Improvement Fund funding to improve 6 routes in or into the Lake District in 2024-25 and improvements were also made to the Wasdale Shuttle and Ullswater Hopper.	

9	Deliver better facilities at key transport hubs.	Target of 3 additional facilities at a key transport hub. Work in development but not implemented as yet.	
10	Partners to commit to a reduction in travel and travel-related carbon emissions.	A target of 80% hybrid or online partner meetings. Exceeded at 87% in 2024-25.	
		Target of 90% accessible partnership meeting locations. Exceeded at 100% in 2024-25.	
11	Develop accessible and inclusive active travel opportunities	A target of 5 new or improved Miles without Stiles routes. No new routes in 2024-25.	
		A target of 5 new sets of accessibility equipment, with 3 provided at Brockhole (scooters), Sizergh and Keswick (trampers).	
		A target of 3 promotions of accessible and inclusive travel options. 3 delivered in 2024-25.	
12	Partners to promote public transport and active travel in their communications.	Launch of 3 partner's promotional activities for sustainable travel, with 3 achieved in 2024-25.	
VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY			
Action 1: Manage the impact of second homes and short-term holiday lets in the Lake District			
1a	Introduce a registration system and database for short-term holiday lets	Short term holiday lets registration database.	See case study
1b	Implement planning land-use changes related to short-term holiday lets	Target of implementing Planning land use changes in 2024/25.	
1c	Work with other groups to lobby government to further control short-term holiday lets and second homes.	Supporting lobbying by local organisations of national government.	
1d	Support Councils to encourage the conversion of second homes to residential dwellings.	Target of 5% converted from second homes to residential dwellings.	
Action 2: Secure the delivery of key projects within the Windermere Gateway area including:			
2a	Securing Homes England and Westmorland and Furness Council funding by December 2024.	A target of securing funding by Dec 2024. £2.5m of funds now committed.	See case study
2b	Delivery of highway improvements and access infrastructure by March 2026.	A target of delivering Highway improvements by March 2026. £9.5m of funds now committed.	See case study
2c	Delivery of housing and employment sites by: - Securing a outline planning permission for affordable and local needs homes, and employment space at Orrest Head Farm, Windermere) by December 2024.	A target of securing planning permission for housing and employment by Dec 2024. Public consultation undertaken Sept 2024 and outline planning permission submission expected March 2026.	See case study

2d	Seek funding to deliver the Windermere railway line and station improvements by December 2024.	A target of railway station improvements completed by Dec 2024. Design phase reached.	See case study
Action 3: By March 2025 agree a long-term plan for transformational change to visitor management in Wasdale and Ullswater Valleys.			
3a	By March 2025 agree a long-term plan for transformational change to visitor management in Wasdale Valley.	Wasdale Visitor Management plan developed in 2024-25.	
3b	By March 2025 agree a long-term plan for transformational change to visitor management in Ullswater Valley.	Ullswater Visitor Management plan agreed March 2025.	
4	Lobby transport operators and infrastructure providers to help connect people with jobs in rural areas.	Improving bus route and services before 8am and after 6pm.	
5	Connect gigabit capable broadband in hard-to-reach premises in the Lake District.	A target of 99% of premises Gigabit capable, currently standing at 43%.	
6	Work with suppliers, communities and the UK Government to improve broadband connectivity to ensure that no one and no place is left behind.	A target that no more than 1% of properties lack broadband. Currently, 3.5% have no plan in place to make them gigabit enabled.	
7	Monitor 4G coverage in the National Park so that no-one and no place is left behind.	A target of 70% of 4G geographic coverage across the Lake District from all 4 mobile network operators combined.	
8	Support local authorities in the development of Cumbria’s climate change adaption plan round four by September 2025.	A target of a Climate adaption plan in in place by Dec 2025.	
9	Work with the Cumbria Rural Housing Enabler Service to bring forward Lake District National Park Authority site allocations by March 2026.	24 site allocations identified. 2 are in discussion, 8 in the planning process and 4 under construction.	See case study
10	Proactively promote energy efficiency, sustainable building measures/ retrofit options for homeowners and businesses.	A target of preparing and adopting Reuse of Existing Buildings Supplementary Planning Document by March 2026.	
		Target of increasing the number of heat pumps and PV systems installed.	
WORLD HERITAGE SITE			
1	Prepare an interpretation strategy and action plan for the English Lake District WHS	Target for a WHS Interpretation Strategy to be published and an action plan created by Dec 2024. Task completed.	See case study
2	Work with Partners to submit a State of Conservation report for UNESCO	State of Conservation report submitted to DCMS/Historic England by Dec 2024. Submitted on time.	See case study

Climate Action

What is it?

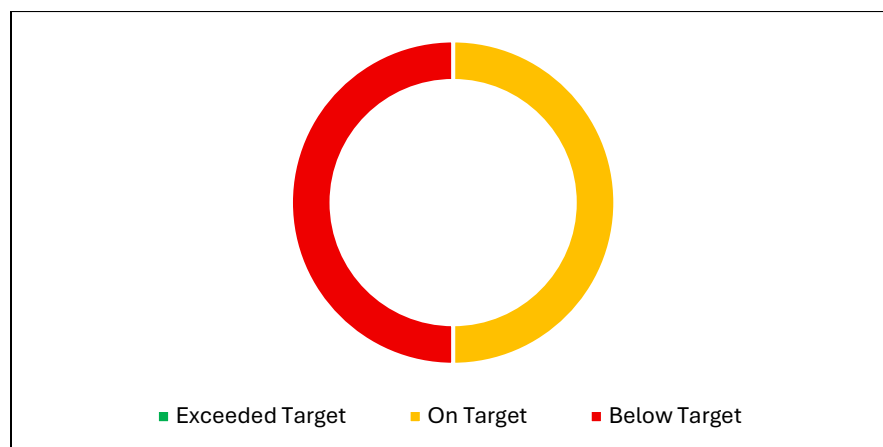
Globally and nationally the response to addressing climate change has not been adequate. Global warming reached 1°C in 2017 and sadly, our original target of 1.5°C this year. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has now modelled we may reach 2°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate, therefore adaptation and mitigation is crucial.

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.

Update on Targets 2024-25

The chart below summarises how we are progressing towards all our Climate Action targets.



Caption: the chart shows that ½ the actions are on target, but ½ are below target.

Action 1 – All Partners’ business plans contribute towards Cumbria’s ambition for net zero by 2037.

100% of partners have business plans contribute towards Cumbria’s ambition for net zero by 2037.

Action 2 – Zero Carbon Cumbria Carbon reduction projects

Case Study: Kinniside Common Soil Carbon Storage data bank

Organisations involved: Kinniside Farmers, Defra, Lake District Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, Foundation for Common Land, Exeter University, West Lakeland Community Interest Company (CIC), Farm Carbon Toolkit.

At Kinniside Common, farmers were supported in carrying out carbon baselining through soil sampling at specific locations, building a data bank of carbon stock and soil health. This data bank is key to better understanding soil carbon storage in upland grassland habitats, building a picture of carbon sequestration on the common and opportunities to enhance it.

The project raised awareness of the benefits of carbon baselining on farms and supported farmers in interpreting findings, helping work towards one of the key outcomes outlined by Zero Carbon Cumbria and the Lake District National Park Partnership Plan; achieving a net zero carbon Cumbria by 2037.

Through training sessions and work delivered by the Foundation for Common Land, Kinniside Graziers, researcher Jo Furtado of Exeter University, West Lakeland CIC and Farm Carbon Toolkit, the project established the first baseline for non-peatland habitat and soil carbon storage on Kinniside Common using a new soil sampling methodology.

A key finding from the project was that extensively grazed pasture, particularly acid grassland and heathland, stores significant amounts of soil organic carbon (SOC), often higher than expected based on existing literature. SOC is an important component of sustainable ecosystems as it maintains soil health, enhances agricultural productivity and mitigates climate change through water retention and as a source of nutrients for plants.

Following research from the project, five recommendations were made:

- Restoration of wet habitats (e.g. fens, flushes, marshes, swamps), through rewetting, revegetation, and light grazing
- Mixed grazing, targeted shepherding, and bracken cutting to promote heathland
- Further study into the relationship between grazing intensity on acid grassland and carbon storage
- Expanding biological soil sampling to understand broader soil health beyond carbon
- Assessment of soil structure to determine which areas have low SOC percentages but high carbon storage



Caption: One of the Kinniside graziers soil sampling in grassland habitat grazed by Fell Ponies, September 2024

Case study: Natural Flood Management across the Lake District

Organisations involved: South Cumbria Rivers Trust, Natural England, Westmorland & Furness Council, Environment Agency, Lancaster University, Cumbria Voluntary Service.

Over the past year, partners have been working in a range of ways to encourage and enable natural flood management (NFM) interventions to be delivered across the National Park.

Throughout 2024-25 South Cumbria Rivers Trust (SCRT) has continued to encourage and enable appropriate Natural Flood Management (NFM) interventions across several of their catchment areas. SCRT has engaged with numerous farmers and land managers across the River Kent catchment through the LIFE R4ever Kent project; demonstrating the value of NFM and discussing how a range of example interventions can deliver benefits for the environment while contributing to a sustainable farm business. In the River Duddon catchment, SCRT has continued to work in partnership through the Upper Duddon Landscape Recovery project, including on several interventions related to NFM.

Additionally, the Cumbria Innovative Flood Resilience (CiFR) project is a collaborative initiative that is funded as part of the Environment Agencies Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme which is part of £200m DEFRA initiative.

The project is hosted by Westmorland and Furness Council using expertise from the Environment Agency's flood team, community expertise from Cumbria Voluntary Service, and dedicated Farming and Community Officers from Natural England with monitoring support of guidance from Lancaster University. It involves the delivery of targeted Natural Flood Management in the River Rothay catchment, Tom Rudd Beck and Bitter Beck catchments with the aim of reducing the risk of flooding in the downstream communities of Grasmere and Cockermouth.

Over the course of the last year, the project has undertaken one-to-one visits to farmers and land managers to highlight the benefits of NFM and look at the opportunities on the ground, whilst providing continuing support to ensure all issues and any concerns regarding the agreed NFM interventions are addressed before NFM work commences. This is provided in a coordinated way with other farm advice Natural England offers. Promotional work has also included talks to farmer groups about climate change and natural flood management with follow up support as required.



