

# The Lake District Partnership Plan

A Management Plan for the National Park  
and World Heritage Site 2026-2031



June 2026

Image: Ade Gidney Photography

## From the Chair of the Partnership

If you are reading this, it is quite likely that you already think that the Lake District is one of the most exceptional of places. It is. Staggeringly beautiful, an amazing combination of geology, geography, history, culture, people and nature. Every valley, mountain and lake, every town, village and hamlet special. Home for some, work for many, and for all a place of refreshment and rest, excitement and challenge. And in recognition of its precious nature and universal value both a national park, and world heritage site.

There are organisations and people who have responsibilities, of many different kinds, for caring for this marvellous place. They want the Lake District to thrive, benefiting nature, adapting to our changing climate, supporting the people and communities within it, and those who work and visit here. Many of these organisations form the Lake District National Park Partnership. This Partnership develops, every five years, a management plan for the Lake District that sets out our vision and ambitions for the Park, and how we will deliver to this.

The starting point is our shared vision for the Lake District in 2051, when it will have been a national park for a century.

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

This vision is supported by some big, challenging ambitions. To deliver these will take us all, not just the Partnership, but you, the reader, businesses and communities in the Lake District, Cumbria and nationally, charities, government local and national, as well as international bodies. The Lake District deserves our care, our engagement. The Partnership plan is one element of this.

We look forward to working with you over the next five years to deliver for the Lake District.

Dr Celia Caulcott



Photo credit: Milton Haworth

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## Executive Summary

This document is the Partnership Plan for the Lake District, a joint management plan for both the Lake District National Park and English Lake District World Heritage Site for 2026-2031. The Plan was written by the Lake District National Park Partnership, which is committed to looking after and enhancing this area of outstanding significance. Following public consultation in November 2025 to January 2026, the Plan was amended and formally adopted by the Lake District National Park Authority on 24 June 2026 as the statutory management plan for this very special place.

The Partnership's Vision for the Lake District in 2051 - when the National Park will be 100 years old and the World Heritage Site will be 34 - as well as our nine long-term Ambitions can be found at paragraphs 76 to 78 (on pages 30-32).

What we intend to deliver over the next five years - our Objectives, including our Measures of Success - can be found at paragraphs 79 to 83 (pages 33 to 42).

Our supporting policies can be found at paragraphs 99-104 (pages 45 to 53).

Whether you live here, work here or visit, we all have a part to play in together delivering for the Lake District. We look forward to doing so, with you, over the next five years.

## What is the Lake District?

1. The Lake District is England's largest national park and largest world heritage site, a distinctive and special place on both a national and global stage. Located at the heart of Cumbria, in the north-west of England, it covers 912 square miles (2,362 square kilometres) of stunning landscape. Renowned for its varied and beautiful mountains, fells, valleys, lakes and coastline, it has been shaped by generations of people over many thousands of years and continues to be a thriving living-working landscape. This landscape has, in turn, shaped the distinctive culture and traditions of the Lake District.

### **Human occupation of the Lake District**

The earliest known archaeological site in the Lake District is a cave site near Lindale (in the south of the National Park) dating to the late Upper Palaeolithic period (Old Stone Age) when the ice sheets retreated after 12,000 BC. Flint finds from the cave, including a blade, complement other evidence of human occupation in the Morecambe Bay area. Humans have been occupying and shaping the Lake District landscape ever since.

## Why is the Lake District special?

2. The Lake District is a truly special place. A dramatic landscape of narrow valleys, steep mountains and fells, beautiful lakes and a varied coastline. Humans have lived and worked here for millennia, shaping this landscape and being shaped by it in return. It is a place which has long been farmed and where its natural resources have been exploited through mining and quarrying. Local stone, slate and timber have made its buildings and settlements, creating distinctive places to live, work and visit. Long a place of inspiration for artists, poets and writers and visited for centuries, it continues to inspire people today whether enjoying its splendour on land or on water.
3. The Lake District is home to Scafell Pike, England's highest mountain, Wastwater, England's deepest lake and Windermere, England's longest lake. It is the birthplace of the world's conservation movement and the National Trust, and is renowned for its wildlife and habitats, hill farming, and local traditions. All of these factors, and many, many more, make the Lake District a stunning and unforgettable landscape:

# Lake District facts



**2** World Heritage Sites  
The Lake District, which is England's largest, and Roman Ravenglass



**1** Wetland of international importance

**42%**  
of farmed land is tenanted



**16**

Lakes including England's biggest, Windermere at nearly 6sq miles



Scafell Pike, England's highest mountain



**11** Registered parks and gardens



Home of the Herdwick



England's largest national park



**136**

Sites of Special Scientific Interest



**3** Special Areas of Conservation



Nearly **18 million** visitors

**11**

Registered parks and gardens



**23** Conservation areas



Most common land in England



**2** Local nature reserves

**53.6%**  
Open access land



**26** miles of coast



**11** National nature reserves



**288**  
Scheduled monuments



**1,384 miles**  
of footpaths and 584 miles of bridleways



of drinking water a day, supplied across the North West

4. In recognition of its exceptional character, the Lake District is protected as both a national park and a world heritage site, signifying its importance to the nation and the global community. We care about this very special place and want to look after it for its own sake and for the benefit of future generations.

## A World Heritage Site

### World Heritage facts

- UNESCO's 1972 [World Heritage Convention](#) identifies, preserves and promotes cultural and natural sites of global significance and protects them for future generations.
- The UK Government ratified the Convention in 1984 and joined an international community committed to protecting and preserving the world's natural and cultural heritage.
- The Convention resulted in the World Heritage List, inscription on which is an acknowledgment of significance at the very highest level. This significance is known as Outstanding Universal Value.
- There are 1,248 world heritage sites; 35 in the UK and its territories (as of June 2026).

5. In 2017 the English Lake District<sup>1</sup> was recognised by UNESCO for its international significance and became a cultural world heritage site, identified as a cultural landscape for the combined works of nature and humankind.
6. Articles 4 and 5 of the [World Heritage Convention](#) set out the UK Government's key obligations under the Convention:

**Article 4:** '...ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage...'

**Article 5:** To ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage...'

7. The UNESCO [World Heritage Committee](#) (the main body in charge of the implementation of the Convention), has produced [Operational Guidelines](#)

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<sup>1</sup> The Lake District is referred to as the 'English Lake District' in terms of World Heritage to identify its location and to distinguish it from lake districts in other countries.

setting out procedures for the protection and conservation of world heritage properties, as well as the process for the designation of sites, international assistance and national and international support. The guidelines explain how UNESCO considers the Convention should be implemented in practice.

8. The [Statement of Outstanding Universal Value](#) adopted by UNESCO explains why the Lake District is so significant globally.
9. The Operational Guidelines refer to the 'attributes' of a world heritage site (the component parts) which together explain a site's Outstanding Universal Value. The Partnership has identified nine attributes and has summarised these as: extraordinary beauty and harmony; the agro-pastoral system; local industries; towns and settlements; early tourism; villas, gardens and formal landscapes; sites and collections associated with the Picturesque<sup>2</sup> and Romanticism<sup>3</sup>; landscape conservation, and the ability of people to experience the spirit and feeling of the Lake District (see also [Appendix 4](#)). The attributes explain why the site is so significant globally and what makes it so special:

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<sup>2</sup> The term 'Picturesque' emerged in the late eighteenth century to describe a type of landscape that has artistic appeal given both its beauty and wildness, as seen, for instance, in landscape painting, literature and fashionable landscape gardening.

<sup>3</sup> Romanticism was an artistic and intellectual movement in the late eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth centuries. Emotional sensitivity, imagination and responses to nature are key components of Romanticism which are embodied in the works of, for instance, the Romantic poets Wordsworth, Shelley and Byron, and artists Turner and Constable.

# English Lake District

## Attributes of Outstanding Universal Value

Each world heritage site has a series of attributes (features of interest or traditions) which collectively explain why a site is of global significance and helps to make it understandable. For the English Lake District there are nine of these:

### 1 Extraordinary beauty and harmony

The physical natural landscape of mountains, rivers, lakes and valleys and the impact of humans on the landscape including farming, settlements, industry and woodlands.



### 3 Local industries

Ancient semi natural woodlands. Traditional past and current woodland industries, historic remains of mines and quarries which have shaped the landscape.



### 2 Agro-pastoral system

A distinctive farming system with seasonal grazing in the valley bottoms and on the fells, physical evidence in the form of field systems and farmsteads, and the associated traditions and social events.



### 4 Towns and settlements

Settlement pattern of individual farms, small hamlets, villages and market towns, and their historic buildings.



### 6 Villas, gardens and formal landscapes

A villa landscape of buildings and their gardens carefully designed to sit within the wider landscape.



### 8 Landscape conservation

The landscape is protected for its scenic and cultural value.



### 5 Early tourism

Places and collections associated with early tourism and early tourist infrastructure. Views and ideas that shaped how people saw the Lake District, along with the values and sense of beauty that inspired early tourism.



### 7 Sites and collections

*associated with the Picturesque and Romanticism*

Residences and places associated with significant writers and poets and the surviving landscape which inspired literature and art.



### 9 Experience the spirit and feeling of the Lake District

The ability of people to enjoy an open landscape.

10. From the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value three intertwining and interdependent themes have also been identified that summarise and encompass all of the World Heritage Site's attributes:

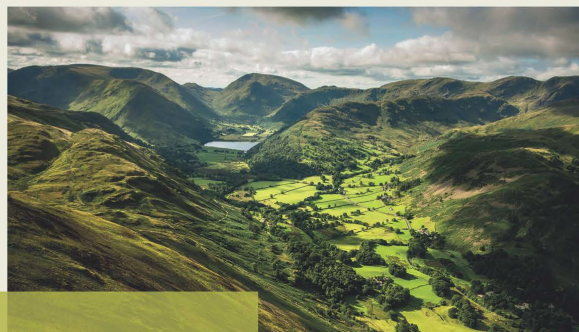
- 1:** A landscape of exceptional beauty, shaped by persistent and distinctive agro-pastoral traditions and local industry which gives it special character.
- 2:** A landscape which has inspired artistic and literary movements and generated ideas about landscapes that have had global influence and left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

The themes are illustrated below:

## THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT WORLD HERITAGE SITE

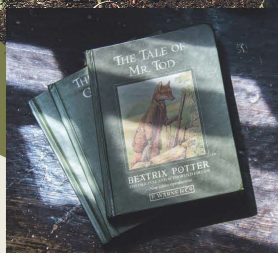
### Beauty

A landscape of exceptional beauty, shaped by persistent and distinctive agro-pastoral traditions and local industry which gives it special character.



### Inspiration

A landscape which has inspired artistic and literary movements and generated ideas about landscapes that have had global influence and left their physical mark.



### Conservation

A landscape which has been the catalyst for key developments in the national and international protection of landscapes.



Top image Patterdale Valley © National Trust Images / John Malley, Herdwick in Borrowdale © Andrew Locking, William Wordsworth © Courtesy of The Wordsworth Trust, Grasmere

11. The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value can be read in full in [Appendix 4](#)

## A National Park

### National Park facts:

- The poet Wordsworth is considered to be one of the first supporters of national parks, when he wrote in the early nineteenth century that the Lake District was a '*sort of national property, in which every man has a right and interest who has an eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy*'.
- A movement to allow a greater right-to-roam followed in the 1930s, but it was in the early years after the Second World War that the concept of national parks became particularly important as the country recovered from the impact of war and began building a better future for the nation as part of its post-war reconstruction.
- This led to the passing of a 1949 Act of Parliament to establish national parks to conserve and enhance their natural beauty and provide recreational opportunities for the public.
- The Lake District was the second to be designated, after the Peak District National Park.
- There are 15 national parks in the UK, 10 in England (as of June 2026).

11. The Lake District was designated as a national park in 1951, given its significance as a landscape of exceptional beauty to the nation.

12. National parks have two purposes set out in law. Public bodies have a duty to further the statutory purposes of being a protected landscape to keep the Lake District special<sup>4</sup>:

- **Purpose 1:** to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.
- **Purpose 2:** to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Special Qualities of the National Park by the public.

13. The Government also places a corresponding social and economic duty upon national park authorities themselves, to be considered when delivering the two purposes. This arrangement is designed to ensure a high degree of mutual cooperation, avoiding the risk either that the needs of national park residents

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<sup>4</sup> The UK Government has provided [guidance for relevant authorities on seeking to further the purposes of Protected Landscapes](#). Relevant authorities, in this context, are: a [government department or public body](#); any statutory undertaker, or any person holding public office.

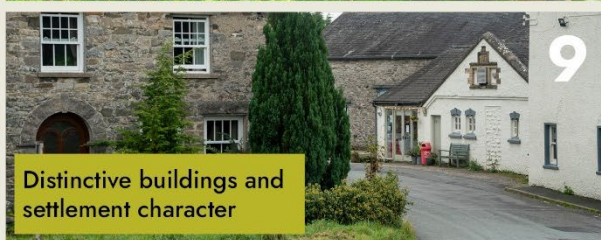
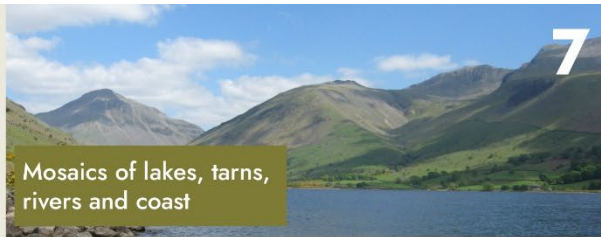
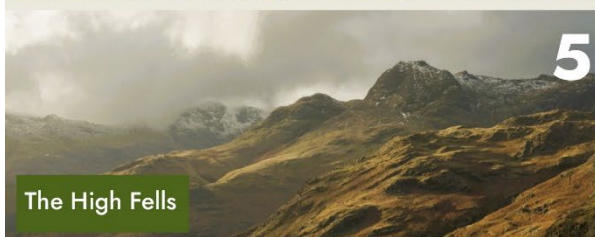
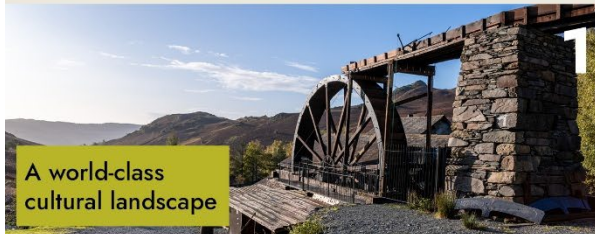
and businesses will be ignored, or that others will ignore its designation when undertaking activities:

**The Lake District National Park Authority's Duty:** to seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of the local communities within the National Park in pursuit of our purposes.

14. Each national park has a series of Special Qualities which set out what makes it special; the distinctive characteristics which distinguish it from other national parks and areas of the country. The Lake District has 13 of these, summarising a range of features which include: its geology; a wealth of habitats and wildlife creating a special natural environment; the distinctive character of its buildings and settlements that create a sense of place; rich archaeology; characteristic farming systems and a long history of tourism, among others (see also [Appendix 2](#)). All of these Special Qualities combine to create a landscape of remarkable beauty and individual character that is valued by the nation:

# The Lake District's Special Qualities

Why the National Park is distinctive and special



## Dual landscape designation

15. These dual landscape designations make the Lake District unique, celebrated on both a national and global stage for its stunning landscapes and natural and cultural heritage, with the Park's lakes and mountains being central to its identity.
16. Vital opportunities for outdoor recreation are provided, contributing to the health and wellbeing of both residents and visitors, and supporting local communities and businesses who are critical to ensuring the future of this landscape.
17. By maintaining and enhancing the National Park's Special Qualities and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site, the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Lake District will continue to be a thriving living-working landscape that offers huge benefits for present and future generations.