*Caption: Pond and wetland creation on Southwaite Farm, providing natural flood management benefits and improved habitat for wildlife in the River Cocker catchment
c/o West Cumbria Rivers Trust, October 2024*

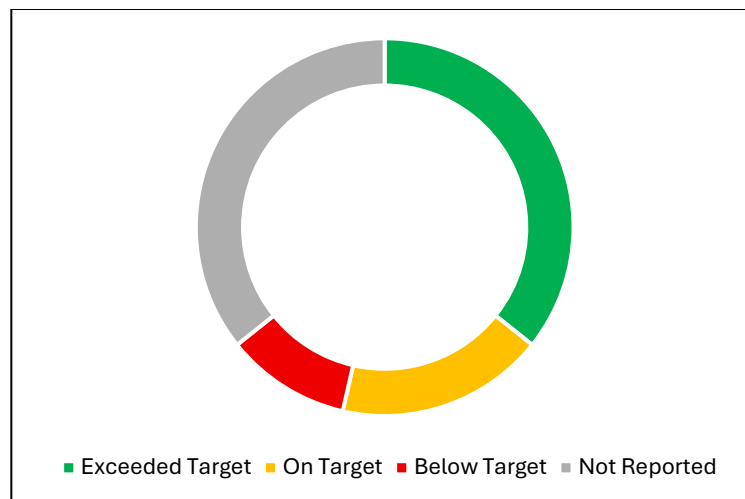
Securing Future of Farming, Forestry, Nature Recovery and Climate Action

What is it?

The Lake District National Park faces the biggest change in half a century with 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.

Update on our Targets 2024-25

The chart below summarises how we are progressing towards all our 'Future of Farming, Forestry, Nature Recovery and Climate Action' targets.



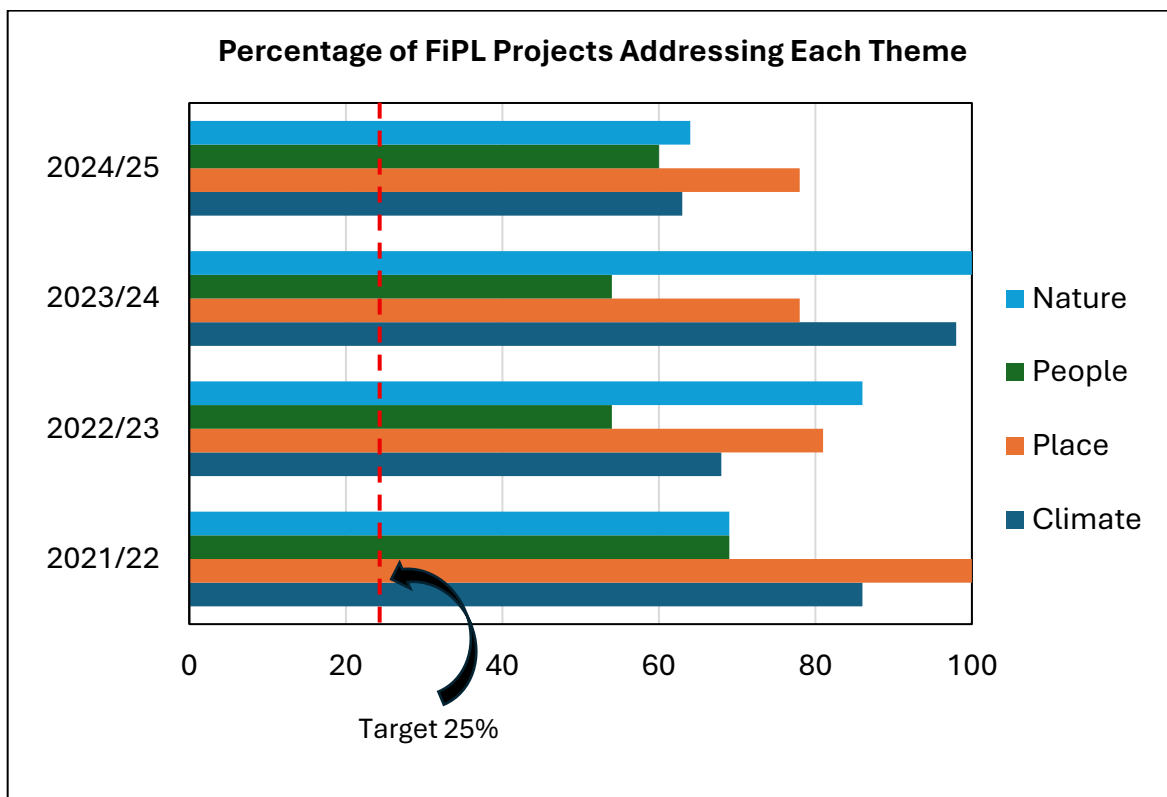
Caption: the chart shows that just over ½ of our actions are either on target or have exceeded our target, but that means that we have either no data or are below target for just under ½.

Action 1- Develop and deliver a coordinated Partnership transition support programme to enable business adaptation, nature and climate recovery, and maintenance of the cultural landscape and supporting support young entrants by securing the high take up of options within the Government's Agricultural Transition Plan 2021-2024.

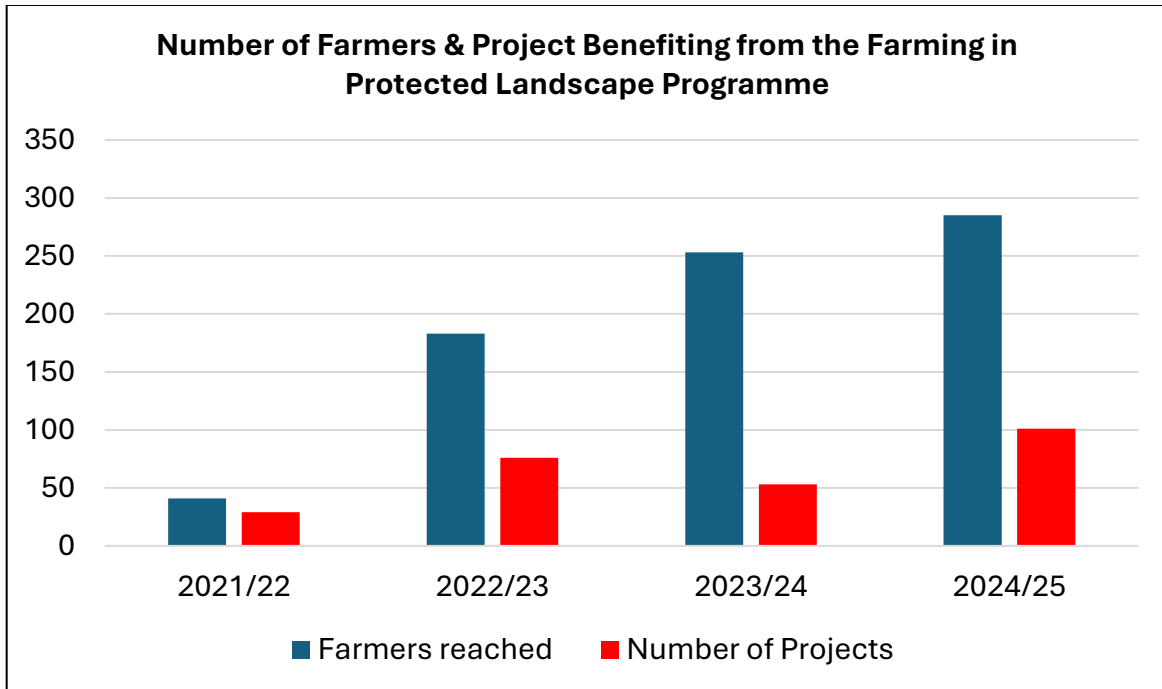
Action 1a - Business environmental advice provided to farmers, foresters and land managers — no data reported

Action 1b – Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) is a Defra-funded programme specifically for protected landscapes like the Lake District. It focuses on supporting positive changes in farming combining actions to support climate adaptation, nature recovery, public engagement and celebrating our unique places. In 2024-25 the Lake District FiPL programme funded 101 projects allocating £1.9m to farmers and land managers with an additional £2.2m specifically targeting heritage buildings. Projects this last year have included: restoring wetlands and river corridors; mapping and improving curlew habitat; supporting the production of Lake District tweeds and enhancing interpretation signage for visitors. Over the last four years, FiPL has supported over 500 individual farmers and injected £4.6m into our farmed landscapes.



Caption: the graph shows that 60% of our projects delivered for Nature, People, Place and Climate in 2024-25 against a target of 25% for each theme, with more projects delivering for Place than any other theme at nearly 80%.



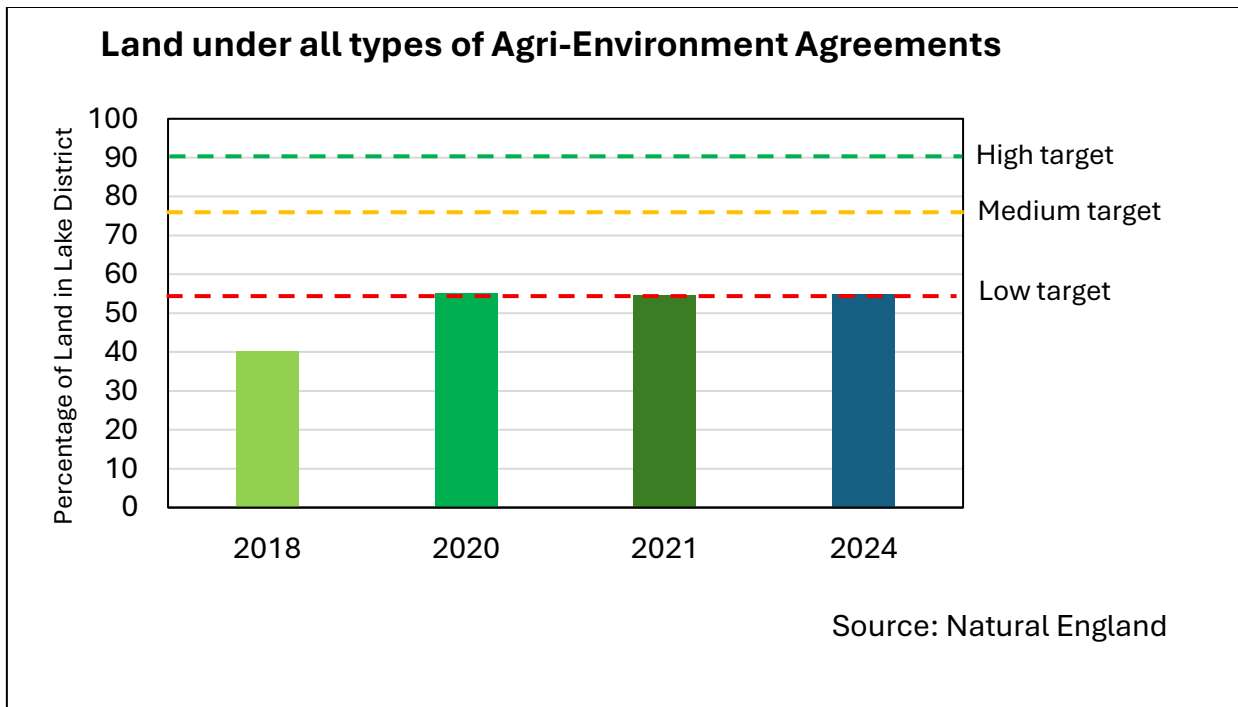
Caption: the graph shows that the number of farmers reached year on ear continues to grow to nearly 300 in 2024-25, with the number of projects at its highest level this year at 100.

Action 1c – Landscape Recovery Schemes

- *Landscape Recovery Schemes Partnership Engagement* – 9 out of a possible 12.
- *Completion of Heritage Impact Assessments* – no data reported
- *Shared learning across schemes* – no data reported

Action 1d – Countryside Stewardship Agreements

- Number of additional agreements in 2024-25 – target affected by Countryside Stewardship changes and the introduction of the Sustainable Farming Incentive.
- Agri-Environment Agreements in the Lake District



Caption: the graph shows that the % of land under agri-environment schemes has remained static over the last few years, meeting our low target but not climbing any higher.

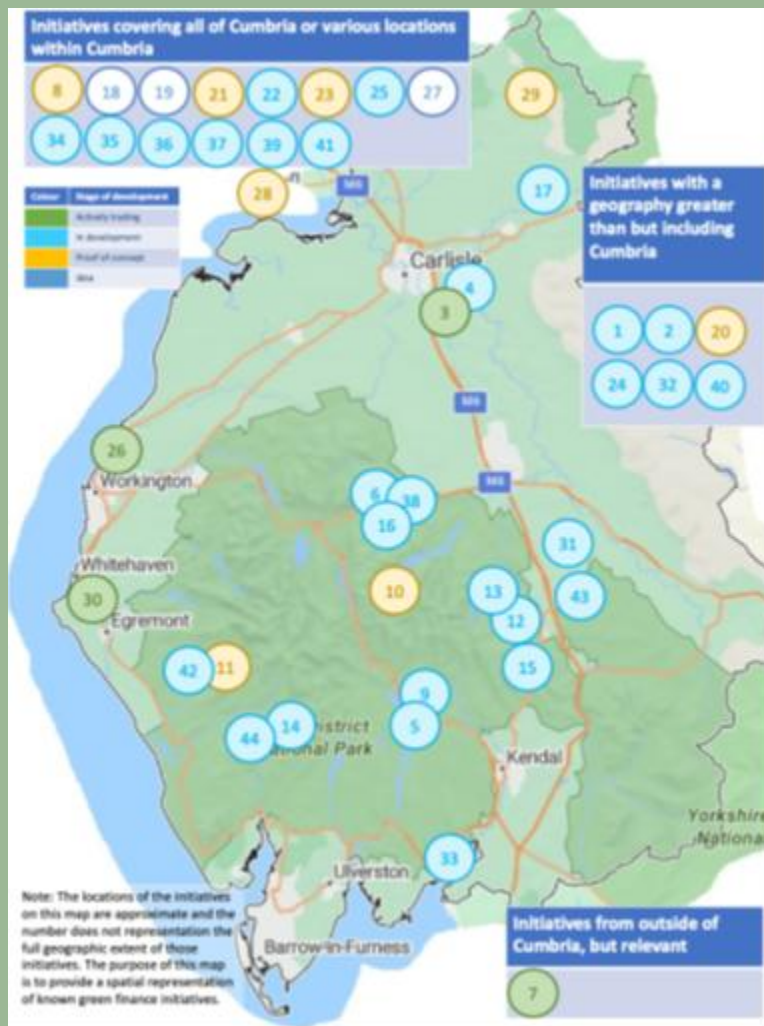
Currently, 130,100ha (55%) of the Lake District is included in some form of agri-environment scheme where farmers are paid to provide different types of habitats, as shown on the graph. The range of agri-environment initiatives includes closed schemes such as Environmental Stewardship and Countryside Stewardship, and the active Sustainable Farming Incentive. In 2024-25 £22.5m has been spent to support 435 agreements of which 71 agreements are on commons. The average payment per agreement is £51.7k at £173 per ha. Since the inception of the Partnership Plan in 2020, the area of land in the Lake District in agri-environment schemes has remained static as anticipated.

Action 1e – Blended Finance Projects

Case study: Whitbysteads Habitat Bank

Organisations involved: Lowther Estate and the Lake District National Park Partnership

Blended finance projects are those which combine private finance with public funding to achieve various environmental targets. There are over 40 such schemes developing across Cumbria of which 15 have a Lake District focus, as shown on the map.



The Whitbysteads Habitat Bank, Askham, is a partnership pilot demonstrating how Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) can be used to attract private funding to undertake, monitor and legally secure quantifiable and long-term habitat restoration, in line with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The 13ha site is owned by The Lowther Estate and is an area of Neutral Grassland with high potential for restoration to Upland Hay Meadow. The Estate expressed an interest in the Lake District National Park Authority's (LDNPA) 2022 Call for Nature Sites, which began this exploratory project. Since then, input and planning from Lowther's in-house staff, external expert ecological advice and support from the LDNPA has now culminated in a legally secured 30-year Upland Hay Meadow habitat management and monitoring plan. This legal covenant between the landowner and Lake District Partnership provides certainty, underpins the scheme and allows the Lowther Estate to sell "Biodiversity Units" produced from the uplift in habitat condition, as calculated by Natural England's BNG metric. The sale of these units to developers, or through voluntary methods, will fund the monitoring and maintenance of the project, allowing the site to produce benefits for

biodiversity and safeguarding its long-term use as a site for traditional agricultural practices.

To date, the Lowther team and volunteers have begun restoration by using the SSSI Hay Meadows in Swindale as a seed source. Alongside this they have been undertaking an extensive programme of growing and planting out characteristic species such as Wood Cranesbill and Great Burnet from their own wildflower nursery, supporting ongoing traditional hay making management.



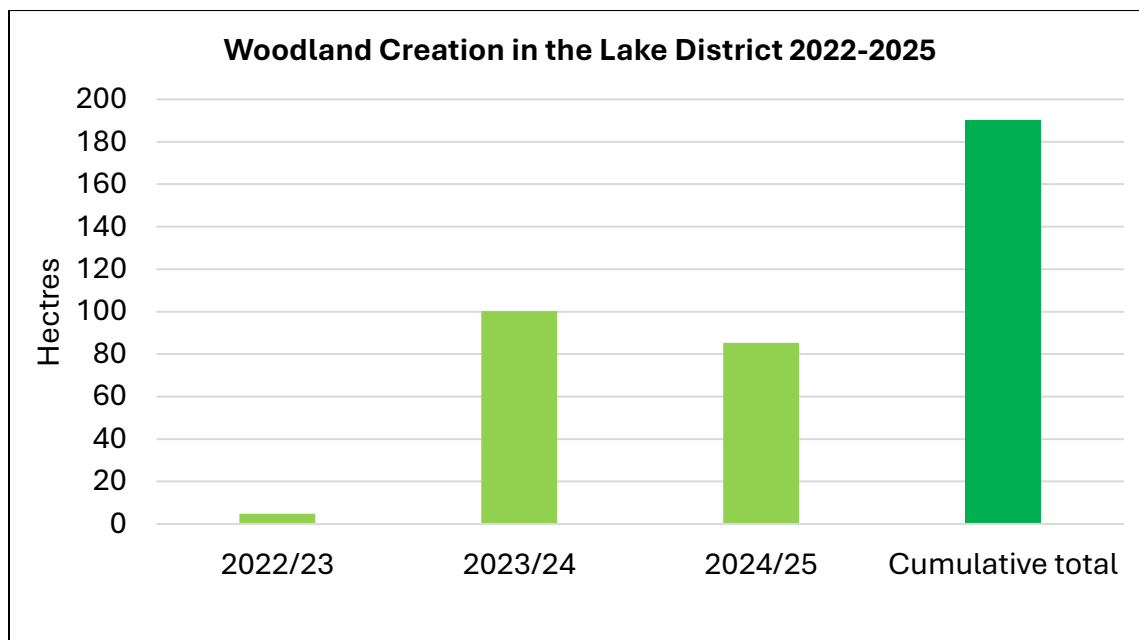
*Caption: Propagation Tunnel for Whitbysteads Habitat Bank
c/o Lowther Estates*

Action 2: Supporting the emerging Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy by delivering the Lake District National Park Nature Recovery Plan, championing and resourcing the recovery of priority and protected habitats and species.

Action 2a Partnership LNRS advocacy

Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) ran a consultation survey between May and June 2025. The results of this are still being analysed. A further event was held specifically for farmers and landowners during the consultation, jointly hosted by the National Farmers' Union (NFU) and The Farmer Network. Unfortunately, turnout was low due to weather considerations.

Action 2b Woodland Cover and Creation

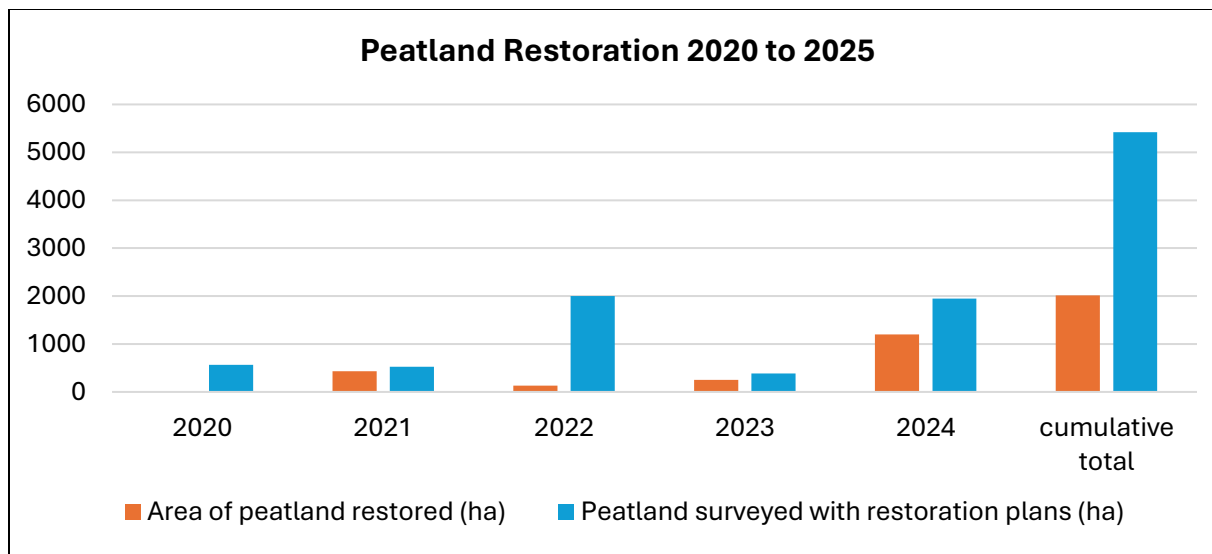


Caption: the graph shows that there was less woodland creation in 2024-25 than in the previous year. Data kindly supplied by the Forestry Commission, 9 October 2025