## Further designations

18. In addition, many other layers of designation apply across different areas of the Lake District, which is a highly protected landscape. For example, there are 136 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)<sup>5</sup>, three Special Areas of Conservation<sup>6</sup>, one Ramsar site<sup>7</sup>, one further World Heritage Site<sup>8</sup>, 288 Scheduled Monuments, 11 Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest, 23 Conservation Areas, and over 1,800 listed buildings.
19. All of these different designations mean our Partnership Plan must take a balanced approach that supports us in delivering across a broad spectrum of Government commitments.

## Boundaries and Ownership

20. The National Park and World Heritage Site have different boundaries. The World Heritage Site follows the National Park's original 1951 boundary and

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<sup>5</sup> A nationally important area for rare species of flora and fauna, or of geological importance; of the 136 SSSIs some are entirely within the Lake District and some straddle the national park boundary.

<sup>6</sup> A habitat of European importance.

<sup>7</sup> A wetland of international importance; in the Lake District this is Esthwaite Water.

<sup>8</sup> The 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire' World Heritage Site, which includes Roman remains at Ravenglass.

covers 885 square miles (2,292 km<sup>2</sup>). This close alignment helps ensure that managing one designation also supports the other.

21. In 2016 the National Park was extended to the east by a further 167 square miles (433 km<sup>2</sup>). This included two additional areas: all of the Borrowdale Valley near Shap, as well as land to the south-west of Kendal, including Brigsteer and Sizergh Castle. This gives a total size for the National Park of 912 square miles (2,362 km<sup>2</sup>).
22. A number of public, private and charitable organisations own significant landholdings in the Lake District. Examples include: the National Trust (at approximately 20% of the National Park); United Utilities (8%); Forestry England, as the guardian of the nation's forests (5%), the Lake District National Park Authority (3.2%) and Cumbria Wildlife Trust (1%). All of these organisations are Partners in the Lake District National Park Partnership. However, most of the land is in private ownership (approximately 63%).

## What is the Lake District National Park Partnership?

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

## Our Partner organisations are:



## What does the Partnership do?

24. The Partnership works together to look after and improve the Lake District across a wide range of topics which impact or could impact the future of the area.
25. One of the main ways that we do this is through collectively writing, and then delivering, a Partnership Plan for the Lake District, setting out how we will respond to the challenges and opportunities that the area faces over a five-year period, while also looking ahead to the future and setting a Vision and Ambitions for how we would like the future Lake District to be. For this Plan we are looking ahead to 2051 when the National Park will be 100 years old and the World Heritage Site will be 34 years old.
26. Our collaborative approach ensures that much more can be achieved in looking after this very special place together, sharing expertise across organisations and sectors to co-deliver projects, collaboratively fund-raising and advocating for the Lake District at a local, regional, national and international level. Our combined resources allow us to look for opportunities at scale while together tackling some of the more challenging issues facing the Lake District.
27. We have delivered some great successes over the past six years with the latest examples set out in our Annual Report for 2024-25. Our annual reports are published online and outline progress toward the goals set in the 2020-26 Partnership Plan. They also informed the development of this Plan. A further report, to be produced in 2026, will provide a summary of achievements and developments made over the entire six-year period of the 2002-2026 Plan.
28. Many of these successes have been achieved in partnership with the farmers and land managers of the Lake District as well as numerous other key delivery partners.
29. We recognise that we need to work collaboratively to co-design projects and solutions on the ground that provides multiple benefits and are rooted in local knowledge and communities.

## What is the Partnership Plan for?

30. This Plan is for everyone who has an interest in or cares about the Lake District. It provides the framework for how the Lake District, as both a national park and world heritage site, will be managed. It sets out how we will together look after this very special place, now and for the future.

31. Effective management will take into account the needs of this exceptional landscape, its residents and visitors.

## About the Plan

32. This ambitious Partnership Plan sets out how Partners will collectively work together to tackle the most important challenges and opportunities in the area over the five-year life of the Plan (2026-2031).
33. All world heritage sites must have robust protection and a management framework to support the conservation of the site and safeguard its future. The Partnership Plan guides day-to-day management and decision making for the English Lake District World Heritage Site, explaining how we will address recommendations from UNESCO and providing a longer-term strategic framework.
34. National Park authorities are also required to develop and monitor delivery of a management plan for the landscape that they oversee. The Partnership Plan does this for the Lake District National Park and is the most important strategic document for the management of the park.
35. In the Lake District we have combined - since 2015 - both plans into a single Partnership Plan, providing a statutory plan for both the National Park and World Heritage Site.
36. The 2015-2020 Plan explained the rationale for this, which was a conscious decision by the Lake District National Park Authority and the Lake District National Park Partnership, combining responsibilities for the management of both the National Park and the World Heritage Site into one strategic plan. (See the rationale for this in full here: [5.0-Protection-and-Management-of-the-Property.pdf](#)).
37. A 'one-plan' approach is easier for residents, businesses and other stakeholders to understand and engage with. It allows the Partnership to work with others to manage the Lake District as a coherent entity, rather than through two separate management plans.
38. The joint plan ensures that the Lake District is managed holistically and strategically for both the National Park and World Heritage Site designations. It ensures that the National Park's Special Qualities and World Heritage Site Attributes of Outstanding Universal Value - with many commonalities between the two - are conserved and enhanced together.

### 39. This Plan:

- Sets out the overarching strategy for the Lake District, including our Vision and Ambitions for managing the area to 2051;
- Outlines our shorter-term Objectives that will help set us on the trajectory to delivering this Vision.
- Delivers holistic management for both national park and world heritage site designations;
- Delivers the requirements of the World Heritage Committee, and the State Party, that every world heritage site should have a management plan to protect its Outstanding Universal Value;
- Guides the work of all public bodies and other partners to deliver the purposes of the National Park; and obligations under the [World Heritage Convention](#) (1972);
- Supports the UK Government in addressing UNESCO's World Heritage Committee's recommendations;
- Delivers requirements under the [European Landscape Convention - Council of Europe Landscape Convention](#) (2000);
- Supports the Council of Europe's [Environment Strategy](#) (2025)
- Supports the delivery of other national strategies, policies and plans including, but not limited to, the [Government's Plan for Change](#) that includes a mission to [Kickstart Economic Growth](#), [Environmental Improvement Plan 2025](#) and 30 by 30 targets<sup>9</sup>;
- At a county level, helps to deliver the [Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#), the Lake District National Park Partnership's [Climate Change Risk Adaptation Report](#), the [Lake District National Park Partnership Nature Recovery Plan](#), Zero Carbon Cumbria's Emission Reduction Plans<sup>10</sup>, the Cumbria [Going for Growth Economic Strategy](#) and the Cumbria [Destination Management Plan](#);

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<sup>9</sup> The Government's goal that by 2030 30% of the UK will be managed for nature.

<sup>10</sup> Zero Carbon Cumbria's Emission Reduction Plans provide a pathway for tackling emissions in the key sectors; transport, buildings, consumption and waste, and farming and other land use. Each plan sets out clear targets, stakeholders, and proposes actionable steps to accelerate an ambitious transition to a net-zero carbon county by 2037.

- Provides the strategic context for the Lake District's [Local Development Plan](#) (planning policies);
- Drives and monitors delivery of the Government's [Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework](#) against the targets set for delivery in the Lake District;
- Helps to deliver Partners' statutory obligations and provides a strategic direction for organisational business plans.

40. As a Partnership, we seek to look after and continually improve and evolve the Lake District through positive management. We recognise that there will always be new projects, programmes or proposals that will emerge that we need to respond to. This Plan therefore does not seek to provide all the answers to deliver our long-term Ambitions or our Objectives for the next five years, but it does identify key priorities that move the Lake District in the direction of achieving our new Vision. Our related two-year Action Plan sets us on this path and provides us with the agility to respond to unforeseen changes in circumstances, as well as to opportunities.

41. The new Vision for the Lake District includes the ambition that it will be deeply valued by the nation. This intention is to ensure the Lake District benefits all sectors of society and that it plays a key role in contributing to the nation's priorities and ambitions.

## Sustainable Development as a catalyst for growth

42. This Plan helps to deliver, through its Vision, Ambitions and Objectives, the United Nations' [Sustainable Development](#) goals, particularly goals 3 (good health and well-being), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 13 (climate action), 14 (life below water) and 15 (life on land).

43. The Lake District embraces sustainable development as a catalyst for growth and will contribute to Cumbria's 2025-2045 [Going for Growth Economic Strategy](#) by:

- Securing water supply to the north-west region by investing in natural capital;<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> The UK Government defines natural capital as 'elements of nature that have value to society such as forests, fisheries, rivers, biodiversity, land and minerals. Natural capital includes both the living and non-living aspects of ecosystems.'

- Providing public health benefits to the nation, region and county;
- Delivery of 30 by 30 protection and management of land and sea for nature (30% of the country managed for nature by 2030) and carbon Net Zero ambitions;
- Supporting a sustainable economy, regenerative tourism<sup>12</sup> and brand Cumbria through the Lake District's landscape and cultural heritage; and
- Secure the sustainable future of farming and position Cumbria as a leader in national food security.

## Why this Plan is important and our commitment to how it is delivered

44. This Partnership Plan is the heart of collaboration between Partners ensuring collective action towards the Vision, Ambition and Objectives for the Lake District. The Partnership operates through a collaborative decision-making framework to ensure every Partner has a say in shaping how the Lake District is cared for and that all decisions contribute to the shared outcomes of the Partnership Plan.
45. Delivery of the Partnership Plan is driven through joint projects, shared funding bids and coordinated programmes, all aligned to the Vision, Ambitions, Objectives and Policies set out in this document: the combined knowledge and capacity of the Partnership helps leverage resources and funding to drive delivery of the Plan.
46. Today, more than ever before, we feel that how the Partnership delivers this Plan will be fundamental to its success. In achieving our Vision, Ambitions and Objectives, the Partnership is committed to working alongside our communities to address the global, national and local challenges that face us here in the Lake District.
47. Effective management of the Lake District takes account of national park purposes and Special Qualities and the conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value as a world heritage site, and therefore delivery must be designed with sensitivity to meet this range of needs.

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<sup>12</sup> Visit Britain defines regenerative tourism as 'tourism that should leave a place better than it was before. Its main goal is for visitors to have a positive impact on their holiday destination, leaving it in a better condition than they found it. This involves revitalising and regenerating it by contributing to a positive cycle of impacts on local communities and economies.'

48. In practice, this means securing multiple benefits (such as for nature recovery and for cultural heritage, or access for all and vibrant communities). The Partnership will take a bottom-up approach, delivering for the nation and co-designing with local communities. It will also seek to collaborate more widely and be open and transparent about what we are trying to achieve.
49. Over the first year of this Plan's lifetime, the Partnership intends to shape this commitment into a set of delivery principles to further mature our Partnership and increase the depth and reach of our delivery.

## How has the Partnership Plan been developed?

50. The Partnership Plan has been prepared by the Partners, in consultation with other organisations and the public interested in the Lake District's present and future.
51. The Plan is grounded in and informed by a sound understanding of both the Lake District's Special Qualities and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.
52. The Partnership has taken an evidence-based approach, starting by preparing seven evidence papers (see [Appendix 13](#)) as well as a review of the conclusions from the National Park's State of the Park Report and the 2023 Periodic Reporting Questionnaire<sup>13</sup> and State of Conservation reports for the World Heritage Site. Together these have given Partners a robust understanding of the current key challenges and opportunities across a number of important topics, allowing the drafting of a Plan to respond to these as a Partnership.
53. The Plan is based on engagement with a wide range of stakeholders. We have focused particularly on voices that are less often heard, including young people as the future guardians of this special place.
54. The Plan takes account of international, national and local policy requirements ([Appendix 8](#)), including an assessment against the World Heritage Site attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) (see [Appendix 3](#)) and delivering against the [Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework](#) (PLTOF) which establishes targets for all national parks and national landscapes.

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<sup>13</sup> 'Periodic Report' is used throughout the Plan as a shorthand for the World Heritage Site Periodic reporting questionnaire which has to be completed for all world heritage sites approximately every eight years or so. The process is further explained in the [Monitoring section](#) and at [Appendix 5](#).

55. The effect of the Plan on social, environmental and economic objectives has been tested through [a Strategic Environmental Assessment](#), and the effects on internationally designated sites for nature have been considered through a [Habitats Regulation Assessment](#). An [Equality Impact Assessment](#) has also been undertaken.

## Challenges and Opportunities

56. Globally, we are facing twin crises of the climate emergency and nature loss. Both crises are happening now in the Lake District. In fact, many of the impacts are being felt even more deeply and obviously here, so it is not enough to simply do what we have always done if the Lake District is to continue to be a special and distinctive living-working landscape for the nation and globally.

57. The challenges facing this living, ever-changing landscape are significant and many are completely outside of our control. The Partnership is committed to understanding these issues and the impact they are having, or may have, on the Lake District, so that we can respond, adapt and take action to secure a positive future: the Plan is one of the primary tools for addressing these challenges and opportunities.

58. The development of this Plan was informed by evidence which has examined the challenges and opportunities affecting the Lake District. These seven evidence papers are available (see [Appendix 13](#)) and cover:

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

59. The evidence papers are also supported by the following reports:

- [State of the Park Report](#) (2023)

- State of Conservation Report (2024)  
<https://whc.unesco.org/document/218382>
- Periodic Reporting Questionnaire (2023)  
<https://whc.unesco.org/document/218045>

60. The evidence base identifies the following main challenges and opportunities:

## State of Conservation

61. The World Heritage Committee has made a number of recommendations for the improved management of the World Heritage Site, both at the time of designation in 2017 and subsequently. These include action on the use of unsealed roads, addressing water pollution, hefting and commoning, planning matters (managed through the Local Plan), natural flood management, housing and transport. Our proposed actions as a Partnership to address these challenges are incorporated in our Ambitions and Objectives, with specific actions for the first two years of the Plan's delivery set out in our Action Plan. In responding to UNESCO's recommendations, we will report on progress in these areas through Periodic Reporting and by inputting to any State of Conservation Reports requested of the UK Government. We will provide a sound understanding of the challenges and threats that affect, or could potentially affect, the World Heritage Site and its attributes (what makes it significant; see [Plan Monitoring](#) section and [Appendix 3](#), [9](#) and [15](#)).

## Climate change

62. The Lake District faces major climate challenges, including rising temperatures and extremely variable weather patterns which threatens the cultural landscape, the historic and built environment, wildlife, infrastructure and communities living in the Lake District. In response, efforts are underway across the National Park to support Cumbria's goal of becoming a zero-carbon county by 2037. There are several opportunities for both climate mitigation and adaptation including peatland restoration and woodland creation, which can store carbon. Improving energy efficiency in buildings (and the sustainable retrofit of traditional buildings<sup>14</sup>) and reducing car use through the provision of better, greener public transport while encouraging active travel, can help lower emissions and are key decarbonisation strategies. Sustainable land management practices and nature-

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<sup>14</sup> Upgrading existing buildings that are built with local materials to improve their energy efficiency.

based solutions can enhance resilience to climate change and future predictions of increased rainfall and frequency of drought.