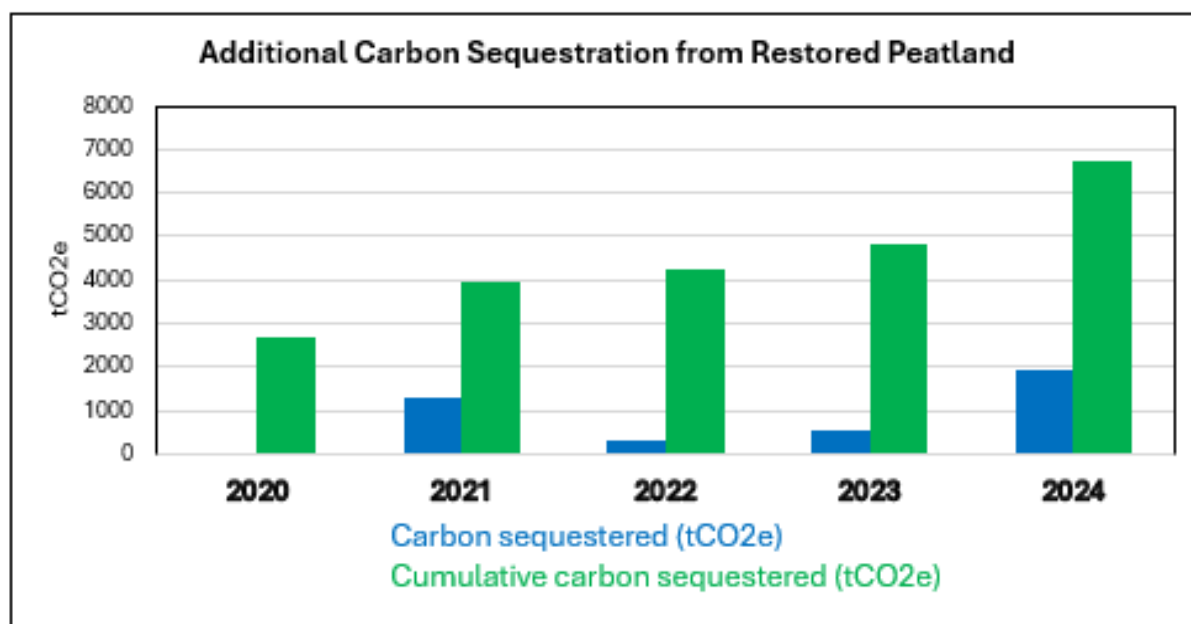
Currently, the total area of woodland cover in the Lake District is 31,170 hectares representing 13.6% of the land area. As the graph shows, over the last three years, 190 additional hectares have been created. The Lake District has been set a national target by Government of adding an additional 3% (7,083 ha) to our woodland area by 2050. This equates to 253ha a year, a rate which has been unattainable to date.

Action 2c Peatland Restoration

Since 2022, there has been a gradual increase in the amount of peatland restored in the Lake District. As the graphs show, we now have nearly 2,000 hectares of additional peatland that cumulatively stores 6,700 tonnes of CO₂e every year. This is equivalent to the electricity demand for 4,355 homes a year or 25% of the Lake District. Work continues to restore peatland with another 1,980ha planned, which will help double our additional carbon storage equivalent to nearly 50% of Lake District homes.



Caption: the graph shows that more peatland was restored last year than in any of the four previous years, with a good number of other sites surveyed with restoration plans.



Caption: the graph shows that more carbon was sequestered last year than in the four previous years.

Action 2d Species Recovery Projects

- *Research Projects* – no data reported
- *Translocations or releases* – 2 (pine martens and freshwater pearl mussel), the successful release of pine martens took place in September/October

2024 of 13 adults from a robust population in the Scottish Highlands to south Cumbria.

- *Engagement with Game Keepers* – no data reported
- *Captive Breeding programmes* – case study (see below)

Case study: Freshwater Pearl Mussel

Organisations involved: Freshwater Biological Association, West Cumbria Rivers Trust, Natural England

The *Freshwater Pearl Mussel Ark* captive breeding programme has been active since 2007 breeding mussels from priority English populations. It is currently rearing approximately 50,000 juvenile mussels across a range of sites including the Rivers Brathay, Irt, Ehen, Kent (Dubbs Beck) and Eden (Swindale Beck) within the Lake District. Over the last three years, 4,500 juvenile freshwater pearl mussels (FPM) were released to the River Irt. Three hundred and fifty juvenile mussels were also released into River Ehen in 2024, with more releases currently in planning stage.

As part of the *River4Kent* project, silo trials with juvenile freshwater pearl mussels are currently underway at 2 contained release sites on the River Kent. The project plans to release 3,000 FPM by project close (2027), with at least a further 1,000 released in the subsequent 5-year period.



Caption: a Freshwater Pearl Mussel with its identifying number tag
c/o Freshwater Biological Association

2e - Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy - no data reported

2f – Wild Deer Management Strategy - task completed

Organisations involved: Natural England, Forestry Commission, Forestry England, North Lakes Red Deer Group, RSPB (Cumbria Connect), National Trust, United Utilities

The aim of the strategy is to provide an approach towards the sustainable management of wild deer across the Lake District landscape, considering species extent, distribution, habitat impacts, cultural significance, nature recovery, commerciality and public awareness.

Facilitated by the Lake District National Park Authority, this plan has been developed by the Lake District Wild Deer Management Strategy Steering Group made up of representatives from organisations with either the expertise or statutory responsibility for managing wild deer. A Stakeholder Group has also been formed - with representation from landowners, National Farmers Union, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, deer stalkers, farmers and land managers - to share awareness, “ground truth” the strategy and support its delivery. The strategy is intended to support the delivery of a future Government-endorsed National Deer Management Strategy by establishing a local framework with which to address recognised issues.

We plan to launch the strategy at the next Stakeholder meeting in November 2025.

Action 3: Reduce the contributions farming and land management makes to greenhouse gas emissions in line with the National Farmers Union net zero goal and support farmers and land managers on adaptation

Action 3a Farm Business Carbon Audits – 5.

Five farm carbon audits supported by FiPL, were undertaken working with a farmer cluster in Langdale. Beyond this many individual farmers along with other land management organisations have undertaken carbon audits over the last five years.

A farm carbon audit calculates a farm’s greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration over a year. The process enables a farmer to identify their main areas of gas emission on the farm indicating where reductions can be made through changes in farm management practices (mitigation) or adoption of new innovations (adaptation). Examples might include, collecting grey water from roofs instead of using water from the tap, changing feedstuffs for livestock or switching to minimum tillage systems.

Action 3b Farm business carbon reduction case study – no data reported

Action 3c Climate Adaptation & Resilience

In 2024-25, we supported 21 agricultural soil health projects through the FiPL programme, working with both individual farmers and farmer clusters. These projects covered a range of activities including measuring and baselining soil health, taking action to reduce soil erosion, restoring peatland and investment in equipment to restore grasslands and support new grazing methods.

Many more farmers across the Lake District are taking action to improve soil health on their own farms. We await more accurate data from DEFRA about farmers who have joined the Soil Health option through the Sustainable Farming Initiative.

Action 4 - Maintain, celebrate and strengthen traditional Lake District farming systems

Action 4a. Production of the Shepherds Guide

The Shepherds Guide Website was published in June (<https://lakelandshepherdsguide.co.uk>), which provides an electronic version of the Shepherds' Guide where farmers can search for fell going flocks based on smit mark shape, colour, lug marks and area/valley or flock number. This enables livestock to be returned to its rightful owner in other parts of the Lake District.

The website includes educational resources about the guide for use in schools. Related to the guide are: forty smit mark plaques produced by Honister Slate, displayed on farm gates across the Lake District; a series of illustrated walks; an events page and a dedicated space for research updates. A hard copy of the guide will be produced in the next few months. Research covering changes to fell farming since the 1985 guide, and hopes for the future of fell farming, is forthcoming.

Action 4b. Fell-going Flock Index - 13 hefts (8.6%) lost between 2017 and 2022.

Action 4c Common Land and Agri-Environment Schemes (AES)

- *Proportion of Common Land in AES* – no data reported
- *Proportion of schemes supporting cultural fabric* - 100%

Action 5: Improve the water environment of Windermere through the Love Windermere Partnership and programme.

Case study: Love Windermere Partnership

Organisations involved: Cumbria Tourism, Environment Agency, Lake District Foundation, Lake District National Park Authority, the National Trust, the National Farmers Union, South Cumbria Rivers Trust, United Utilities, Westmorland & Furness Council.

Love Windermere Partnership was formed in 2022 to improve water quality across the Windermere catchment. It brings together nine partner organisations from the public, private and third sectors working collaboratively as a Board and themed groups focused on Sewage, Land Management, Information, and Communications. The Partnership works closely with the scientific professionals and the Windermere Business Group to ensure evidence-based action and broad stakeholder engagement.

In July 2024, the Partnership strengthened its leadership with the appointment of Nigel Wilkinson MBE as 'Independent' volunteer Chair, as well as a Partnership Manager hosted by the Environment Agency. In September, a part-time Communication and Engagement Officer, hosted by Lake District National Park Authority, also joined.

Scientific work commissioned in 2023 concluded with the publication of the 'Sediments Study – reviews into evidence for sediment enrichment' in August (UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology) and 'State of Windermere 2024' (Freshwater Biological Association). The Partnership summarised a State of Windermere into 'A Changing Windermere' report published in March 2025 with guidance from Lancaster University.

The Partnership continues to engage the public through events, newsletters and online updates. Its first Action Plan, outlining 35 coordinated actions, was published in November 2025. To sign up for updates go to lovewindermere.co.uk/newsletter

A Lake District for Everyone

What is it?

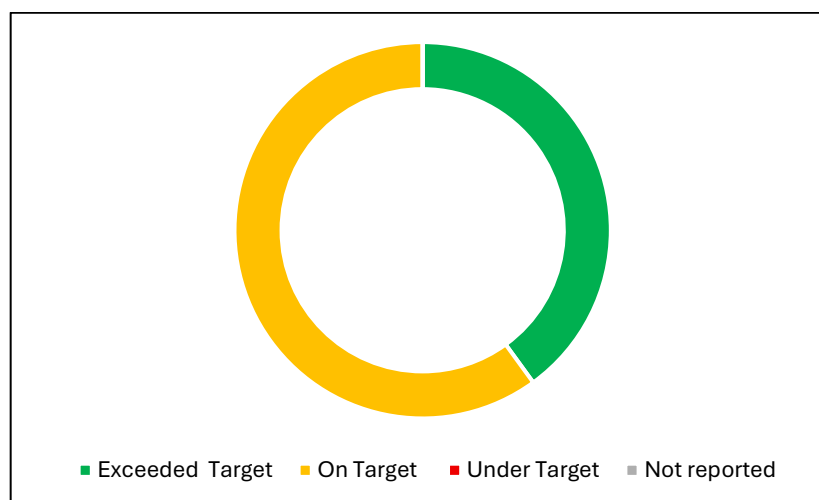
National Parks contain the most beautiful, spectacular and dramatic areas of countryside in England. The government's 2019 Landscapes Review: National Parks and AONBs (known as the 'Glover Review') rightly highlights that these places are national assets supported in part through state funding and therefore 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.

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.

Through our work on the Lake District for Everyone Key Outcome, we aim to increase our awareness of the needs of a diverse audience of people, to increase support to underserved groups to access the outdoors to benefit from the Lake District's inspiring landscape, and to improve the representation of voices in developing projects going forward.

Update on our Targets 2024-25

The chart below summarises how we are progressing towards all our 'Lake District for Everyone' targets.



Caption: the chart shows that all of the actions under this theme are either on or have exceeded our target.

Action 1: Identify priority activity and seek investment to ensure the Lake District is a place for everyone and where all are welcome, with particular focus on the identified key audiences of: black, brown and racially minoritised people; people with disabilities, and people from underserved/deprived areas of Cumbria, all with a particular focus on young people

Action 1a Seeking resource, delivering and sharing learning from the Journeys Project.

Action 1b Supporting the Black Nature in Residence residency.

Action 1c Developing joint ways of working to support the Accessible Cumbria Partnership

Case Study: The 'Journeys' Project

Organisations involved: Lake District Foundation, 'All the Elements', Lake District National Park Authority, Identity on Tyne, Arts Council, (plus organisations who are part of the Lake District for Everyone Key Outcome Group)

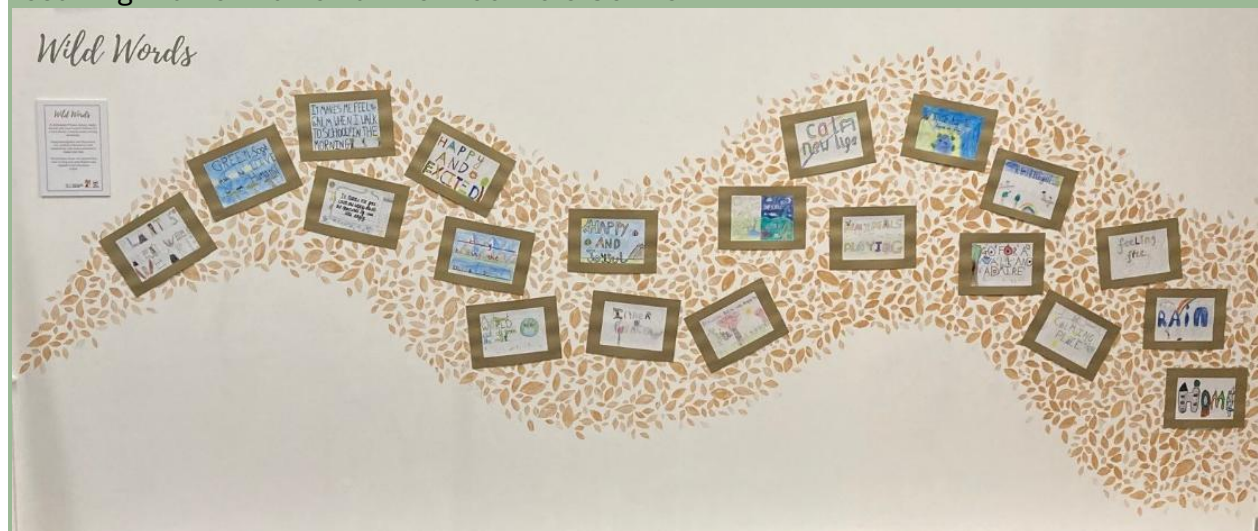
The Lake District for Everyone Key Outcome Group has identified which marginalised groups to focus on and has shaped projects that could create the most change for this theme; one of these projects is the 'Journeys project'.

The project has three strands, the first is an Inclusion Fund enabling marginalised groups within a defined radius of the Park to seek funding to visit the Lake District and share their experiences. Supplied to 17 groups, £34,000 have been allocated. One such grant recipient was Blackwell Sailing, a local charity that specialises in providing sailing experiences for locals and visitors with profound disabilities. The recipient told us that many of the people they work with face multiple challenges, including financial. This grant enabled the organisation to run a weekend session which is something that they are not normally able to do.



Caption: Enjoying Access with Blackwell Sailing

A second strand has been *the Black Nature in Residence* where the arts organisation Identity on Tyne worked with the Lake District National Park Partnership to deliver an Arts Council-funded project, allowing artists from the global majority to work in and respond to protected landscapes. Creative Wajid Hussain produced his own work and ran workshops with St Martin and St Mary's Primary School, Windermere and Ambleside Primary School, resulting in an exhibition at the Brockhole Centre.



Caption: Examples of some of the work by school pupils illustrating Wild Words at the Brockhole Centre 'Black Nature in Residence' exhibition

A third strand has been to work with the *Accessible Cumbria Partnership*, a group of organisations across Cumbria and the Lake District, which are working to improve access through better information, enabling technology, better business understanding and accessible infrastructure. Since 2021 partners increased 'Miles without Stiles' routes, created a central portal listing for tramper hire across the county, created new accessible itineraries and developed a central information resource on 'visitlakedistrict' (<https://www.visitlakedistrict.com>).

Action 1d – Collaboration Hub : 8 community engagements

(See the Wasdale case study under the Sustainable Travel and Transport theme for an example of a Collaboration Hub community engagement project.)

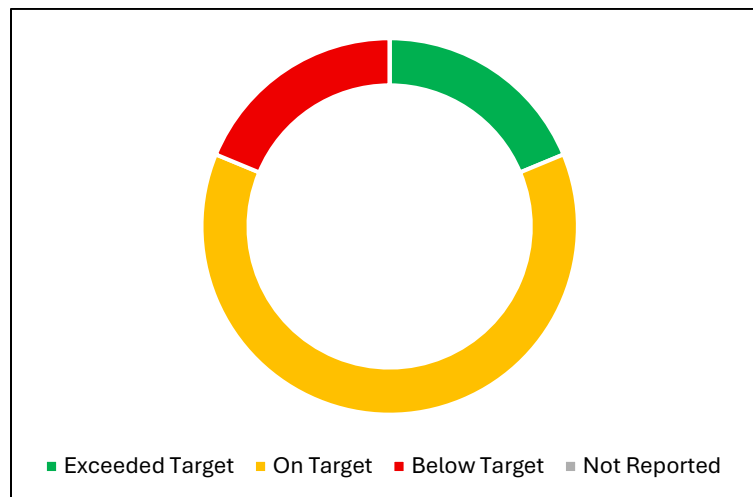
Sustainable Travel and Transport

What is it?

Most visitors continue to arrive in the Lake District by private motor vehicle. The challenge for the Lake District is to be a place where everyone, regardless of wealth or ability, can 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.

Update on our Targets 2024-25

The chart below summarises how we are progressing towards all our 'Sustainable Travel and Transport' targets.



Caption: the chart shows that the majority of actions for this theme are either on or have exceeded our target, but there are still a proportion (less than ¼) that are below target.

Action 1 – Multimodal ticketing and Connectivity

- *Multi-modal tickets*: 'Through' ticketing has been developed from Penrith station to Keswick as part of a partnership between Avanti and Stagecoach. Identifying Keswick

as a virtual station - one with no physical presence - allows people to book integrated tickets for integrated rail and bus journeys. The project is supported by associated marketing through Cumbria Tourism's *Go Car Free* campaign, more about which can be found here: <https://www.visitlakedistrict.com/plan-your-visit/travel/carfree> .

- *Bus service improvements* - increased service provision for:

Wasdale Shuttle with connections to Ravenglass
X4/X5 connectivity at Penrith
555 connectivity at Windermere

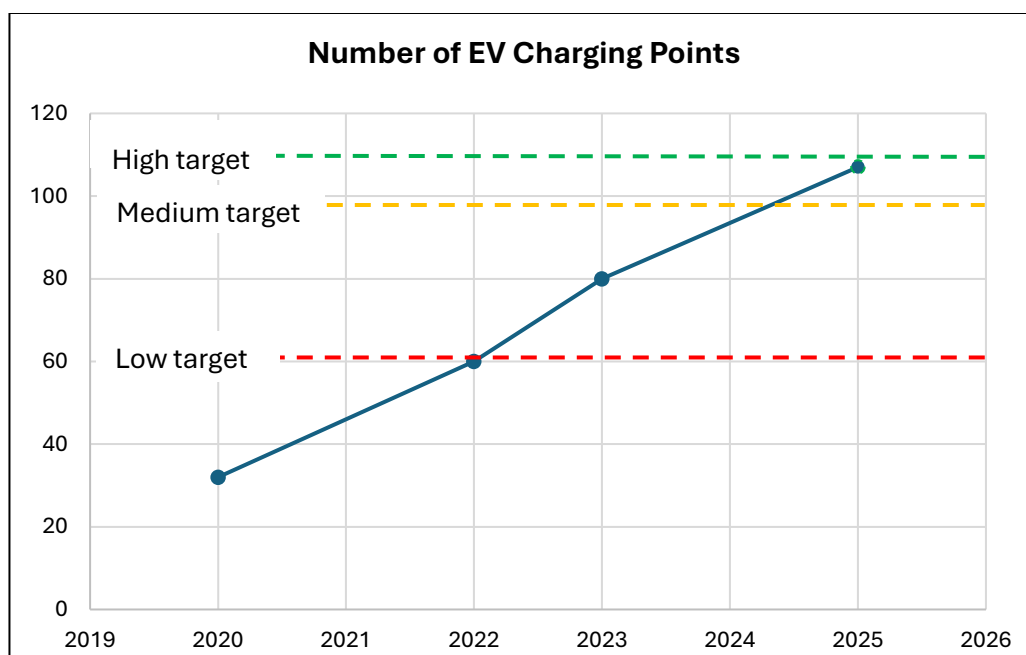
Action 2 – Rail upgrades including improvements in station accessibility and mainline station stopping frequencies

- Station Accessibility improved at: Ulverston, Windermere and Burneside,
- Station Accessibility improvements nominated, but yet to go ahead: Ulverston

Action 3 – Marketing Initiatives for sustainable travel – Cumbria Tourism, Lake District National Park Authority and the National Trust have all developed digital communications and marketing to encourage sustainable travel.