## Nature recovery

63. Habitats and species are being lost at an unprecedented rate due to habitat degradation, poor management, pollution, and the impacts of invasive, non-native species. The Government has set ambitious targets for nature recovery, and national parks and other protected landscapes want, and need to lead the way. The delivery of the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy provides real opportunities to bring farmers, land managers and Partners together around landscape-scale nature recovery ambitions, guiding efforts to increase habitat connectivity<sup>15</sup> and food production and alternative forms of land use where suitable, including increased woodland cover and peatland restoration. Developing blended finance approaches<sup>16</sup> is an opportunity to fund nature recovery and offers farmers and land managers new ways to earn income. To support efforts, it is important to collect more data in a consistent way and involve local people - including through citizen science - to improve understanding of the current condition of habitats and species, and the impact of conservation efforts over time.

## Economy and funding

64. A thriving rural economy underpins the ability to be able to deliver for nature, climate and people. The rural economy and communities in the Lake District are impacted by housing and labour supply constraints, low labour productivity and acute skills shortages. Economic uncertainty, and cuts to funding at a national and regional scale, is affecting the resourcing for delivery of the Partnership Plan. Devolution presents an opportunity to take greater control over Cumbria's ambition to deliver the national growth agenda, enabling localised decision-making to drive investment, unlock potential, and empower communities, whilst ensuring the rural voice is considered and prioritised within any new strategic mayoral combined authority. The Lake District embraces sustainable development as a catalyst for growth and will contribute to Cumbria's '*Going for Growth Economic Strategy 2025-2045*', which includes tackling the productivity gap, enabling Cumbria to compete nationally in key sectors.

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<sup>15</sup> Connected habitats allow wildlife to move more freely through the landscape which is better for biodiversity, genetic diversity and ecosystem health.

<sup>16</sup> Blended finance approaches for nature recovery would use a mixture of public funding, such as from agri-environment scheme grants with private finance, which could be from philanthropic giving or through schemes that encourage the purchase of environmental credits.

## Tourism

65. The visitor economy in the Lake District plays an important role in supporting thriving communities, through: job creation; supporting public transport; underpinning a resilient supply chain; cultural, arts and heritage assets and creates pride in place. At the same time, tourism can contribute to pressures on housing, infrastructure, traffic and car parking, and the environment, highlighting the need for a more sustainable approach. Cumbria Tourism's Destination Management Plan sets a clear ambition for Cumbria to be a leading sustainable and responsible tourism destination, achieved through effective visitor management and engagement that enhances the overall visitor experience. Partners are already taking coordinated action through the Cumbria [Strategic Visitor Management Group](#), which focuses on education, engagement and targeted enforcement to reduce visitor impacts on the landscape and environment while improving the quality of experiences for all.

## Farming and land management

66. Farming is continuing to experience its biggest changes in decades, with changes to farming economics and increasing pressures on farmers and land managers to deliver more – more food production, more for nature and more for the climate. In the Lake District, farming is the main land use. The drive towards payment for public goods within environmental land management schemes, alongside specific place-based initiatives, such as the Farming in Protected Landscapes grant programme, has provided opportunities for farmers. However, funding availability and accessibility over the next five years remains uncertain, especially for those seeking to maintain traditional Lake District agro-pastoral systems alongside delivery for nature. The outlook for the significant proportion that are tenant farmers and commoners is particularly unstable, as they face distinct and often greater pressures. Learnings from the Rock Review<sup>17</sup> and the Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Code of Practice<sup>18</sup> provide a valuable opportunity to strengthen and secure the future of the tenant farming sector within the Lake District landscape. In all cases, access to clear and reliable support mechanisms will be essential if farmers and land managers are to deliver the multiple goals of nature-friendly farming whilst playing their crucial role in producing food, caring for the land, sustaining traditional cultural practices, supporting communities, and welcoming visitors to the Lake District.

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<sup>17</sup> A Government review of tenant farming in England (2022): [The Rock Review: summary and recommendations](#)

<sup>18</sup> A DEFRA code of practice (2024): [Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Code of Practice.pdf](#)

## Transport and accessibility

67. How people travel to and around the Lake District could change significantly. Many residents and visitors are already open to using more sustainable transport<sup>19</sup> and as a consequence in the future there could be less reliance on private cars.<sup>20</sup> To support this shift, parking (in the right locations) can have a role to play in enabling people to transfer between transport modes; also active travel options and public transport must improve, especially in areas beyond the main travel corridors, to enable residents and visitors to travel car free through the Lake District. The challenges to achieving this include: funding; the seasonality of visitors, and the dispersal of people enabling them to travel where they want to get to. Better transport links would benefit residents, the visitor experience and minimise the landscape impact of travel whilst reducing carbon emissions and traffic. Past investments in walking and cycling routes have been shown to encourage people to travel differently. The [Lake District's Active Travel Network Plan](#) highlights key routes that could bring economic, environmental, and health benefits. With 1,864 miles of rights of way already available, more investment could make them even more attractive alternatives to travel by car. A new Mayoral Authority (see 'Policy Changes' section below) could present an opportunity to develop a more holistic and integrated approach to transport across Cumbria.

## The next generation, declining population, and housing

68. The Lake District is a special place to live, but its communities are facing demographic challenges that threaten their future. The population is shrinking, especially among working-age people, while the number of older residents is growing. High house prices, high numbers of second homes and holiday lets, and a lack of affordable housing are making it hard for young people and families to stay in, or move to, the Lake District. To support local services and attract more working-age residents and address employment needs, action is required to improve the balance between under- or temporarily-occupied homes (second homes and holiday lets) and permanent dwellings. An increase in the delivery of local occupancy, affordable and social housing will make small

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<sup>19</sup> Sustainable transport is defined as 'Any efficient, safe and accessible means of transport with overall low impact on the environment, including walking and cycling, low and ultra-low emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport.' (Campaign for Better Transport – National Planning Policy Framework definition.)

<sup>20</sup> Recent research commissioned by Action with Communities in Cumbria, the Lake District National Park Authority and Friends of the Lake District explored the public's appetite to travel differently in the Lake District, see: [transport-appetite-report-main.pdf](#)

contributions to enable local, working people to continue living in the Lake District, but addressing the proportion of under- or temporarily-occupied homes could result in more significant contributions to this housing shortfall.

## Policy changes

69. Since the adoption of the 2020-2026 Partnership Plan, significant policy changes have impacted the Lake District. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 shifted the requirement for 'Responsible Bodies' to further the purposes of national parks. This strengthening of the legislation for national parks should form the basis for strong partnerships and joint working, enabling greater commitment and resources to the delivery of this Plan. Supporting delivery of this Plan is a key way in which relevant bodies can demonstrate their commitment to furthering the purposes of the National Park, as set out in legislation.
70. Directly affecting delivery of this Partnership Plan, the Government has also introduced the Protected Landscapes and Targets and Outcomes Framework (see Appendix 7) which sets ambitious targets for national parks and other protected landscapes to deliver for nature, the climate and the historic environment, while also improving engagement and access for all.
71. Significant changes will occur to local structures and partnerships during the life of this plan. The Lake District falls within an area prioritised under the Government's Devolution Priority Programme and a Combined Authority was established in 2026, with mayoral elections taking place in May 2027. Devolution will shift how local decisions are taken and therefore could have a significant impact on Plan delivery. Many other policy changes will affect the Lake District over the new five years and this Plan aim to respond flexibly to challenges and opportunities presented.

## Health and wellbeing

72. Everyone, no matter their background, should be able to enjoy the Lake District landscape, its nature, beauty, and cultural heritage. Research shows that spending time in nature improves both mental and physical health, and more people are now using outdoor spaces for exercise, which also helps reduce healthcare costs. However, many people still face barriers to accessing the Lake District, especially young people, those with health conditions or disabilities, people on low incomes and people from ethnic minority backgrounds. Better infrastructure provision in and around the Lake District,

such as changing places toilets<sup>21</sup>, will increase accessibility and boost the health and wellbeing opportunities of being outside for both visitors and residents.

## Water quality

73. The Lake District's waterbodies face many pressures, including: increasing water abstraction for a growing population across the north-west; supporting the regional economy, and pollution from sewage, agriculture, abandoned mines, and drainage from roads and other land-uses. Climate change is making these challenges worse by increasing the risk of drought, flooding, polluted run-off, reduced river flows and algal blooms, while also raising the future demand for water. These combined pressures threaten freshwater habitats and the species that depend on them, risking further damage to the natural environment and reduced water quality. To protect these vital ecosystems, urgent investment and coordinated action in sustainable, integrated water management is needed. Priority should be given to reducing pollution, increasing water efficiency and, where appropriate, reversing historic changes made to rivers - like straightening or adding weirs - that have impacted water quality and flow rates.

## Unique heritage

74. The historic environment, history and culture of the Lake District is the foundation of our communities and economy, providing a sense of place and distinctive character. The landscape is the result of thousands of years of human modification of the fells, valleys and woodland through farming and industry interacting with the natural and physical environment. This has left a rich legacy of archaeological sites, buildings and gardens - including ancient field systems, farms and settlements, villas and designed landscapes - and a long history of traditional hill-farming practices including hefted flocks and the use of commons. The Lake District can also proudly claim to be the birthplace of the conservation movement, while supporting a long tradition of tourism, as well as continuing - as it has been for centuries - as a source of artistic inspiration. Sustaining the global significance of this world heritage cultural landscape occurs in tandem with restoring and enhancing its natural heritage and national park Special Qualities, while continuing as a living-working landscape which is valued by the local community and our millions of visitors. It is, however, acknowledged that this unique heritage faces a number of challenges. These

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<sup>21</sup> Toilets that are designed with the space and facilities for people with disabilities or accessibility requirements

include: the impact of climate change; a lack of traditional skilled craftspeople, and the high costs of maintenance and restoration of heritage assets.

## The 2051 Vision

75. In 2051 it will be 100 years since the Lake District became a national park, and 34 years since inscription as a world heritage site. Securing the new 2051 Vision for the Lake District will need all those who live, work in, visit and have statutory obligation to the Lake District to do their part.

It is 2051...

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

## Ambitions

76. We have wide representation as Partners (on behalf of farmers and land managers, residents, communities, parishes, local authorities, organisations and other public bodies, visitors, businesses and specialists) which has helped to identify a clear set of shared and challenging Ambitions that will help us realise the Vision.

77. Our Ambitions are all intertwined, helping us to look after this very special place and achieve both our national park purposes and sustain and enhance our world heritage site:



78. The Plan's Ambitions are:

In 2051...

- Habitats are restored, and species are recovering, enabling nature to flourish in a better-connected landscape.
- Water is clean and plentiful for people and nature through restoring natural processes and reducing pollution.
- Carbon emissions from human activity are reduced and the Lake District stores more carbon than it emits.
- The Lake District is more resilient to the effects of the future climate.

- Rural communities are thriving, supported by a diverse economy and regenerative tourism, enabling more people to live and work in the Lake District.
- Farming is viable, nature-friendly<sup>22</sup> and delivers quality sustainable produce while maintaining the Lake District's distinctive agricultural practices.
- The distinctive historic environment of the Lake District is conserved and enhanced, ensuring it is better understood and looked after for future generations.
- The Lake District is improving people's wellbeing, and they are inspired to value, look after and enjoy it through living, working and visiting responsibly and sustainably.
- Public transport<sup>23</sup> and active travel<sup>24</sup> 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.

## Objectives

79. To deliver these Ambitions we have set clear, targeted Objectives for the next five years to help make our Vision a reality. In each case we have explained what success will look like in 2031.

80. The Lake District National Park Partnership is committed to setting targets that are realistic yet challenging, reflecting the scale of our collective ambition but being realistic about what can be delivered. Our 'Measures of success' are designed to drive progress by everyone with a part to play in supporting our Objectives and remain flexible enough to adapt if circumstances change.

81. The Partnership also acknowledges the evolving funding landscape. Levels of government funding are not guaranteed beyond current spending periods, and while opportunities for private finance and investment in natural capital are growing, these mechanisms are not yet fully established or accessible at the scale required. This uncertainty means achieving some of our Measures of

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<sup>22</sup> Nature-friendly farming combines sustainable food production with the delivery of multiple outcomes such as climate change mitigation, adaptation to extreme weather, safeguarding water quality, underpinning community resilience and revitalising local economies. Nature-friendly farming practices use different approaches suitable in different parts of the UK, helping to build the resilience of local farm businesses. (Nature Friendly Farming Network, 2026)

<sup>23</sup> Public transport is buses, trains, boats and other forms of transport that are available to the public with fixed fares and defined routes or areas covered.

<sup>24</sup> Active travel refers to journeys made by walking, wheeling, or cycling. It includes trips that are made by foot, pedal-cycles, e-cycles, adapted cycles, wheelchairs, mobility scooters, push-scooters and on horseback.

success will depend on new funding streams to secure the resources needed for delivery.

82. Each Objective helps to deliver one or more of the Ambitions to deliver our Vision. However, as our Objectives are for the first five years of our 25-year Vision, we recognise that there is a necessary pathway to delivery, so not all aspects of each Ambition will be covered in this Plan.

83. Over the next five years we will:

**A Deliver nature's recovery through:**

- Improving the condition of protected sites<sup>25</sup>
- Securing improved management for nature and creating more species-rich<sup>26</sup> habitats outside of protected sites<sup>27</sup> to enhance connectivity

Measures of Success:

- Increase Core Nature Areas<sup>28</sup> 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)

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<sup>25</sup> Protected Sites are areas which are protected for nature through national, European and international legislation and include National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (see footnote 4), Marine Protected Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protected Sites and RAMSAR sites (wetland sites of international importance).

<sup>26</sup> Species-rich habitats is our term, and the equivalent to the definition for wildlife-rich habitats, being described as Priority Habitats and the additional habitat types listed in Schedule 1 of [the Environmental Targets \(Biodiversity\) \(England\) Regulations 2023](#).

<sup>27</sup> This also acknowledges that nature can rely on and benefit from aspects of the built and historic environment which can provide homes, nest sites and corridors for wildlife, for instance dry stone walls and field barns.

<sup>28</sup> Core Nature Areas is our term for areas that count towards the 30 by 30 Government target, which is currently defined as SSSIs (defined at footnote 29) which are in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition, National Nature Reserves, and public woodland under favourable management for biodiversity (the national forest estate). DEFRA is developing the assessment and reporting process for determining what other areas can be counted against this measure. See: [30 by 30 on land in England: confirmed criteria and next steps](#)

development by Natural England later in 2026 in order to confirm the detail of the measure, obtain data and set the 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)

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

- reducing pollution
- restoring natural processes and freshwater habitats<sup>29</sup>

### Measures of Success:

- More than 75% of waterbodies<sup>30</sup> will be achieving good ecological status<sup>31</sup> (baseline 43%, 2026)
- 100% of current Designated Bathing Waters are achieving an ‘excellent’, ‘good’ or ‘sufficient’ status<sup>32</sup> (baseline 78%: 66% are classified as excellent status; 12% good, 0% sufficient, 22% poor, 2024)
- 100% of Lake District actions<sup>33</sup> within Diffuse Water Pollution Plans<sup>34</sup> have been achieved, or are on track to be completed (baseline 0%, 2026, 80 actions)

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<sup>29</sup> The objective for water is distinct from our Ambition for water as it specifies the waterbody types for the 5-year plan, whereas the Ambition is more holistic (e.g. could include the sea/maritime habitats and pollution). Freshwater habitats are therefore distinct from salt-water habitats (as found in Cumbrian estuaries, coast and marine environment). They include: lakes, rivers, tarns, streams and springs and the species that live in these places.

<sup>30</sup> Waterbodies means rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters.

<sup>31</sup> ‘Good ecological status’ is a term used by Government to describe the overall health of waterbodies as being close to their natural condition with only slight impacts from human activity, and the ecosystem is functioning well.

<sup>32</sup> Bathing water classifications are set out in the Government’s [Bathing Water Regulations 2013](#) whereby ‘sufficient’ is the minimum standard that is considered acceptable for bathing.

<sup>33</sup> The actions within Diffuse Water Pollution Plans that are considered relevant for this target are those which are related to areas within the Lake District National Park boundary (the catchment areas covered by DWPPs are not exclusively within the National Park). Additional actions may be added, but for the purposes of this target we will review progress against the original actions agreed between Natural England and Environment Agency as of September 2025.

<sup>34</sup> Diffuse Water Pollution Plans are a joint Natural England and Environment Agency tool used to plan and agree strategic action at the catchment-scale, in relation to diffuse pollution affecting protected sites. There are Plans in place for the Kent, Eden, Derwent and Ehen Catchments, which were reviewed and updated in 2025.

- Ensure delivery of new spill reduction projects on 23 overflows to reduce spills across the Lake District by 90% (baseline 0, 2026, 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, 2026, Environment Agency)
- At least 18.64 miles (30km) of river restoration works have been delivered (baseline 58.7 miles/88km, 2026, Environment Agency)

### **C 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<sup>35</sup>

#### Measures of Success:

- Reducing Carbon emissions overall by 77%, aligned to achieving Carbon net zero by 2037 (baseline, Summer 2025, Lake District Carbon budget)
- At least a 15% reduction in carbon from visitor travel from a 2018 baseline (baseline 1,608ktCO<sub>2</sub>e whilst in Cumbria, 2018, target alignment with the Cumbria Destination Management Plan)
- Agricultural greenhouse gases reduced by 21% (baseline 63,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, methane and nitrous oxide, 2018)
- A coordinated retrofit support offer is in place for the Lake District's buildings, delivered through Cumbria-level or partner programmes (including retrofit guidance published and maintained, and clear routes for people to access advice and funding)(baseline 0, 2026)

### **D Increase the resilience of the landscape<sup>36</sup>, and its carbon storage potential, through:**

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<sup>35</sup> This objective specifies the particular types of emissions we wish to target in our plan to 2031, whereas our related Ambition is more holistic (other emissions reductions will be necessary) and will result in the Lake District becoming carbon negative.

<sup>36</sup> Resilient landscapes have the ability to withstand and recover from disturbances such as natural disasters and climate change (including flooding and drought) and human activities (including

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

#### Measures of Success:

- 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<sup>37</sup>(baseline 35,800 ha in 2025, National Forest Inventory and Forest Research Trees Outside Woodland data)
- Increase sustainable woodland management<sup>38</sup> 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, 2026, DEFRA statistics)
- At least 18.64 miles (30km) more river restoration works have been delivered (baseline 58.7 miles/88km, 2026, Environment Agency)
- 50% increase in number of Wildfire Response Plans covering areas within the Lake District (baseline 15, 2026, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service)

#### **E Help rural communities to be sustainable<sup>39</sup> 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

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wildfires). Key factors for resilience include biodiversity, healthy soil and ecosystems, sustainable management practices and strategic planning.

<sup>37</sup> In alignment with our PLTOF target, this includes woodland cover as measured by Forestry Commission, and tree canopy cover (outside existing woodlands) as measured by Forest Research.

<sup>38</sup> [The UK Forestry Standard](#) (2024) defines sustainable forest management (the term 'forest' is used to indicate all types and sizes of forest and woodland) is the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way and at a rate that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity and vitality, and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.

<sup>39</sup> Sustainable communities are places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.

- 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<sup>40</sup>
- Reducing recreational pressures on communities, landscapes, and the environment

#### Measures of Success:

- Planning permission secured for 400 dwellings (including affordable, local occupancy and permanent occupancy homes) (baseline 0, 2026, Lake District National Park Authority Local Plan Annual Monitoring report)
- Completion of 400 dwellings (including affordable, local occupancy and permanent occupancy homes) (baseline 0, 2026, 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, 2026, 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 percentage of growing businesses in the Lake District (target by 2031 7.5% of businesses growing by a 10% increase in employment and/or turnover; baseline 5.3%, April 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 Lake District incidents<sup>41</sup> by a % (tbc) through improved Partner engagement and presence (baseline tbc by December 2026; the number of incidents reported to the two Council's Public Space

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<sup>40</sup> A regenerative economy is an economy that aims to restore and renew natural resources rather than deplete them, focusing on sustainable and equitable growth while prioritising environmental and social wellbeing.

<sup>41</sup> Incidents in this context are defined as: the reporting of littering; open fires and barbeques outside of designated areas, and illegal fly camping

Protection Order email addresses, the number of incidents captured on the Cumbria Strategic Visitor Management Group's officer reporting framework, or subsequent mechanisms, and the number of joint visitor management patrols<sup>42</sup> during the 2026 season, SVMG)

**F Improve the viability and resilience of farms<sup>43</sup> by:**

- Enhancing the provision of farm advice through a joined-up network of farm advisors
- Increasing the adoption of nature-friendly farming<sup>44</sup> practices
- Maintaining functioning hefting<sup>45</sup> and commoning<sup>46</sup> systems <sup>47</sup>
- Maintaining a vibrant tenant farming sector<sup>48</sup>
- Improving opportunities to develop, promote and champion quality produce
- Supporting farmers to establish new and alternative income streams through farm business diversification<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> A joint patrol is defined as where two or more organisations patrol together, with one organisation having enforcement powers.

<sup>43</sup> A farm is defined as a multifaceted rural business centred around the core action of producing annual outputs of food or livestock for selling for onward breeding or into the food chain.

<sup>44</sup> For the purposes of this objective, nature-friendly farming practices combine the production of safe, high-quality food whilst working more closely with natural processes to support healthier soils, cleaner water and air, increased biodiversity and improved climate resilience. This could include actions such as reducing inputs, building soil health, increasing sward diversity, management to better support farmland wildlife, in-field trees and hedgerow creation and management, and providing greater habitat connectivity.

<sup>45</sup> Hefting is a traditional method, whereby livestock, predominantly hill bred sheep, and sometimes cattle or ponies, instinctively know, having been taught by their mothers, which area of the open, unfenced land they 'belong' to, thereby supporting communal shepherding and gathering on shared common land. This knowledge is repeatedly passed on from ewe to lamb.

<sup>46</sup> Common land is land owned by a person over which another person has certain rights. Commoning refers to the use of common land where people (known as commoners) have rights to graze livestock and use resources from the land for example gathering wood. Such rights are known as 'rights of common'. It is a farming system developed many centuries ago to share the grazing on mountains, moorlands, heaths and marshes. This special way of managing land is based on fairness and interdependence between a close community of farmers who have passed on from generation to generation a deep knowledge of the land.

<sup>47</sup> A functioning hefting and commoning system is one that is workable and financially viable for the commoners, is genetically resilient, and is multi-functional, offering environmental stewardship, sustainable food production and community resilience in remote areas, as well as representing a deep connection between livestock and people, with communal livestock management knowledge and skills of hill farming communities passed down through the generations.

<sup>48</sup> A vibrant tenant farming sector is one where there is an active market of equipped agricultural resilient farm businesses.

<sup>49</sup> Farm diversification involves adding enterprises to a farm business outside of agricultural activity, utilising the farm's resources such as land and buildings, as well as skills and knowledge. It can provide a significant additional income to a farm business, depending on the opportunities available to a particular farm. See the [Farm Diversification - Upland Farmer Toolkit](#)

### Measures of Success:

- 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, 2026, Lake District National Park Authority)
- 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 later in 2026 to confirm the detail of the measure, obtain data and set the baseline)
- No significant change to the number of hefted flocks grazing on Lake District commons (baseline 313 (2017), 286 (2022)<sup>50</sup>, 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; 2026, number of Farming in Protected Landscapes applications from tenant farms, Lake District National Park Authority)

## **G Improve the management of the historic environment by:**

- Increasing understanding through survey and the monitoring of the condition of heritage assets<sup>51</sup>
- Reducing the number of nationally designated<sup>52</sup> heritage assets<sup>53</sup> that are at risk<sup>54</sup>
- Improving the condition of non-designated heritage assets<sup>55</sup>
- Encouraging the retention of traditional skills and practices and growing the number of skilled craftspeople

### Measures of Success:

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<sup>50</sup> A 2026 baseline will be established by September 2026 which may use a different methodology to previously used methodologies for reporting the number of hefted flocks.

<sup>51</sup> This will provide a baseline of what is present in an area and its condition, which will then inform any changes to land management practices or built environment management for the benefit of the historic environment.

<sup>52</sup> Nationally designated heritage assets are world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields and protected wrecks that are on the National Heritage List for England.

<sup>53</sup> Heritage assets are defined as a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance because of its historic interest.

<sup>54</sup> Heritage assets at risk are detailed in Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register which provides an annual snapshot of the health of England's valued historic buildings and places.

<sup>55</sup> Non-designated heritage assets are sites which are not on the National Heritage List for England but have a degree of significance because of their historic interest.

- Decrease the number of heritage assets on the national Heritage at Risk Register by 4 (baseline 22 monuments and 8 listed buildings in 2025, Historic England)
- 16 conservation projects delivered that have improved the condition of a non-designated heritage asset (baseline 0, 2026, Lake District National Park Authority data)
- 2% (18 miles<sup>2</sup>/47 km<sup>2</sup>) increase (to 37%) of the area that has a Level 1 archaeological survey<sup>56</sup> (baseline 35% of the Lake District surveyed, 2026, Lake District National Park Authority)
- Decrease the number of Grade II buildings at risk<sup>57</sup> by 4 (baseline 70 as of October 2025<sup>58</sup>, Lake District National Park Authority)
- Publish and promote a Heritage Crafts/Traditional Skills register (baseline 0, 2026)
- Deliver heritage skills training<sup>59</sup> on 5 conservation projects (baseline 0, 2026)

## **H 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<sup>60</sup>
- Increasing volunteering opportunities
- Delivering more engagement<sup>61</sup> programmes

### **Measures of Success:**

- 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)

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<sup>56</sup> A Level 1 archaeological survey is a programme of non-intrusive field walking which seeks to determine, record and report on the presence, nature, extent, preservation and significance of archaeological and historical remains, which are visible above ground, within a defined area.

<sup>57</sup> Buildings at Risk for this purpose are those listed on the Lake District National Park Authority Grade II Buildings at Risk register.

<sup>58</sup> A re-survey of the condition of listed buildings is taking place in 2026.

<sup>59</sup> These could be taster sessions for school leavers, upskilling existing contractors, master classes or other Continuing Professional Development sessions.

<sup>60</sup> Facilities include, but are not limited to, public toilets, including changing places, bins and signage.

<sup>61</sup> Engagement programmes are strategic, coordinated sets of activities with identified audiences - for example young people - through which the Lake District National Park Partnership works to inspire people to enjoy, understand and care for the Lake District.

- 65% of the Public Rights of Way Network passes the ‘ease of use’ condition<sup>62</sup> (baseline 58.2%, June 2025, Lake District National Park Authority)
- 74% of Miles without Stiles meet their route standard<sup>63</sup> (baseline 58% (29/50), December 2024, Lake District National Park Authority)
- 6 miles (10km) of paths have been improved to improve accessibility and active travel by meeting Miles without Stiles standards (baseline 0, 2026)
- Establish a joined-up, collaborative network to increase the number and range of volunteering opportunities and engagement programmes within the Lake District (baseline 0, 2026)

## **I Improve integrated sustainable travel<sup>64</sup> 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<sup>65</sup>, information and marketing

### Measures of Success:

- Increase the share of visitors arriving into the Lake District by train/bus/coach to 15%, and reduce the share<sup>66</sup> arriving by private vehicle<sup>67</sup> 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

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<sup>62</sup> Ease of use is measured and monitored through annual surveys whereby a randomly selected sample of paths (comprising 5% of the total length of the rights of way network) is surveyed in a nationally agreed methodology, which is applied across all national parks to enable us to compare and benchmark. The surveys cover surfaces, gates, stiles, bridges, signage and highlights any obstructions on the route, such as fallen trees.

<sup>63</sup> Route standard refers to the gradings associated with the Miles Without Stile network. There are four grades: for all, for many, for some and challenge.

<sup>64</sup> Sustainable travel is that which has a reduced impact on the wider environment, through reduced emissions and which has reduced impacts on local communities through parking and congestion.

<sup>65</sup> Infrastructure in this context includes an acknowledgment of the importance of interchanges and services outside of the Lake District which are essential to enable travel into the Lake District.

<sup>66</sup> For clarity, these targets do not seek to reduce absolute visitor numbers, they reflect the desired shift of mode of travel of the sample of people who respond to the Cumbria Visitor Survey (approximately a sample of approximately 1,100 people).

<sup>67</sup> Private vehicles are defined as petrol/diesel car/van/motorbike/motorhome, and electric and hybrid vehicles.

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<sup>68</sup> to 40% (Lake District baseline 21%, 2025 Cumbria Visitor Survey; target aligned with the Cumbria Destination Management Plan for 2030)

## Action Plan

84. The Action Plan (also known as the Delivery Plan) outlines how we will transform our thinking into reality.
85. The Action Plan is a separate document to the Partnership Plan and is kept up-to-date through regular review to enable an agile response to new opportunities or challenges that require a course of action. It initially identifies actions for the first two years of the Plan (2026-2028). The Action Plan does not form part of the Lake District National Park Authority's statutory management plan. This is because many of the actions contained within the Action Plan are the responsibility of other Partner organisations. Those actions that form part of the Lake District National Park Authority's statutory management plan are contained within the Authority's Business Plan.
86. The Action Plan sets out all the activity Partners are undertaking to deliver our 5-year Objectives in addition to identifying our priority collaborative actions as a Partnership.
87. Our priority actions are those that require collective Partnership endeavour. (Individual actions that help to deliver the Plan can be found in Partner organisation corporate/business plans)
88. These set out clear responsibilities (who is leading an action and which Partners are supporting delivery) a timeframe for completion and any resource requirements, to direct us towards our desired outcomes.
89. There is a raft of other plans and strategies that will help to support the delivery of the Vision and Ambitions of this Plan including:
- [Lake District World Heritage Site Interpretation Strategy](#)
  - [Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#)

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<sup>68</sup> Sustainable or active travel is defined as walking, cycling (including e-bikes), bus, coach, rail and boat use, in alignment with the Cumbria Destination Management Plan.