Action 4 – Decarbonising transport

Target 4a. Public EV Charging points



Caption: the graph shows the dramatic increase in EV charging points since we started recording numbers in 2020, with 108 now in place.

The campaign to increase the number of EV charging points in the Lake District since 2020 has been highly successful. We have reached our projected high target (108) earlier than the end of the current Partnership Plan (2026). Where previously there had been geographical gaps in the network, every area of the Lake District now has provision.

Target 4b. Percentage of visitors using EV charging points – no data available this financial year.

Action 5 – Active travel measures

Whilst there has been much preparatory activity this year, including the development of the Active Travel Network Plan in partnership with Active Travel England, Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council, there have been no new operational developments in 2024-25.

Action 6 – Pilot Sustainable Travel improvements with communities

There has been a focus on the Wasdale and Ullswater valleys regarding travel improvements over the last year. The Stagecoach-managed Ullswater Hopper connects holiday

accommodation around the valley with destinations such as Howtown, Pooley Bridge and the Ullswater Steamers. It runs from the end of March to early November at weekends and bank holidays with additional daily services during the summer school holidays. A second bus, the 509, runs from Keswick, via the A66 and A5091 to Troutbeck, Dockray and Aira Force, where it divides into two routes either going to Glenridding and Patterdale or to Pooley Bridge, Askham, Lowther Castle (and on to Penrith).

More details and timetables about these services can be found at:

<https://situcumbria.org.uk/ullswater-bus/>.

Case study: Sustainable Visitor Transport and Visitor Management in Wasdale

Organisations involved: Wasdale Community, ACTion for Communities in Cumbria, Shared Future Community Interest Company (CIC), Lake District National Park Authority, National Trust.

Visitor pressure in Wasdale, and how to alleviate it, has been discussed for many years, with some measures put in place to ease the situation. It continues to be a pressing concern to those who live and work in the valley whilst at the same time continuing to welcome visitors to this special landscape.

The Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) asked ACTION with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) to meet with Wasdale residents and explore options on how to improve visitor management in the valley. Funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Trust, a Collaboration Hub was developed between ACT and Wasdale Parish Meeting. A deliberative process, every household and business in the Wasdale Parish was invited to join a panel covering the entire demographic profile of the parish. The group learnt about and discussed a range of issues and their solutions, particularly relating to managing visitor traffic, litter, fly-camping and toilets. With respect to visitor traffic management, ideas considered included: supporting the development of a Wasdale Shuttle Bus service (<https://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/what-we-do/wasdale-citizens-panel>) and exploring other options including a pre-booked car parking system.

Action 7 – Research project: Completed, and published - '*Appetites to travel sustainably in the Lake District*' - and the results have been used to focus our other sustainable transport work in the Lake District

The results of this research project have been used by partners including: Friends of the Lake District in their '*Who pays for the Lake District*' study, in several funding bids, and by the Valley Transport planning discussions undertaken recently by Cumbria Tourism.

The results are informing the developing Partnership Plan (2026-2031), demonstrating that many visitors are willing to travel differently around the Lake District and may be prepared to pay more for less traffic, safer cycling and walking, to reduce the effects of carbon and overuse of motor vehicles.

More about the research can be found here: <https://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/news-events/news-appetites-to-travel-differently-in-the-lake-district-where-do-you-want-to-go-reports-available-now-2024-05-15>

Action 8 – Bus service improvements Target

Additional journeys on service 6 from Barrow to Windermere on Sundays and late nights. leave Barrow before 8am and there are three returns after 6pm (winter and summer).

Improvements to the frequency and to Sunday services on X4/X5.

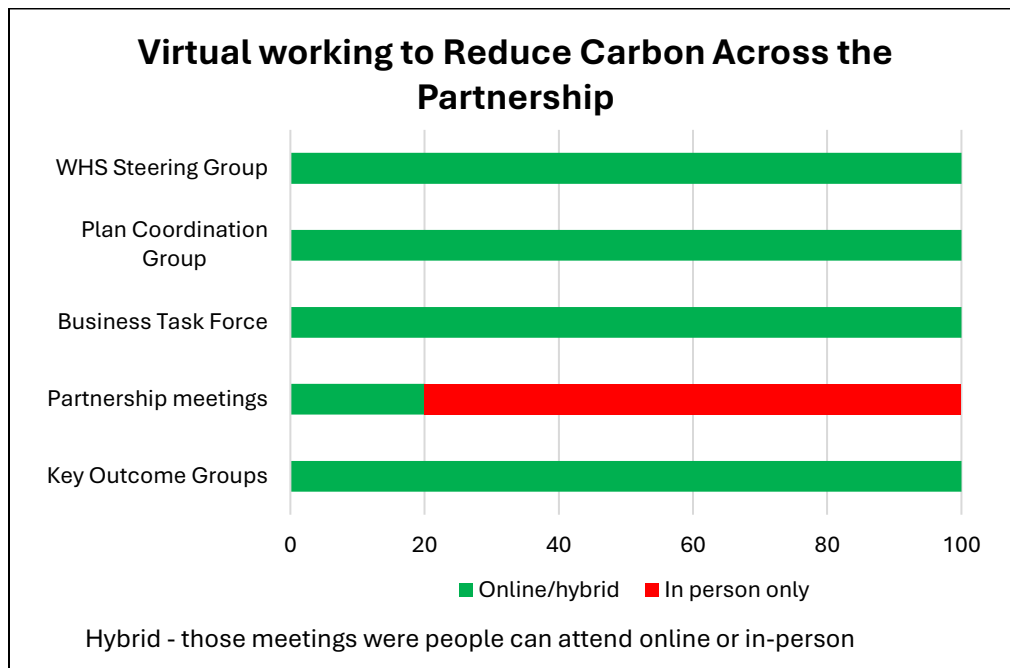
Improvements to the Ullswater Hopper (UB1) and Keswick to Ullswater 509.

A longer season and more rail connections at Ravenglass for the Wasdale Shuttle.

Windermere Town Bus service has also been improved

Action 9 – Additional facilities at key transport hubs – no implementation to date, but there are on-going discussions around Penrith Station improvements.

Action 10 - Partners commit to decarbonising travel



Caption: the chart shows all meetings of the World Heritage Site Steering Group, Plan Coordination Group, Business Task Force and Key Outcome Groups were either hybrid or on-line. The exception if Partnership meetings, but that has been a conscious decision to allow in-person workshops and networking.

Most meetings related to the strategic oversight and delivery of the Partnership Plan are conducted either online or as hybrid meetings. Overall, on average 87% of meetings are held in this way. Full strategic Partnership meetings are mainly face-to-face, but locations are chosen to ensure sustainable forms of transport are available for attendees and that the venues are accessible.

Action 11- Partners promote public transport and active travel for meetings

- **Accessible routes** – no new routes this year due to pressure of funding
- **Accessibility equipment** - 3 new disability scooters have been provided at Brockhole. *Outdoor Mobility* continue to develop their offer in the Lake District with new trampers at Sizergh and the 'Theatre by the Lake'. *Outdoor Mobility* are a membership-based charity based in Cockermouth, who 'exist to break down the barriers that prevent people with limited mobility enjoying the great outdoors either

independently or with their friends and family'. More about them can be found here:
<https://www.outdoormobility.org/lake-district>

- **Promotion** – 3 promotional schemes: Cumbria Tourism, the National Trust and Lake District National Park Authority have all promoted accessible opportunities through their channels.

Action 12 – Partners promoting public transport and active travel in their communications - 2 partners:

Launched in 2023, Cumbria Tourism's *Go Car Free* campaign aims to dispel the public perception that the Lake District provides limited opportunity to travel around on public transport. A website provides further information: <https://www.visitlakedistrict.com/plan-your-visit/travel/carfree>

Teaming up with *Good Journey*, The National Trust promotes visiting Sizergh car free. Further details of how this works can be found here: <https://www.goodjourney.org.uk/attractions/sizergh/>. Sizergh Castle also promotes its winter event as accessible with the use of a shuttle bus.

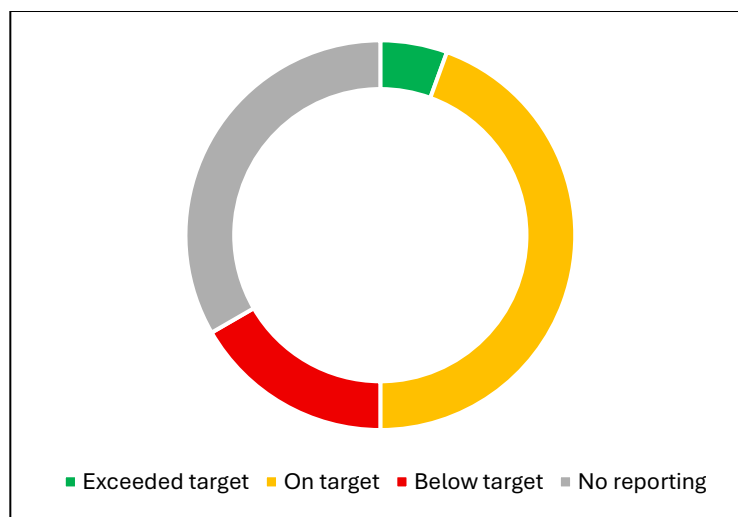
Vibrant Communities and A Prosperous Economy

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. However, 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.

Update on our Targets 2024-25

The chart below summarises how we are progressing towards all our 'Vibrant Communities and A Prosperous Economy' targets.