- [Lake District Nature Recovery Plan](#)
- [Cumbria Economic Strategy: Going for Growth](#)
- [Cumbria Destination Management Plan](#)
- Cumbria Climate Adaptation Plan
- [Westmorland and Furness Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2034](#)
- [Cumberland Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023 to 2028](#)
- [Westmorland and Furness Council Plan 2023-2027](#)
- [Cumberland Council Plan 2023-2027](#)
- All Partner organisation business plans and strategies
- [Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan](#)
- [Heart of the Lakes Active Travel Infrastructure Strategy](#)
- [Smarter Travel: A vision for smarter visitor travel in the Lake District National Park 2018-2040](#)
- [Lake District Local Plan](#)
- [Lake District Active Travel Network Plan 2025](#)
- [Zero Carbon Cumbria Emissions Reduction Action Plan](#)
- [Westmorland and Furness Council Climate Action Plan](#)
- [Cumberland Council Climate and Nature Strategy](#)
- [The Catchment Plan: protecting, enhancing and monitoring South Cumbria](#)
- [Catchment Plan – West Cumbria Catchment Partnership](#)
- [Eden Catchment Partnership](#)
- National Farmers' Union's [The Uplands – a vision for prosperity, stewardship and resilience](#)
- [Cumberland Council Flood Risk Management Strategy](#)
- [Westmorland and Furness Local Flood Risk Management Strategy](#)
- [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework](#)

- The Government's guidance on Nutrient Neutrality (managing the impact of nutrient pollution from development in sensitive catchments), see: [Cumbria Nutrient Neutrality](#), and [Biodiversity Net Gain](#) (ensuring habitats are left in a better state after development)

90. As we seek to look after and continually improve the Lake District through positive management, we know that there will always be new projects, programmes or proposals that will emerge over the next five years. By drafting a two-year Action Plan, we will have the agility to respond to unforeseen challenges while also embracing opportunities which may emerge.

## How does the Partnership Plan link to the Lake District Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework?

91. The Partnership Plan sets the 2051 Vision for the Lake District and our shared long-term Ambitions to deliver this Vision, as well as the Objectives for the next five years. It is the key strategic plan for the management of the National Park and the World Heritage Site.

92. The Local Plan is different, but complementary: it is a spatial, land-use plan, setting out where development should happen for housing and economic activity, and what it should look like. Its policies support the delivery of this Partnership Plan.

93. The Local Plan is a means of delivering aspects of the Partnership Plan, and the challenges and opportunities identified, such as the draft Partnership Plan Objective on housing.

94. A number of Local Plan policies are relevant to the protection of both the Lake District's Special Qualities and the World Heritage Site's attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (including policies 01, 05, 07, 26 and 27) and can be found here: [Local Plan](#).

95. The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied. This document is the foundation for the Lake District Local Plan and explains the great weight that should be given to conserving and enhancing both national parks and world heritage sites, with the latter being described as being of the highest significance.

96. The National Planning Policy Framework also establishes the weight that should be given to management plans for both national parks and world heritage sites. The Government's associated Planning Practice Guidance on the application of policy for the national environment explains that national park plans *'do not form part of the statutory development plan [here the Local Plan], but they help to set out the strategic context for development.'* Also that: *'They may contain information which is relevant when preparing plan policies, or which is a material consideration when assessing planning applications'* ([Paragraph: 040 Reference ID: 8-040-20190721](#))
97. For world heritage site management plans the Government's Planning Practice Guidance on the historic environment states: *'Given their importance in helping to sustain and enhance the significance of the World Heritage Site, relevant policies in management plans need to be taken into account in preparing development plans for the historic or natural environment (as appropriate) and in determining relevant planning applications.'* ([Paragraph: 034 Reference ID: 18a-034-20190723](#))
98. This means that the Partnership Plan is also a 'material consideration' in the planning process, i.e. a matter which should be taken into account when determining a planning application or an appeal against a planning decision.

## Policies

99. The [National Park statutory purposes and duty](#), and the [World Heritage Site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value](#) and obligations under the [World Heritage Convention](#) are the starting point for any management and decision-making for the Lake District. We believe that our ability to manage the Lake District successfully is dependent upon our clear, shared Vision and Ambitions for how we ultimately want the place to be; we use our Vision to guide our management approaches and decisions.
100. The Partnership has developed policies to help guide our decision-making to achieve continual improvement, look after the Lake District through positive management, and deliver our Vision. These were approved by the Partnership previously, and were in the previous Plan, but have been here updated to reference key strategies that were not available when originally drafted. Some policies are supported by our Ambitions and Objectives but others are not (for example on mineral extraction) but state our Partnership position.
101. We know that there will always be new projects, programmes or proposals that will emerge over the five-year life of the Plan. Our policies will allow us to

form a view as to whether these are something that we should support because they help to deliver our Vision and its Ambitions, whether we should be requesting changes to proposals, or where we should be recommending something should not take place due to the harm that could be caused.

102. The Sustainability Appraisal ([Appendix 10](#)) and Habitats Regulations Assessment ([Appendix 12](#)) further demonstrate how the policies will deliver sustainable development in the Lake District.

103. Our policies are all interlinked and should be read together and not in isolation.

104. Our policies are:

### **1. A world-class living cultural landscape of exceptional beauty**

Our Policy is to:

- a) Protect and conserve the extraordinary beauty and harmony of the Lake District cultural landscape and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value and Special Qualities.
- b) Support the maintenance and restoration of environmentally-friendly, traditional upland farming systems in the Lake District that include the open fell hefted grazing of locally distinctive breeds of livestock including the Herdwick sheep, traditional breeds of cattle and Fell ponies, and commons management.
- c) Maintain, enhance, and celebrate the historic environment.
- d) Encourage and support the retention of traditional skills and practices.

### **2. Mineral extraction in the Lake District**

Our Policy is to:

Support the extraction of building stone and slate where this is principally needed to maintain the Special Quality of 'distinctive buildings and settlement character' and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, in line with policies in the Local Plan.

### **3. Well-considered tree and woodland establishment and improvement**

Our Policy is to:

- a) Maximise the number of established woodlands and hedgerows that are well managed. Prioritise woodland where there is a significant opportunity to enhance their resilience and contribution to the landscape, its character and local distinctiveness, biodiversity, recreation, historic environment, flood prevention, carbon storage, and productivity.
- b) Support the establishment of new hedgerow and tree cover throughout the Lake District, at a locally agreed scale, guided by the Partnership's [woodland creation and tree establishment guidelines for the Lake District National Park](#) and the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Our goal is to focus on achieving the optimum balance between timber production, flood prevention, carbon storage, water quality, soil stability, biodiversity, the historic environment, conservation of the cultural landscape, recreation, loss of grazing land, landscape change, hefting, and communal management of common land, where relevant.
- c) Manage the spread of disease in tree species, increase resilience to pests, and take a planned approach to landscape restoration, if and where required, to increase the resilience of woodlands.

#### 4. Resilient and well-functioning habitats and wildlife

Our Policy is to:

Support interventions that help to achieve bigger, better and more connected habitats and species in line with the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy, contributing to delivering 30 x 30, Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework and other national targets to restore nature.

#### 5. Improved water quality and resources flowing to the coast and sea.

Our Policy is to:

- a) Support interventions that help to achieve 'good' or better than 'good' water quality as defined by the Water Framework Directive<sup>69</sup> in all lakes, rivers, tarns, and ground waters to achieve optimum quality, diversity and extent of habitats and species
- b) Support interventions that help to achieve improved river naturalness<sup>70</sup> in catchments for the highest attainable sea water quality including meeting targets for protected sites.

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<sup>69</sup> [The Water Environment \(Water Framework Directive\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2017](#)

<sup>70</sup> Naturalness can be described by how free rivers (and other waterbodies) are from human-made alterations, socio-economic impacts and uses; showing how hydrological, physical, chemical, and biological processes are functioning.

**6. The continuation of the Lake District as a source of artistic, literary, and cultural inspiration**

Our Policy is to:

- a) Support opportunities for continued inspiration from the cultural landscape and heritage by further understanding and celebrating artistic inspiration, cultural traditions, language, skills and activities.
- b) Conserve, maintain, manage and make use of cultural heritage assets through supporting and promoting how these assets are understood and interpreted, in line with the World Heritage Interpretation Strategy, which will support cultural tourism in the Lake District.

**7. Viable farming, forestry and other land management, maintaining traditional land-based skills and sustaining our agro-pastoral farming system**

Our Policy is to:

- a) Ensure farming, forestry and other land management remains or becomes more resilient through securing funding for the delivery of the full range of public goods<sup>71</sup> they provide, adding value to their products, securing efficiency savings, identifying and establishing new markets and diversifying their income.
- b) Support the maintenance of a vibrant tenant farming sector and support and encourage young people into farming, forestry and other land management occupations, to develop and maintain traditional skills and practices necessary for the maintenance of our cultural landscape.

**8. A responsible Lake District visitor economy**

Our Policy is to:

- a) Champion and support regenerative tourism that contributes to the enhancement and regeneration of the places and communities in which it operates, helping reduce carbon emissions and increase nature recovery.
- b) Ensure the Lake District visitor economy continues to grow by attracting UK and overseas visitors, encouraging longer, and more overnight, stays as outlined in the Cumbria Destination Management Plan.

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<sup>71</sup> Public goods are benefits and services provided to society as a whole that are often not paid for, for example storing carbon, flood mitigation, biodiversity, physical and mental wellbeing, scenic beauty and landscape character.

- c) Support initiatives that promote the Lake District as a year-round destination to a range of audiences at different times of year.
- d) Support the evolution of all types of visitor accommodation, to meet continuously changing domestic and international visitor expectations guided by policies of the Local Plan.
- e) Support skills training to improve the quality of the hospitality sector.

## **9. Access to services**

Our Policy is to:

- a) Support complete coverage of superfast broadband and 4G mobile telephone coverage to all premises in every valley, and targeted 5G coverage.
- b) Support initiatives throughout the Lake District which provide access to a wider range of services, including mobile services, and the multi-use of community buildings and business premises.
- c) Support provision for residents and visitors alike to have access to healthcare services and facilities that meet their essential needs.

## **10. Access to a range of employment opportunities**

Our Policy is to:

- a) Support the promotion of the Lake District as a desirable place to locate businesses on the basis of digital infrastructure, workforce, quality of life and a high-quality environment and cultural heritage, using the Local Plan to guide investment decisions.
- b) Promote Rural Service Centres as locations for business where the travel and accommodation needs for employees can most easily be met.
- c) Maximise the Lake District's potential for green economic growth by strengthening and supporting farming, forestry and other land management practices, alongside wider natural capital investments<sup>72</sup> to embed green recovery and increase jobs and investment.

## **11. Availability and supply of a full range of housing types, sizes and tenures to meet local needs, and a high proportion of housing in permanent occupation**

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<sup>72</sup> Natural capital investment is expenditure made to protect, restore or enhance natural assets such as water, soil, air and biodiversity.

Our Policy is to:

- a) Ensure new homes contribute to community vibrancy by requiring their permanent occupancy, as part of the planning consent.
- b) Support appropriate ways to tackle excessive numbers of empty and, or holiday homes where this occurs.
- c) Ensure that local community housing needs are met, including by supporting community-led schemes to meet local needs in appropriate locations, guided by the Local Plan.
- d) Ensure the work of housing authorities, enablers and housing providers is coordinated to maximise the delivery of new affordable housing.
- e) Encourage employers to provide high-quality suitable housing for people employed in the Lake District - both on site, e.g. live-in accommodation, and offsite
- f) Support opportunities for small-scale purpose-built staff accommodation where appropriate.
- g) Ensure that when Partners dispose of residential properties or buildings capable of being residential properties, best endeavours are made to ensure a permanent-occupancy condition is applied, securing homes for year-round local living.

## **12. Increased resilience to flooding**

Our Policy is to:

- a) Secure optimum solutions to flood resilience with a whole-catchment approach, balancing the need to reduce flood risk in towns and villages against potential impacts up and down stream, including on agricultural land, and sustaining the Special Qualities and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.
- b) Mitigate and adapt to the likelihood and severity of flooding that is predicted to result from climate change by increasing resilience to flooding, including through sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) and Natural Flood Management approaches, or protecting settlements with hard defences, whilst sustaining the Special Qualities and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.

- c) Encourage interventions to increase soil health<sup>73</sup> by developing an improved understanding of good soil husbandry, implementing ecologically-appropriate grazing regimes and ways to conserve and enhance the quality, stability and function of soils and peat.

**13. Sustained major industries and provision of infrastructure outside the Lake District**

Our Policy is to:

Recognise the importance of nuclear and low carbon energy industries in West Cumbria, the defence sector in South Cumbria, and other major economic investments in Cumbria. Where they do not prejudice the Lake District, its setting, Special Qualities, attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, or visitor economy we will assist with the development of proposals for associated infrastructure.

**14. Addressing workforce and skills gaps**

Our Policy is to:

- a) Support initiatives that maintain a working age population which can provide a workforce for existing and new businesses.
- b) Support initiatives that address labour shortages and skills gaps in the local workforce, including delivery of Enterprising Cumbria's Going for Growth: Cumbria's Economic Strategy 2025-2045.

**15. An effective and integrated transport network enabling access for all and supporting low carbon travel options**

Our Policy is to:

- a) Support improvements to rail, bus, shared transport, EV and water transport infrastructure to and within the Lake District to support an accessible, integrated, attractive, low carbon system that enables and encourages more residents and visitors to choose sustainable public transport modes.
- b) Support delivery and development of new or improved accessible routes for walking, wheeling and cycling in accordance with the Lake District Active Travel Network Plan.

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<sup>73</sup> In a healthy soil, the interactions between chemistry (pH, nutrients and contaminants), physics (soil structure and water balance) and biology (including earthworms, microbes and plant roots) are optimised for the conditions in that place.

- c) Support innovation in low carbon travel including supporting EV charging infrastructure, e-bike networks, shared transport and digital information.

**16.** An inclusive destination with opportunities to discover, appreciate and experience a unique, rich cultural landscape

Our Policy is to:

- a) Support regenerative tourism that benefits the environment, supports communities, and ensures that every visitor has the best experience through the breadth of activity. Experiences will benefit people's health and wellbeing and enhance their understanding and appreciation of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value and Special Qualities of the Lake District.

Landscape and environment

- I. Sustain the Lake District as a place to experience a unique landscape and environment in a variety of ways, offering opportunities for experiencing tranquillity, peacefulness, spiritual refreshment, dark skies, and wildlife.
- II. Support the maintenance of routes and rights of navigation so people can explore and enjoy, ensuring appropriate management practices where necessary.

Culture and heritage

- III. Support the conservation and enhancement, and use the Interpretation Strategy, to promote the Lake District's cultural heritage assets to improve learning and understanding.

Inclusive and accessible

- IV. Support and promote new and existing opportunities for inclusive and accessible adventure on foot, bicycles, climbing ropes, in and on water, and through events – all sensitive to the unique landscape, guided where appropriate through the Active Travel Network Plan.
- V. Support organised events where they are sensitively managed and where the organisers have undertaken community engagement and consultation, and developed event management plans, including mitigation of any impacts.

## Hospitality, food and drink

- VI. Encourage a consistently high standard of hospitality and a warm welcome for everyone.
  - VII. Celebrate the provenance and quality of Cumbria's food and drink by championing local produce available in the Lake District, raising its profile through the World Heritage Site brand.
- b) Promote the Lake District as a place for everyone to enjoy and appreciate responsibly, and to support the nation's health and wellbeing.
  - c) Support opportunities for people to give, to significantly increase the amount of contributions made by visitors, to sustain, maintain and improve the Lake District's environment and the landscape.

## Monitoring, reporting and Plan review

- 105. This Partnership Plan will be regularly reviewed to ensure that the Partnership is delivering effectively, updating strategies and actions to reflect any changes in circumstances and responds to any challenges and opportunities within the Plan period.
- 106. The monitoring of the condition of the Special Qualities of the National Park and Attributes of Outstanding Value of the World Heritage Site is essential to determine whether we are protecting and enhancing the Lake District and successfully addressing the many challenges set out in this Plan.
- 107. Other monitoring is also necessary and important and is built into our targets, for example the monitoring and reporting on the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest to ensure that they are being positively managed.
- 108. Delivery against our 2-year Action Plan will also be regularly monitored to ensure we are on track.
- 109. Annual progress (by financial year) will be monitored through an Annual Report produced in the subsequent financial year. This will track progress against the delivery of our in-year actions.
- 110. At the end of the five-year period, a Plan Review report will be produced detailing how we have delivered against our Objectives.

## National Park monitoring

111. Monitoring of the condition of the National Park is required by Government and this is presented in the State of Park report which is produced every five years. The most recent report was produced in 2023 and can be found [here](#). This concluded that of the thirteen Special Qualities, seven were in good condition and six were in moderate condition. This data and analysis has been used as part of the evidence base for the development of the 2026-2031 Partnership Plan.
112. The next State of the Park report is due in 2028 and will in turn inform the development of the subsequent Partnership Plan (2031-2036).
113. In addition, Government has recently introduced the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (PLTOF) setting protected landscapes, including national parks, 10 targets to deliver for nature, climate, the historic environment and access for all. Our PLTOF targets are set out in the Partnership Plan and have been woven throughout relevant objectives (see Objectives Measures of Success and [Appendix 7](#)), and delivery against these targets is built into the Plan monitoring process and will be reviewed annually.

## World Heritage Site monitoring

114. Monitoring the state of conservation of the World Heritage Site is required by UNESCO under the World Heritage Convention through the Operational Guidelines and is provided through both periodic and reactive monitoring. Additional reporting is undertaken as required under paragraphs 172 and 174 of the Operational Guidelines. Further reporting may be required at UNESCO's request through State of Conservation reports if particular queries or issues are raised. State of Conservation reports are considered by the World Heritage Committee. This Partnership Plan, and its associated Action Plan, responds to issues raised by UNESCO at the time that the Lake District became a world heritage site in 2017 and subsequently (see [Appendix 9](#)).
115. Periodic Reporting is a monitoring tool which is a self-assessment of the World Heritage Site's condition and challenges. The Periodic Reporting exercise consists of a questionnaire in two sections, with one to be completed by the UK Government (the State Party) and the other by the World Heritage Site property (for the English Lake District this is prepared by the Lake District National Park Partnership).
116. The most recent Periodic Report took place in [2023](#). The findings from periodic reporting for a region (in the case of the Lake District this is the Europe and

North America region) are published indicating issues, current trends and challenges for that region, and can be found [here](#).

117. Periodic reporting takes place approximately every eight years.
118. Our most recent State of Conservation Report was completed and submitted in 2024, <https://whc.unesco.org/document/218382>, responding to issues raised by UNESCO. This included a supporting matrix, setting out ancillary information to demonstrate Partnership activity across a wide range of issues. (This matrix is regularly updated by the Partnership.) The draft decision produced by the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO advisory bodies was adopted without discussion by the World Heritage Committee in July 2025. This made further recommendations and commented on progress made. The Committee's decision can be found here: [UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Decision - 47 COM 7B.136](#)
119. Periodic reporting and State of Conservation reports have both been used as evidence for the development of this Plan. UNESCO/World Heritage Committee recommendations have been incorporated into it and are monitored with other actions in the Plan.
120. UNESCO has also developed a heritage toolkit which provides a globally tested self-assessment methodology to support those managing world heritage sites, and key stakeholders, to evaluate the effectiveness of management approaches for world heritage sites: [Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit](#)

## Indicators

121. Indicators are being developed to monitor progress on the Plan. These indicators will align with the monitoring of the World Heritage Site's attributes and State of Conservation and Periodic reporting, the condition of the National Park's Special Qualities and State of the Park reporting, and the ambitions set out in this Plan to assess the overall condition of the Lake District.

## Plan review

122. The Partnership Plan will be reviewed regularly as part of on-going monitoring of effectiveness. A full review will commence in 2030 in preparation for a new Plan being adopted in 2031.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1 - Our National Park Purpose

National Parks are established for two reasons:

**Purpose 1:** to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.

**Purpose 2:** to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Special Qualities of the National Park by the public.

Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995 makes clear that if these purposes are in conflict then conservation must take priority. This is known as the ‘Sandford Principle’ and stems from the 1974 Sandford Committee recommendation that enjoyment of national parks *‘shall be in a manner and by such means as will leave their natural beauty unimpaired for the enjoyment of this and future generations.’*

National park authorities also have a national park duty:

**National Park Duty:** to seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of the local communities within the National Park in pursuit of our purposes.

These commitments are enshrined in law and all relevant public bodies must have regard to, and further them.

A requirement of being a national park is to identify the ‘Special Qualities’ of each place (see [Appendix 2](#)). These explain what gives a protected landscape its distinctive character and why it should be cherished and enjoyed by the nation.

## Appendix 2 - The Lake District National Park's Purposes and Special Qualities

All national parks in England and Wales have two main purposes:

- Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage
- Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Special Qualities of national parks to the public

Each national park has a number of Special Qualities which set out why it has been designated as a protected landscape for the benefit of the nation. In the Lake District there are 13 of these, which are summarised below.

The Lake District's Special Qualities are:

1. A world-class cultural landscape
2. Complex geology and geomorphology
3. Rich archaeology and historic landscape
4. Unique farming heritage and concentration of common land
5. The high fells
6. Wealth of habitats and wildlife
7. Mosaics of lakes, tarns, rivers and coast
8. Extensive seminatural woodlands
9. Distinctive buildings and settlement character
10. A source of artistic inspiration
11. A model for protecting cultural landscapes
12. A long tradition of tourism and outdoor activities
13. Opportunities for quiet enjoyment

For every Special Quality there is an explanatory paragraph which expands on the significance of each. When UNESCO designated the Lake District as a World Heritage Site, some parts of these Special Qualities also became its attributes of Outstanding Universal Value; these are part of the reasons why it is a world heritage site and are highlighted in bold in the Special Quality explanatory paragraphs which can be found here: [Lake District Special Qualities](#). The table below explains how the Plan's Ambitions; Objectives and Policies help deliver for the Special Qualities:

| <b>Special Quality</b>                                   | <b>Key Plan Policies, Ambitions and Objectives</b>            |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| A world-class cultural landscape                         | Ambition 1-9, Objectives A-I, Policies 1, 3, 4, 7, 12         |
| Complex geology and geomorphology                        | Ambition 1, Objective A, Policies 1, 2, 4                     |
| Rich archaeology and historic landscape                  | Ambition 7, Objective G, Policy 2                             |
| Unique farming heritage and concentration of common land | Ambition 6, Objective A, F, Policies 1, 7                     |
| The high fells                                           | Ambitions 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, Objectives D, F, Policy 1         |
| Wealth of habitats and wildlife                          | Ambitions 1, 2, 4, 6, Objectives A, B, D, Policies 3, 4, 5, 7 |
| Mosaics of lakes, tarns, rivers and coast                | Ambition 1, 2, 3, 4, Objective A, B, Policies 1, 5, 12        |
| Extensive seminatural woodlands                          | Ambition 1, 3, 4, Objective A, B, D, Policies 3, 4            |
| Distinctive buildings and settlement character           | Ambition 7, Objective E, G, Policies 2, 9                     |
| A source of artistic inspiration                         | Ambition 6, 7, 8, Objective H, Policy 6                       |
| A model for protecting cultural landscapes               | Ambition 1, 5, 6, 7, Objective G, Policies 6, 10, 11          |
| A long tradition of tourism and outdoor activities       | Ambition 5, 8, 9, Objective H, Policies 8, 10, 15             |
| Opportunities for quiet enjoyment                        | Ambition 7 and 8, Objective H, I, Policy 16                   |

## Appendix 3 - English Lake District – our World Heritage Obligations

The UK Government ratified UNESCO's 1972 [World Heritage Convention](#) in 1984. The Convention identifies, preserves and promotes cultural and natural sites of global significance and protects them for future generations.

The Convention sets out the duties of [States Parties](#) (governments) in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them. By signing the Convention, each country pledges to conserve not only world heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage. The States Parties are encouraged to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.

The Convention stipulates the obligation of States Parties to report regularly to the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of their world heritage sites. These reports are crucial to the work of the Committee as they enable it to assess the conditions of the sites, decide on specific programme needs and resolve recurrent problems.

It also encourages States Parties to strengthen the appreciation of the public for world heritage sites and to enhance their protection through educational and information programmes.

The English Lake District (as it is known internationally) was designated as a world heritage site in 2017. A brief synthesis and comments on the integrity, authenticity and management of the World Heritage Site can be read in full here: [UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Decision - 41 COM 8B.30](#)

Articles 4 and 5, set out the UK Government's key obligations under the Convention:

- **Article 4:** '...ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage...'
- **Article 5:** To ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage...'

## Appendix 4 - English Lake District – Statement and Attributes of Outstanding Universal Value

The English Lake District's Statement of Outstanding Universal Values was set out by the UK Government and adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2017 at the time of inscription. The World Heritage List entry curated by the World Heritage Centre can be read here: [The English Lake District - UNESCO World Heritage Centre](#)

Each world heritage site has a series of attributes (aspects of a property such as features of interest or traditions) which collectively explain why a site is of global significance and helps to make it understandable. For the English Lake District, the Partnership has identified nine attributes from the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and has summarised these as set out below:

1. Extraordinary beauty and harmony
2. Agro-pastoral system
3. Local industries
4. Towns and settlements
5. Early tourism
6. Villas, gardens and formal landscapes
7. Sites and collections associated with the Picturesque and Romanticism
8. Landscape conservation
9. The ability of people to experience the spirit and feeling of the Lake District

The component features and aspects of each attribute are set out in a series of explanatory bullet points which can be read here: [attributes-of-outstanding-universal-value](#). These are a guide to recognising the attributes across the Lake District. The attributes have been grouped in relation to the three themes of Outstanding Universal Value

**Theme 1:** A landscape of exceptional beauty, shaped by persistent and distinctive agro-pastoral traditions and local industry which gives it special character.

**Theme 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.

**Theme 3:** A landscape which has been the catalyst for key developments in the national and international protection of landscapes.

## Appendix 5 - World Heritage Site Organisations, Terminology and Guidelines

### UNESCO

UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation. It is a specialised agency of the United Nations, established in 1945 with the objective to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication (see: [UNESCO: Building Peace through Education, Science and Culture, communication and information](#)).

### ICOMOS

ICOMOS stands for the International Council on Monuments and Sites. It is a non-governmental organisation, established in 1965, to conserve and protect cultural monuments and sites around the world.

### World Heritage Convention

UNESCO seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage sites around the world which are considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty called the '*Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*' or the '*World Heritage Convention*' for short. This was adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

### World Heritage Site Inscription (the World Heritage 'List')

World heritage sites are considered to be of special importance for everyone, including future generations. They represent the most significant or exceptional examples of the world's cultural and/or natural heritage. World heritage site inscription (being added to the World Heritage List) is the ultimate recognition of a site or area's global significance.

What makes the concept of world heritage exceptional is its universal application: world heritage sites belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located.

### World Heritage Committee

The World Heritage Committee is UNESCO's main body in charge of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The Committee agrees which

sites are added to the World Heritage List as well as which ones should be removed. It also examines reports on the state of conservation of world heritage sites asking State Parties to take action where sites could be better managed.

## World Heritage family UK

The English Lake District World Heritage Site is one of 35 world heritage sites in the United Kingdom and its territories (for the full list see: [UK World Heritage Sites](#)). World heritage sites are just one the many UNESCO designations in the UK, others are biospheres, creative cities, global geoparks, learning cities and memory of the world.

## World Heritage UK

World Heritage UK is an organisation set up in 2015 to undertake networking, advocacy and promotion for the UK's 35 world heritage sites, and the tentative list of sites progressing towards world heritage status (see: [World Heritage UK](#)).

## State Party

The State Party is the government or state which has signed up to the World Heritage Convention. For the English Lake District this is the UK Government. In practical terms this means the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, which represents the UK Government ('the State Party') in implementing the Convention, advised by Historic England, the Government's specialist adviser on the historic environment.

## Operational Guidelines

The World Heritage Committee has developed a set of instructions in the form of the [Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#). The guidelines set out the procedures for the protection and conservation of world heritage sites and the process for inscription, international assistance and national and international support. The guidelines are crucial for ensuring that the Outstanding Universal Value of a site is properly identified, protected and conserved.

## Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0

UNESCO has also produced a good practice guide called [Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0](#) which is designed to support those managing world heritage sites. It provides a self-assessment methodology to evaluate management effectiveness in a world heritage site or other heritage place.

## World Heritage Site Management Plan guidance

UNESCO and the UK State Party require every world heritage site to have a management plan to demonstrate how a site's Outstanding Universal Value will be conserved and enhanced. For UK world heritage sites, Historic England has produced [Guidance on the Production of World Heritage Property Management Plans](#) which has been used in the preparation of this Plan.

## Management of the eastern extension to the national park

The English Lake District World Heritage Site was designated in 2017 and - as is explained at paragraph 20 - the National Park was extended in 2016. Therefore, the two boundaries are not quite the same, with the National Park being slightly larger in the north-east and south-east of the Park. Largely the two areas are treated the same for management purposes. However, proposals within the National Park extension area would be assessed for their impact on the Special Qualities of the Park and the setting of the World Heritage Site as they would not be within the latter. There would also be some limited aspects of land-use planning that would differ, such as where permitted development rights might still apply in the extension area but would not in the World Heritage Site to the west.

## Buffer zone

Some world heritage sites include a buffer zone around the site for the site's protection.

Buffer zones are clearly delineated area(s) outside a world heritage site and adjacent to its boundaries which contribute to the protection, conservation, management, integrity, authenticity and sustainability of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site. A buffer zone reflects the different types and levels of protection, conservation and management needed to protect the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value of a site.

Buffer zones are not part of the designated site, but where proposed are considered by UNESCO at the time of designation or subsequently. Where adopted they are an integral component of a State Party's commitment to the management of a world heritage site.

There is no buffer zone for the English Lake District World Heritage Site. It is also not proposed to create one for three main reasons:

1. The World Heritage Site is of sufficient size to act as its own buffer. As the World Heritage Site largely follows the boundaries of the National Park, England's largest national park, and is also England's largest World Heritage Site, it is big enough to prevent development that will have an adverse impact on the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.
2. Secondly, as a national park, the Lake District has the highest level of landscape protection within the UK planning system and this is recognised in national spatial planning policy (as set out in paragraphs 91-98). This means that the neighbouring planning authorities must take into account the need to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park when considering development proposals outside the Park boundaries. If such proposals are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park (together encompassing the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value) then they should be refused. In the more than half a century since the creation of the Lake District National Park, these arrangements have worked effectively to protect it, so it is considered that there is no need to change this by introducing a buffer zone.
3. In addition, the two planning authorities (Cumberland Council and Westmorland & Furness Council) are members of the Lake District National Park Partnership and are therefore committed to the positive management of the World Heritage Site.