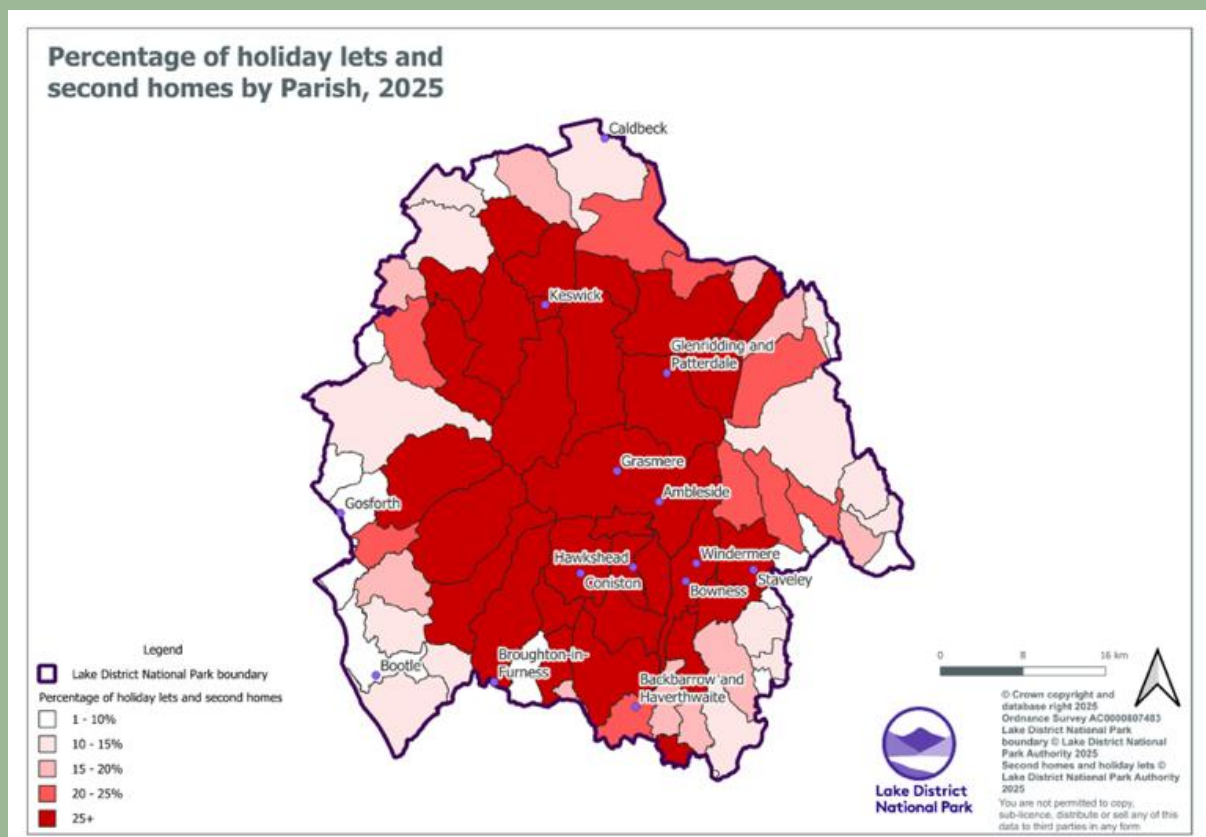


Caption: the chart shows that ½ of our actions are on or have exceeded our target, which means that the remaining ½ are either under target or we have no data this year.

Action 1: Manage the impact of second homes and short-term holiday lets in the Lake District

Case Study: Second Homes & Holiday Lets

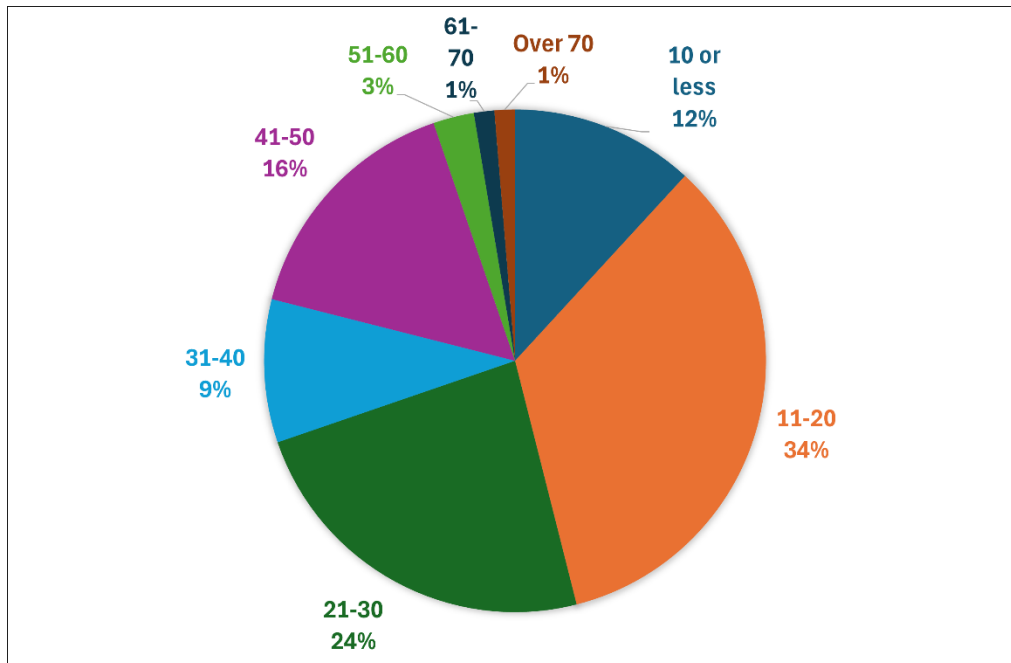
There has been continuing concern in the Lake District that the increase in the number of second homes and holiday lets can impact negatively on local communities. The Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) is working towards monitoring the trends and patterns of these properties. Across 76 parishes, 29.5% of the 23,839 properties were second homes and holiday lets in 2024-25. The pattern varies across the Lake District, with the central area having a higher proportion of second homes/holiday lets than the periphery, as shown by the map below:



As can be seen from the map, the central Lakes area is dominated by parishes where over 25% of properties are either second homes or holiday lets in 2024-202. The accompanying pie chart demonstrates that a third of parishes have between 11 and 20% of properties as holiday lets or second homes, and another quarter with between 21 to 30%. Five percent (four) of parishes have over 50% of these types of property, with one parish having 71% of properties in this category.

Second homes and holiday lets can bring opportunities and threats to local communities. The positives include refurbishment and renovation of housing stock, income from tourism and boosting the local economy. On the other hand, these types of property deplete the availability of homes for local people and drive-up house prices resulting in outmigration. Services for those who remain can become limited.

Lake District Parishes with Second Homes or Holiday Lets 2024-25



To manage the issue more effectively, the LDNPA has been lobbying central government to introduce controls for holiday lets and second homes. Westmorland & Furness Council, and Cumberland Council have both introduced a Council Tax premium on second homes, and Parish Councils are being supported to campaign for greater controls for short-term lets and second homes.

Action 2: Secure the delivery of key projects within the Windermere Gateway area:

Case study: Windermere Gateway project

Organisations involved: National Trust, Lake District National Park Authority, Westmorland & Furness Council, Homes England, Urban Splash

The Windermere Gateway project continues to gain momentum, with recent milestones bringing the vision closer to reality. Westmorland & Furness Council's Cabinet has approved finalising an agreement with Homes England to secure £9.95 million in Brownfield, Infrastructure and Land Funding, supporting vital highways improvements. The Council has also committed £2.5 million from its Affordable Housing Fund, reinforcing its dedication to delivering high-quality, sustainable homes for local people.

Progress is also advancing on the station improvements project. Led by the Council's Sustainable Transport team, the procurement process for the next stage of design development has concluded, with consultants to be appointed in October. These upgrades will enhance station functionality and connectivity, supporting the Gateway's ambition to create a transformational entrance to the Lake District.

Nearly 200 residents attended recent drop-in sessions held on 19–20 September. Information boards showcased each project, with four presentations followed by Q&A sessions involving key partners. Close to 100 questionnaires were completed, and the team is now reviewing this valuable feedback.

An outline planning application for the housing and employment elements of the project is expected in 2026.



Caption: Proposed Plan of Windermere Gateway Developments

Action 3: By March 2025, agree a long-term plan for transformational change to visitor management in Wasdale and Ullswater Valleys.

Action 3a Wasdale Visitor Mobility Plan – agreed March 2025

See Wasdale case study under the Sustainable Travel and Transport theme.

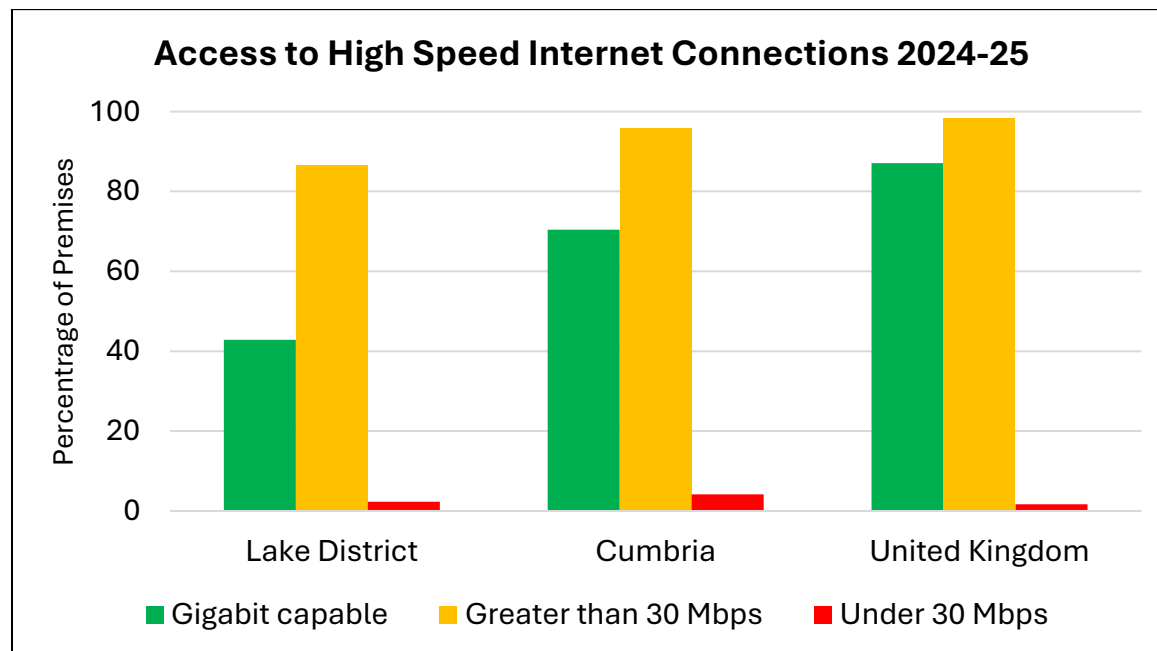
Action 3b Ullswater Visitor Mobility Plan – agreed March 2025

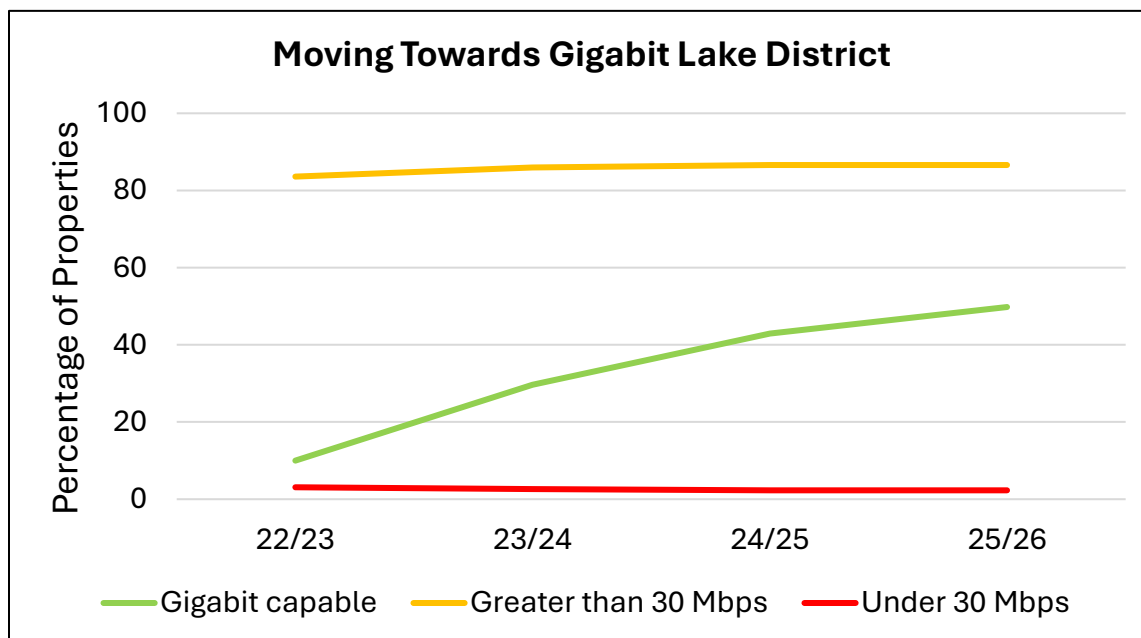
After their success, there are two further visitor mobility plans in development for Hawkshead and Langdale.