## Setting

'Setting' is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework as the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset and may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

A world heritage site's setting relates to the environment that is part of, or contributes to, its significance, Outstanding Universal Value, and distinctive character. The setting might also play an essential role in protecting the authenticity and integrity of a world heritage site and will support management and maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value.

The broader setting, may relate to the property's topography, natural and built environment, and other elements such as infrastructure, land use patterns, spatial organisation, and visual relationships. It may also include related social and cultural practices, economic processes and other intangible dimensions of heritage such as perceptions and associations. Management of the broader setting is related to its role in supporting the Outstanding Universal Value.

Whilst there is no buffer zone for the English Lake District World Heritage Site, development within its setting which would affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site would be considered under the National Planning Policy Framework and Historic England's guidance on the setting of heritage assets.

## Integrity

UNESCO defines integrity<sup>74</sup> as:

- Wholeness: all the necessary attributes are within the property;
- Intactness: all the necessary attributes are still present – none are lost or have been significantly damaged or have decayed;
- Absence of threats: none of the attributes are threatened by development, deterioration or neglect.

A statement regarding the integrity of a world heritage site at the time of inscription is set out in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value adopted by UNESCO.

For the English Lake District this reads:

*'The English Lake District World Heritage property is a single, discrete, mountainous area. All the radiating valleys of the English Lake District are contained within it. The property is of sufficient size to contain all the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value needed to demonstrate the processes that make this a unique and globally-significant property. The boundary of the property is the Lake District National Park boundary as designated in 1951 and is established on the basis of both topographic features and local government boundaries. The attributes of Outstanding Universal Value are in generally good condition. Risks affecting the site include the impact of long-term climate change, economic pressures on the system of traditional agro-pastoral farming, changing schemes for subsidies, and development pressures from tourism. These risks are managed through established systems of land management overseen by members of the Lake District National Park Partnership and through a comprehensive system of development management administered by the National Park Authority.'*

When attributes or their component features are diminished or harmed within the site this can represent a threat to integrity.

## Authenticity

UNESCO defines authenticity in its Operational Guidelines as:

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<sup>74</sup> The definition of integrity is outlined in UNESCO's Resource Manual [Preparing World Heritage Nominations](#), page 65

A world heritage property may be understood to meet the conditions of authenticity if its cultural values (as recognised in the nomination document) are truthfully and credibly expressed through a variety of attributes including:

- form and design;
- materials and substance;
- use and function;
- traditions, techniques and management systems;
- location and setting;
- language, and other forms of intangible heritage;
- spirit and feeling; and
- other internal and external factors

Attributes such as spirit and feeling do not lend themselves easily to practical applications of the conditions of authenticity but nevertheless are important indicators of character and sense of place, for example, in communities maintaining tradition and cultural continuity.

A statement regarding the authenticity of a world heritage site at the time of inscription is also set out in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value adopted by UNESCO.

The English Lake District's statement of authenticity reads:

*'As an evolving cultural landscape, the English Lake District conveys its Outstanding Universal Value not only through individual attributes but also in the pattern of their distribution amongst the 13 constituent valleys and their combination to produce an over-arching pattern and system of land use. The key attributes relate to a unique natural landscape which has been shaped by a distinctive and persistent system of agro-pastoral agriculture and local industries, with the later overlay of distinguished villas, gardens and formal landscapes influenced by the Picturesque Movement; the resulting harmonious beauty of the landscape; the stimulus of the Lake District for artistic creativity and globally influential ideas about landscape; the early origins and ongoing influence of the tourism industry and outdoor movement; and the physical legacy of the conservation movement that developed to protect the Lake District.'*

## Appendix 6 - Governance

A new model of governance is proposed for the Partnership to deliver this Partnership Plan. This will ensure that greater accountability lies with the Partnership, and that we establish 'task groups' to drive actions forward, but only where there are not already pre-existing groups that could take on this role.

### Partnership Committee

The Partnership Committee has overall responsibility for Partnership activities with a nominated representative from each Partner organisation or their substitute attending. Key decisions on the management of the Lake District are taken by this committee through reaching a consensus of Partners. The committee is supported by individual task groups to deliver Partnership actions (see below).

### Task Groups

Individual 'task' groups will be set up to drive forward action delivery for particular actions, where and when they are needed. It is acknowledged that such a working group may not be necessary in all cases; also that there may be circumstances where a pre-existing group can take on this responsibility. Our aim as a Partnership is to collaborate and not to duplicate work taking place elsewhere

Each action will be led by a named 'lead' from a Partner organisation, with other Partners supporting delivery. The lead will report to the Partnership to ensure that all Partners are sighted on delivery progress.

### World Heritage advice

The Partnership is also supported on World Heritage Site matters by a World Heritage Steering Group, an Interpretation Strategy Delivery Board and a Register of Specialist Advisers.

The Steering Group provides advice to the Partnership on the World Heritage Site and the Interpretation Strategy Delivery Board oversees and supports delivery of the Partnership's World Heritage Site Interpretation Strategy. In addition, a Register of Specialist Advisers was established in 2025 to support the World Heritage Site Steering Group and Partnership by providing specialist advice across all the World Heritage Site attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (what makes the World Heritage Site special on a global stage). Both the Interpretation Strategy Delivery Board and the Specialist Advisers report to the World Heritage Site Steering Group.

## The role of Government Specialist Advisory bodies

For the National Park, Natural England (the Government's specialist adviser on the natural environment) is a Partner and provides a link to the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs. For the World Heritage Site, Historic England (the Government's specialist adviser on the historic environment) is also a Partner, providing a link to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and through DCMS to UNESCO.

## Memorandum of Understanding

The Partnership has a Memorandum of Understanding which sets out the principal tenants of how the Partnership will work together and what is expected of Partners. This is not a legally binding document but demonstrates Partners' values, behaviours and ways of working. The current MoU was agreed in May 2003 but will be revised to take account of the new Partnership Plan and its Vision as well as the changes to governance as above.

## Terms of Reference

Each Partnership sub-committee or task group has its own terms of reference. These are regularly reviewed to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

## Appendix 7 - Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework

The Government's [Protected Landscape Targets and Outcomes Framework](#) sets out ten ambitious targets for all national parks and national landscapes to deliver. The targets for each Protected Landscape are based on its unique characteristics and landscape and therefore its ability to help to deliver the Government's targets towards three goals from the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. These are: Goal 1, Thriving plants and wildlife; Goal 7, Mitigating and adapting to climate change; and Goal 10, Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

We have set out our contribution to these by agreeing with Partners outcomes and targets to prioritise action and focus efforts, through the delivery of this Partnership Plan. Ten Initial targets were set by Natural England who have worked with us to understand the landscape's environmental potential. These are relevant to our statutory purposes, take an evidence-led approach, and utilise the best and most up-to-date data that is available for monitoring and reporting.

The table below sets out the national and local targets. Government's deadlines for delivery (column 1) are varied and do not always align with our 5-year Plan cycle and 2-year Action Plan (column 3).

| National Target                                                                                                                                                                           | Indicator                                                                                                   | Lake District Target                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Target 1</b><br>Restore or create more than 250,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitats within Protected Landscapes, outside protected sites by 2042 (from a 2022 baseline). | Extent of wildlife rich habitat created or restored within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites | Currently 524 acres (212 ha) per year<br><br>2,619 acres (1,060 ha) by 2031                                                                                              |
| <b>Target 2</b><br>Bring 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.                                                                                      | Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes in favourable condition                                     | 80% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes into favourable condition by 2042.<br><br>By the end of our Plan, in 2031, we are aiming to deliver 60% in favourable condition |

| National Target                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Indicator                                                                                                                                     | Lake District Target                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                               | (Lake District Nature Recovery Plan target)                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Target 3</b><br>For 60% of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028.                                                                                                              | Percentage of SSSIs within Protected Landscapes assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition                         | 60% of SSSIs within the Lake District assessed as having 'actions on track' to achieve favourable condition by 31 January 2028 (Note: this is the PLTOF target date for this action).                                                               |
| <b>Target 4</b><br>Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042. | Extent of priority habitat within Protected Landscapes, outside of protected sites, in favourable management through agri-environment schemes | Continuing favourable management of all existing priority habitat already in favourable condition outside of SSSIs (from a 2022 baseline) and increasing to include all newly restored or created habitat through agri-environment schemes by 2042. |
| <b>Target 5</b><br>Ensuring at least 65% to 80% of land managers adopt nature friendly farming on at least 10% to 15% of their land by 2030                                                                                                                            | Percentage of land managers adopting nature-friendly farming on a percentage of their land                                                    | By the end of our Plan, in 2031, we are aiming to deliver 65% of land managers adopting nature friendly farming on at least 10% of their land.                                                                                                      |
| <b>Target 6</b><br>Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in Protected Landscapes to net zero by 2050 relative to 1990 levels.                                                                                                                                            | The level of greenhouse gas emissions within Protected Landscapes                                                                             | Cumbria has a Net Zero ambition of 2037.<br><br>By the end of our Plan, in 2031, we are aiming to deliver 912,537 CO <sub>2</sub> te (from Small                                                                                                    |

| National Target                                                                                                                                                      | Indicator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Lake District Target                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | World Consulting<br>Carbon footprint<br>assessment & proposed<br>pathway to Net Zero<br>2022)                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Target 7</b><br><br>Restore approximately 130,000 hectares of peat in Protected Landscapes by 2050.                                                               | Extent of peat under restoration in Protected Landscapes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1,236 acres (500 ha) per year<br><br>By the end of our Plan, in 2031, this will be an additional 6,180 acres (2500 ha).                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Target 8</b><br><br>Increase tree canopy and woodland cover (combined) by 3% of total land area in Protected Landscapes by 2050 (from 2022 baseline).             | Extent of tree canopy and woodland cover in Protected Landscapes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 618 acres (250 ha) per year<br><br>By the end of our Plan, in 2031, this will be an additional 3,090 acres (1,250 ha).                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Target 9</b><br><br>Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme. | Improve and promote accessibility to and engagement with Protected Landscapes for all using existing metrics in our Access for All programme:<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metres of accessible path as a percentage of total path</li> <li>• Number of accessible toilets and rest stops</li> <li>• Number of disability accessible parking spaces</li> </ul> | By the end of our Plan, in 2031:<br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 65% of the Public Rights of Way will be in 'ease of use' condition</li> <li>• 6 miles (10km) of accessible paths will have been improved</li> <li>• 5,750 volunteer days per year have been contributed</li> </ul> |

| National Target                                                                                                              | Indicator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Lake District Target                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of accessible gates and gaps</li> <li>• Number of visits and volunteer days facilitated by new equipment</li> <li>• Number of schools engaged (primary and secondary) both inside and outside the Protected Landscape boundary</li> <li>• Number of volunteer days</li> <li>• Number of accessible or easy access routes for which wayfinding has been created or improved</li> <li>• Policies in place to ensure Protected Landscapes are taking positive action to widen the diversity of their staff, boards and volunteers</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>Target 10</b></p> <p>Decrease the number of nationally designated heritage assets at risk in Protected Landscapes.</p> | <p>Number and percentage of nationally designated heritage assets in Protected Landscapes to be deemed at risk.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>By the end of our Plan, in 2031, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease the number of heritage assets</li> </ul> |

| National Target | Indicator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Lake District Target                                  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                 | <p>To separately cover the categories of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheduled monuments</li> <li>• Registered parks and gardens</li> <li>• Registered battlefields</li> <li>• Listed buildings (grade I or II*)</li> <li>• Protected wreck sites</li> </ul> | <p>on the national Heritage at Risk Register by 4</p> |

## Appendix 8 - Policy Landscape

While some of the documents below might appear to relate solely to the National Park or to the World Heritage Site, there are often mutual benefits. For instance, the protections afforded to the National Park under the UK planning system will often also indirectly protect the World Heritage Site and its attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. Equally, work to positively manage the World Heritage Site will often also benefit the Special Qualities of the National Park.

It is possible that the below policy landscape may change over the five-year life of the Plan. The proposed agile Action Plan should allow for any such changes to be accommodated.

### National Policy Context

This Partnership Plan is guided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (DEFRA) '*Management plans for Protected Landscapes in England*' and Historic England's '*Guidance on the Production of World Heritage Property Management Plans*'. Our evidence papers (see [Appendix 13](#)) include further references to the national policy context that has informed this Partnership Plan.

### International Policy Context

There is also an international policy context for the Plan, which includes a number of key world heritage documents:

- United Nation's [Sustainable Development](#) goals
- Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (the most recent version published in 2025; see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>)
- Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention (2015) <https://whc.unesco.org/document/139747>
- Policy document on Climate Action for World Heritage (2023) <https://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/204421>
- UNESCO *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* (2022) - <https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidance-toolkit-impact-assessments/>
- [European Landscape Convention - Council of Europe](#) (2000)
- Council of Europe [Environment Strategy](#) (2025)

## Local Policy Context

Several key local policies and reports have also informed the Plan, including:

- [Partnership Plan 2020-2026](#)
- [UNESCO Inscription of the English Lake District World Heritage Site](#) (2017)
- [State of the Park Report](#) (2023)
- State of Conservation report (2024) [whc.unesco.org/document/218382](https://whc.unesco.org/document/218382)
- Periodic Reporting Questionnaire (2023) [whc.unesco.org/document/218045](https://whc.unesco.org/document/218045)
- [Lake District Local Plan](#)
- [Lake District National Park Partnership Nature Recovery Delivery Plan](#)
- [Local Nature Recovery Strategy](#)
- [Zero Carbon Cumbria Farming and Other Land Use Emissions reduction and sequestration action plan](#)
- Cumbria [Destination Management Plan](#)
- [Smarter Travel: A vision for smarter visitor travel in the Lake District National Park 2018 – 2040](#)
- [Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan 2022 – 2037](#)
- [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework](#) (targets agreed for the Lake District)

## Appendix 9 - How the Plan delivers for World Heritage Attributes and State of Conservation

The Plan is grounded in a thorough understanding of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. It also responds to State of Conservation recommendations from UNESCO (both at the time that the World Heritage Site was inscribed in 2017 and subsequently). The following tables provides a summary of how the Plan will deliver for both of these, setting out the key Policies, Ambitions, Objectives and other relevant activity over the five-year period.