Action 4: Lobby transport operators and infrastructure providers to help connect people with jobs in rural areas through the provision an innovative rural bus service -
no data reported

Action 5: Maximise opportunities presented by Project Gigabit Cumbria pilot to connect gigabit capable broadband in hard-to-reach premises in the Lake District.

Access to high-speed internet connection continues to improve in the Lake District, despite it lagging that of Cumbria and England in 2024-25. The first graph shows that over 85% of premises have access to greater than 30 megabytes per second, of which 43% have gigabit connection. The overall trends, shown on the second graph, demonstrate the continued drive to ensuring as many premises as possible have a gigabit connection, with a target of almost 50% by April 2026. Meanwhile 2.3% of premises continue to have less than 10 megabytes per second.





Action 6: Work with suppliers, communities and the UK Government to identify opportunities and policies to improve broadband connectivity to avoid no one and no place is left behind.

Currently there is no plan in place to connect 3.5% of premises to Gigabit capable broadband in the Lake District National Park; for Cumbria, this is 2.2%. *Connecting Cumbria* constantly monitors the situation to develop solutions to reduce this.

Action 7: Monitor 4G coverage in the National Park as the Shared Rural Network evolves so that no-one and no place is left behind - no data reported

Action 8: Support local authorities in developing Cumbria's climate change adaption plan round four by September 2025 – no data reported

Action 9: Work with the Cumbria Rural Housing Enabler Service to bring forward Lake District National Park Authority site allocations by March 2026.

The Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) has 24 allocated housing sites to increase homes in the Lake District which are affordable or have local residency clauses. Eight sites are in the planning process. New developments can be found in Bootle (50 new homes of which 12 are affordable and 37 with local occupancy), Penruddock (11 with 8 affordable and 3 local occupancy), Staveley (25 homes with 20 affordable rents and 5 local

occupancy) and near Ambleside (40 dwellings made up of 22 affordable and 16 local occupancy).

The LDNPA, in collaboration with ACTion with Communities in Cumbria, continues to work with the Rural Housing Enabler Service (RHES) to increase rural affordable housing. The RHES is an independent neutral facilitator who works with rural communities to help bring forward small-scale affordable housing schemes that meet local needs, but they are not the planning authority. LDNPA is currently working with two local communities to help identify possible future housing sites.

Action 10: Proactively promote energy efficiency, sustainable building measures/ retrofit options for homeowners and businesses, with a particular focus on traditionally constructed buildings, including a presumption against demolition – no data reported

English Lake District World Heritage Site

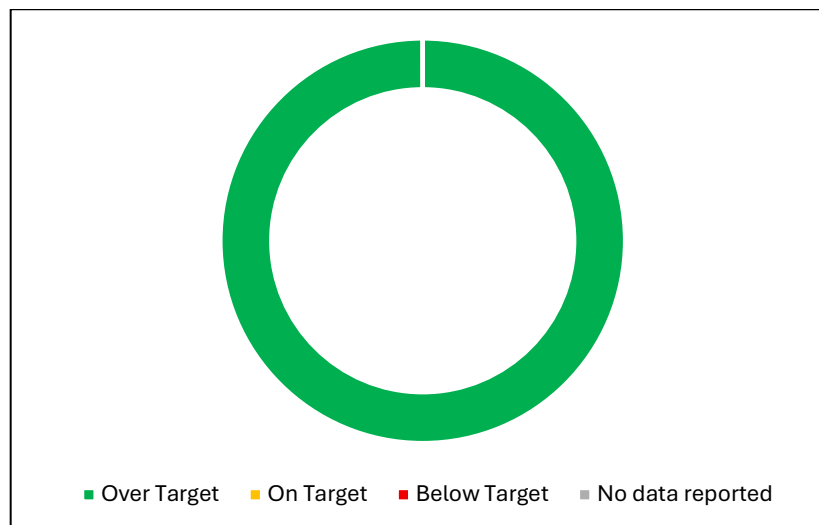
What is it?

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.

Update on our Targets 2024-25

The chart below summarises how we progressing towards all our world heritage site targets.



Caption: the chart shows that all actions have exceed our target.

Action 1: Prepare an interpretation strategy for the English Lake District World Heritage Site in 2024 and commence delivery of the associated action plan - strategy completed and delivery in progress

Case study: An Interpretation Strategy for the World Heritage Site

Organisations involved: *Minerva Heritage (consultants)*, Lakes Estates, Cumbria Tourism, National Trust, Lake District National Park Authority, Emeritus Professor Lois Mansfield.

In September 2023 UNESCO's World Heritage Committee set out several recommendations to the UK Government regarding the English Lake District World Heritage Site. These included the need to prepare an Interpretation Strategy.

The Interpretation Strategy is a strategic document which provides a framework for delivery of visitor interpretation. It is intended for use by the Partnership and its delivery partners to understand the World Heritage Site key messages. The Strategy includes information about the wider context for world heritage site interpretation, an outline audit of what is already happening, identifies target audiences and sets out the high-level messages that any interpretation should deliver. It ensures equality, diversity and inclusion when communicating the meaning and importance of the English Lake District.

Supporting the Strategy is an Action Plan, which will be regularly reviewed, setting out proposed actions under several themes for short term (1-2 years) and medium term (3-5 years) activity. The Action Plan has been prepared based on current resources and the LDNPA and the Partnership's capacity to deliver.



Caption: The New Interpretation Strategy for the Lake District World Heritage Site

Action 2: Work with Partners to prepare a State of Conservation report for UNESCO by the end of 2024 - completed

Organisations involved: Brantwood Estate, Borderlands Place programme, DCMS, DEFRA, Historic England, individual farms with building restorations, Homes England, Lake District Foundation, Lake District National Park Partnership, Love Windermere Partnership, Lake District National Park Authority, Network Rail, Our Common Cause Heritage Lottery Fund project, South Lakes Housing Trust, Stagecoach, West Lakeland and Ullswater Community Interest Companies, World Heritage Site Steering Group and Technical Advisory group.

Based on original 2017 recommendations by the World Heritage Committee at inscription, the Lake District World Heritage Site was asked to provide a State of Conservation Report (SoCR) last year. This included: affordable housing; traffic; planning matters; support for farmers; flood management; an Interpretation Strategy, and water quality in Windermere. The Partnership provided information to UNESCO, via the UK Government, giving examples of what the Partnership is doing to address the issues identified. A great many organisations supported this process.

The SoCR showcases the great work being undertaken to support and sustain the World Heritage Site locally. Notable examples are: the work of the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme, including barn and shard fencing restoration and support of farm diversification; farming-led nature recovery/adaptation to address climate change, and the work of Community Interest Companies such as Ullswater and West Lakes.

Case study: Building Preservation Notices

Organisations involved: Lake District National Park Authority, Historic England, site owners

The Lake District National Park Authority's Historic Environment Team has continued to proactively use the powers available to it as the Planning Authority to seek to secure the conservation of significant heritage assets by serving Building Preservation Notices (BPN). A BPN effectively 'list' a property, come into effect immediately and last for 6 months, during which time a full assessment of the building is carried out by Historic England (HE).

Following consultation with HE, in October 2024 a BPN was served on Scrithwaite Farmhouse and barns ahead of the property being offered at auction. Scrithwaite originated as a 17th century cruck framed dwelling, with 18th century additions to form a typical Cumbrian linear combined farmhouse and barn. Detached barns on the site retain

locally distinctive timber and slate cow byres and pens. The BPN for Scrithwaite was upheld in February 2025 and the farmhouse, detached barns and former laundry are all now Grade II-listed.

In February 2025 a BPN was served on two barns in the Swindale Valley which were also to be offered at auction. The buildings here date from the 17th century, with the larger barn originating as a rare hall house, in use as a dwelling until the end of the 19th century and then converted to a cow byre. The detached threshing barn occupies a prominent position adjacent to the road and retains its original pegged and hand-adzed roof timbers.



Caption: the firehouse of the 17th Century Scrithwaite Farmhouse, Lickle Valley, with its large bressummer beam, inserted range, spice cupboard and blocked fire window.

Case study: Historic Buildings Restoration Grants

Organisations involved: Building Owners, DEFRA, Historic England, National Trust, Lake District National Park Authority, Lake District Farming in Protected Landscapes programme

With funding through the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme, and an additional ringfenced allocation from DEFRA specifically for buildings, 20 traditional farm buildings have been repaired across the Lake District over the past year. Working with others, the historic environment team at the Lake District National Park Authority has led in

securing the funding to enable these traditional buildings to be sensitively repaired and continue in agricultural use.

In almost all cases these buildings provide a habitat for wildlife, including barn owls and bats, which has posed challenges for timing the works within the grant deadlines, but the local contractors have been extremely flexible and committed to getting these projects completed to a very high standard. The buildings repaired range in date from as early as the 1500s through to the mid-1800s and vary in size from simple hogg houses to multi-span bank barns.

Grant aided work to repair barns has numerous benefits for the National Park, supporting farm businesses, conserving the historic environment, World Heritage and wildlife habitats, as well as supporting local contractors and supply chains. A previous pilot project for traditional barn repairs found that for every £1 spent the predicted return on investment was £4.55, over 5 years and rising to £6.07 for every £1 spent over 10 years.



Caption: Far Easedale Barn post-repair, 2024