| Attribute of Outstanding Universal Value                                        | Key Plan Policies, Ambitions and Objectives                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Extraordinary beauty and harmony                                                | Policy 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 12, 16; Ambition 1, 2, 6, 8; Objective A, B, D, F, G, I                                |
| Agro-pastoral system                                                            | Policy 1, 7, 16; Ambition 6, 7; Objective F, G                                                               |
| Local industries                                                                | Policy 1, 2, 7, 13; Ambition 5, 7; Objective E, G                                                            |
| Towns and Settlements                                                           | Policy 1, 2, 8, 10, 16; Ambition 5, 7; Objective E, G                                                        |
| Early Tourism                                                                   | Policy 1, 16; Ambition 7; Objective G                                                                        |
| Villas, gardens and formal landscapes                                           | Policy 1, 3, 4, 6, 16; Ambition 1, 2, 7; Objective A, B, G                                                   |
| Sites and collections associated with the Picturesque and Romanticism           | Policy 6, 16; Ambition 7; Objective G                                                                        |
| Landscape conservation                                                          | Policy 1, 6, 16; Ambition 8; Objective H                                                                     |
| The ability of people to experience the spirit and feeling of the Lake District | Policy 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 15, 16; Ambition 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; Objective A, B, D, E, F, G, H, I |

| UNESCO Recommendation (at inscription in 2017, and subsequently)                                               | World Heritage Committee decision/recommendation                                         | Key Plan policies, ambitions, objectives and other initiatives |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Recommendations at the time of inscription in 2017</b>                                                      |                                                                                          |                                                                |
| Quarrying activities within the property will be progressively downsized limited to conservation of the assets | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Decision - 41 COM 8B.30</a> recommendation a) | Policy 2, Objective G<br>Local Plan                            |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| supporting the attributes of the property                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                        |
| NWCC energy transportation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Decision - 41 COM 8B.30 Recommendation b)</a>                                                                                                    | No longer an issue                                                                                                                     |
| Integration of World Heritage consideration into the local plans and policies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Decision - 41 COM 8B.30 Recommendation c)</a>                                                                                                    | Preparation of a new management Plan                                                                                                   |
| Address issues that threaten the shepherding tradition, financially compensating farmers for their heritage services, and values such as genetic diversity of herds and food security                                                                                                                                | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Decision - 41 COM 8B.30 Recommendation d)</a>                                                                                                    | Policy 1, 7; Ambition 6; Objective F, State Party (through DCMS, DEFRA, Historic England and Natural England) with Partnership support |
| Rebalancing to improving natural resources with conserving the valuable cultural landscape that the Lake District                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Decision - 41 COM 8B.30 Recommendation e)</a>                                                                                                    | Policy 1, 3, 4, 7 Ambition 1, 2, 6 Objective A, B                                                                                      |
| Strengthening risk preparedness for floods and other disasters incorporating local knowledge on how to cope                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Decision - 41 COM 8B.30 Recommendation f)</a>                                                                                                    | Policy 4, 5, 12; Ambition 2, 4; Objective B, D; draft Natural Flood Management guidelines                                              |
| Developing convincing programs to prevent depopulation, including:<br><br>develop affordable housing for new households and for local retirees,<br><br>ensure a mix of commercial outlets that serve the local community,<br><br>further develop and market local products that benefit residents and local farmers, | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Decision - 41 COM 8B.30</a><br><a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Decision - 41 COM 8B.30</a><br>Recommendations g ii), g ii) and g iii) | Policy 11; Ambition 5; Objective E; Local Plan                                                                                         |

|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Developing an interpretation strategy which communicates the different strands of the Outstanding Universal Value      | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre</a><br>- <a href="#">Decision - 41 COM 8B.30</a><br>Recommendation h) | Policies 6, 16;<br>Ambition 8;<br>Objective H                                                      |
| Conservation of landscape-defining features and vernacular architecture and Victorian buildings, in the whole property | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre</a><br>- <a href="#">Decision - 41 COM 8B.30</a><br>Recommendation i) | Policy 1, 6, 16<br>Ambition 7<br>Objective C, G                                                    |
| <b>2025 recommendations</b>                                                                                            |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                    |
| Addressing private vehicular traffic in the property                                                                   | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre</a><br>- <a href="#">Decision - 47 COM 7B.136</a><br>Recommendation 3 | Policy 15; Ambition 9; Objective I                                                                 |
| Integrating OUV concerns into Local Flood Risk Management Strategy                                                     | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre</a><br>- <a href="#">Decision - 47 COM 7B.136</a><br>Recommendation 3 | Policy 4, 5, 12;<br>Ambition 2, 4;<br>Objective B, D;<br>draft Natural Flood Management guidelines |
| Monitoring water quality in Lake Windermere                                                                            | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre</a><br>- <a href="#">Decision - 47 COM 7B.136</a><br>Recommendation 3 | Policy 4, 5;<br>Ambition 2;<br>Objective B; work of the Love Windermere Partnership                |
| Integrating the Interpretation Strategy into the Partnership Plan                                                      | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre</a><br>- <a href="#">Decision - 47 COM 7B.136</a><br>Recommendation 4 | Policies 6, 16;<br>Ambition 8;<br>Objective H                                                      |
| Affordable and local needs housing; restricting second homes and holiday lets                                          | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre</a><br>- <a href="#">Decision - 47 COM 7B.136</a><br>Recommendation 5 | Policy 11; Ambition 5; Objective E;<br>Local Plan                                                  |
| Elterwater Quarry development proposal                                                                                 | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre</a><br>- <a href="#">Decision - 47 COM 7B.136</a><br>Recommendation 6 | Local Plan                                                                                         |
| Honister Slate Mine zip-wire proposal                                                                                  | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre</a><br>- <a href="#">Decision - 47 COM 7B.136</a><br>Recommendation 7 | Local Plan                                                                                         |
| Outstanding Universal Value-led vision to guide                                                                        | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre</a><br>- <a href="#">Decision - 47 COM 7B.136</a>                     | Policy 16; Ambition 8; Objective H                                                                 |

|                                                              |                                                                                              |                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| prioritisation of forms of enjoyment/leisure activities      | Recommendation 8                                                                             |                                                                                                               |
| Unsealed road use                                            | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Decision - 47 COM 7B.136</a><br>Recommendation 9  | Policy 15, 16;<br>Local Plan;<br>LDNPA Business Plan                                                          |
| Hefting system                                               | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Decision - 47 COM 7B.136</a><br>Recommendation 10 | Policy 1, 7;<br>Ambition 6;<br>Objective F                                                                    |
| National long-term strategy for agro-pastoral system support | <a href="#">UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Decision - 47 COM 7B.136</a><br>Recommendation 11 | Policy 1, 7; State Party (through DCMS, DEFRA, Historic England and Natural England) with Partnership support |

## Appendix 10 - Sustainability Appraisal

### What is the Sustainability Appraisal?

In accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, the Sustainability Appraisal includes an appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' considered during the preparation of the Plan.

### Executive summary

Overall, this Plan offers an important opportunity to address many of the sustainability issues prevalent in the Lake District. This Plan provides a balanced approach to delivering sustainable management of the Lake District, its Special Qualities and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. Assessment of the Plan policies against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives has identified a wide range of potential positive effects, with many significantly positive effects possible. No significant adverse effects were identified by the appraisal.

The Sustainability Appraisal is here: [Sustainability-Appraisal-Oct-2025.pdf](#)

## Appendix 11 - Equality Impact Assessment

### What is the Equality Impact Assessment?

The Equality Impact Assessment focuses on the potential impact of the Plan in relation to the Lake District's communities, residents, visitors, stakeholders and the business community. Specifically, it focuses on groups with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

### Executive summary

This Equality Impact Assessment has evaluated any potential impacts arising from the Partnership Plan on protected characteristics. The assessment has not identified any potential adverse impacts and instead considers that the Plan will promote and encourage equality, diversity and inclusion across the Lake District.

The Equality Impact Assessment is here: [Equality-Impact-Assessment-Sept-2025.pdf](#)

## Appendix 12 - Habitat Regulations Assessment

### What is the Habitat Regulations Assessment?

The Habitat Regulations Assessment identifies, describes and assesses the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan on European designated sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites) within and around the Lake District area.

### Executive summary

The Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment examined the Plan's policies for any impacts on the European Sites within or within 15km of the National Park. The assessment further considered in-combination effects with other relevant plans and strategies. The Habitat Regulations Assessment concluded that, provided the mitigation measures are implemented, the Partnership's Plan would not give rise to any effects which would harm the integrity of sites. In conclusion, subject to mitigation measures, the Partnership's Plan will not lead to likely significant effects on European Sites within or outside of the National Park boundary.

The Habitat Regulations Assessment is here: [Habitat Regulations Assessment-Sept-2025.pdf](#)

## Appendix 13 - Supporting Evidence

In preparation for the development of this Plan, seven thematic evidence papers were prepared. These looked at the following topics:

- Climate action
- Nature and land management
- Farming
- A Lake District for the nation
- Transport
- Communities and the economy
- Historic environment and the cultural landscape

Each paper sets out the headline facts and figures, discusses the current issues and future opportunities and provides links to the principal legal and strategic documents for the theme. Supporting documents can be read here:

[Climate-Action-evidence-review.pdf](#)

[Nature-and-Land-Management-evidence-review.pdf](#)

[Farming-evidence-review.pdf](#)

[A-Lake-District-for-the-Nation-evidence-review.pdf](#)

[Transport-evidence-review.pdf](#)

[Communities-and-Economy-evidence-review.pdf](#)

[Historic-Environment-and-Cultural-Landscape-evidence-paper.pdf](#)

## Appendix 14 - Select glossary of terms

### A

**Active travel** journeys made by walking, wheeling, or cycling. It includes trips that are made by foot, pedal-cycles, e-cycles, adapted cycles, wheelchairs, mobility scooters, push-scooters and on horseback

**Attributes** (world heritage)

attributes are the component parts of a world heritage site which together are associated with or express the site's Outstanding Universal Value (why it is globally significant). Attributes can be tangible or intangible.

### B

**Blended finance** (nature) using a mixture of public funding (such as from agri-environmental scheme grants) with private finance (which could be from philanthropic giving or through schemes that encourage the purchase of environmental credits) for the benefit of nature

**Buffer Zone** (world heritage)

buffer zones are clearly delineated area(s) outside a world heritage site and adjacent to its boundaries which contribute to the protection, conservation, management, integrity, authenticity and sustainability of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site.

### C

**Catchment** an area where water and rainfall naturally drains, such as from a mountain into a river valley

**Catchment management** managing the land and water resources within a catchment area to ensure sustainable water quality and availability

**Commoning** the use of common land where people (known as commoners) have rights to graze livestock, gather wood and so on

**Core Nature Areas** Core Nature Areas consist of SSSIs (defined below) which are in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition, National Nature Reserves and public woodland under favourable management for biodiversity (the national forest estate). See: [30by30 on land in England: confirmed criteria and next steps - GOV.UK](#)

## D

### **Diffuse Water Pollution Plans**

a joint Natural England and Environment Agency tool used to plan and agree strategic action at the catchment-scale, in relation to diffuse pollution affecting protected sites.

## E

**Ease of use** (footpaths) measured and monitored through annual surveys whereby a randomly selected sample of paths (comprising 5% of the total length of a rights of way network) is surveyed using a nationally agreed methodology, which is applied across all national parks to enable comparison and benchmarking to be undertaken. The surveys cover surfaces, gates, stiles, bridges, signage and highlight any obstructions on the route, such as fallen trees

## F

**Farm** a multifaceted rural business centred around the core action of producing annual outputs of food or livestock for selling for onward breeding or into the food chain

**Farm diversification** adding enterprises to a farm business outside of agricultural activity, utilising the farm's resources such as land and buildings, as well as skills and knowledge. It can provide a significant additional income to a farm business, depending on the opportunities available to a particular farm. See the [Farm Diversification - Upland Farmer Toolkit](#)

### **Functioning hefting and commoning system**

one that is workable and financially viable for the commoners and graziers, is genetically resilient, and is multi-functional, offering environmental stewardship, sustainable food production and community resilience in remote areas, as well as representing a deep connection

between livestock and people, with knowledge and skills passed down through the generations.

## **G**

## **H**

### **Hefting**

a traditional practice where stock (usually sheep) learn to stay within a certain area of open, unfenced land without needing physical boundaries.

### **Heritage assets**

defined as a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance because of its historic interest

## **I**

## **J**

## **K**

## **L**

### **Level 1 archaeological survey**

a programme of non-intrusive field evaluation which seeks to determine, record and report on the presence, nature, extent, preservation and significance of archaeological remains within a defined area. The evaluation is conducted through a systematic walkover survey recording heritage assets encountered within the scope of study.

### **Local (worker)**

either a Lake District resident working in the Lake District, or a resident of an immediately surrounding area – such as the west coast, Furness peninsula, Kendal and Penrith environs etc – that lives just outside the Lake District but travels into it to work.

## **M**

## **N**

## **Nationally designated heritage assets**

world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields and protected wrecks that are on the National Heritage List for England.

**Nature-friendly farming** There is no fixed definition of nature friendly farming. Nature friendly farming is an umbrella term to describe farming systems and practices that enhance and protect biodiversity and contribute to tackling climate change alongside food production, see: [nature-friendly-farming.pdf](#)

## **Non-designated heritage assets**

sites which are not on the National Heritage List for England but have a degree of significance because of their historic interest

## **Non-protected sites (nature)**

areas which are of significance for nature but are not protected sites (see below) and include County Wildlife Sites

## **O**

## **Outstanding Universal Value**

an explanation as to why a world heritage site is of the highest importance to the global community

## **P**

**Protected Sites (nature)** areas which are protected for nature through national, European and international legislation and include National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (see below), Marine Protected Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protected Sites and RAMSAR sites (wetland sites of international importance)

**Public transport** buses, trains, boats and other forms of transport that are available to the public with fixed fares and defined routes or areas covered

## **Q**

## R

|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Regenerative economy</b>                         | one that aims to restore and renew natural resources rather than deplete them, focusing on sustainable and equitable growth while prioritising environmental and social wellbeing                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Regenerative Tourism</b>                         | tourism that should leave a place better than it was before. Its main goal is for visitors to have a positive impact on their holiday destination, leaving it in a better condition than they found it. This involves revitalising and regenerating it by contributing to a positive cycle of impacts on local communities and economies.                         |
| <b>Resilient landscapes</b>                         | landscapes with the ability to withstand and recover from disturbances such as natural disasters and climate change (including flooding and drought) and human activities (including wildfires). Key factors for resilience include biodiversity, healthy ecosystems and sustainable management practices.                                                        |
| <b>Route standard (paths)</b>                       | refers to the gradings associated with the Miles Without Stiles network. There are four grades: for all, for many, for some and challenge.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Rural Communities</b>                            | communities that are in a rural location, i.e. the Lake District, as opposed to an urban location. Communities that are located in the Lake District's towns are also considered 'rural' given their small scale and challenges with local services and infrastructure, in the same way that a market town elsewhere might be considered rural rather than urban. |
| <b>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)</b> | legally protected areas of particular interest to science due to the rare species of fauna or flora they contain, or important geological or physiological features that may lay in their boundaries                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Soil health</b>                                  | the health of the soil: in a healthy soil, the interactions between chemistry (pH, nutrients and contaminants), physics (soil structure and water balance) and biology (including earthworms, microbes and plant roots) are optimised for the conditions in that place.                                                                                           |
| <b>Sustainable communities</b>                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all

**Sustainable transport** any efficient, safe and accessible means of transport with overall low impact on the environment, including walking and cycling, low and ultra-low emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport. (Campaign for Better Transport – National Planning Policy Framework definition.)

**Sustainable travel** has a reduced impact on the wider environment, through reduced emissions and which has reduced impacts on local communities through parking and congestion.

**T**

**U**

**UNESCO** UNESCO stands for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

**V**

**W**

**X**

**Y**