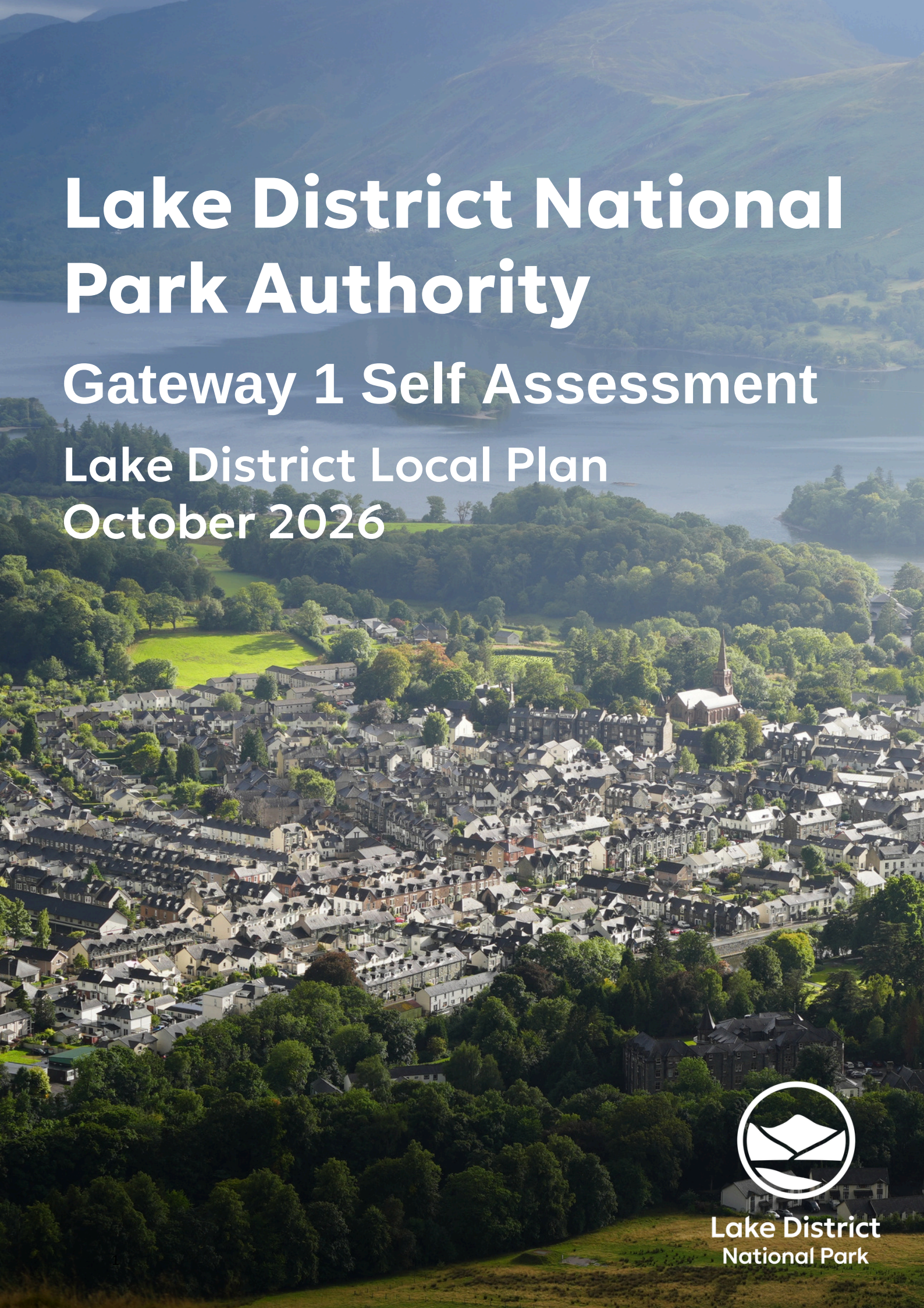
Lake District National Park Authority

Gateway 1 Self Assessment

Lake District Local Plan

October 2026



Lake District National Park

Gateway 1 Self-assessment

How we got ready to prepare a new local plan

We started preparing a new local plan for the Lake District National Park Authority on 30 October 2026.

Government policy says we should adopt the new plan within 30 months of this date. This is to help ensure we have an up-to-date local plan that responds to the needs of the area and our communities.

This document explains what we did to get ready to meet the 30-month timeframe. It also has links to further information and where you can get updates.

Information including the local plan timetable, notices of intention and call for sites are available on the new local plan webpage.

We published a timetable for preparing the plan

The timetable shows when we expect to carry out the different stages and activities for preparing a plan. It helps us check if and how we can adopt the plan within the 30-month timeframe. We'll keep this updated as we make more progress.

The published local plan timetable is structured around the government's new plan-making process. To ensure we deliver the local plan within 30 months, the consultation on proposed plan content and evidence will commence in January 2027 to ensure communities, visitors, businesses and other stakeholders are engaged early in the plan's development whilst allowing sufficient time to progress plan development in advance of Gateway 2.

Prior to Gateway 1 we have:

- Proactively engaged with communities to build their understanding of the local plan process and to understand their initial issues and opportunities.
- Engaged with key stakeholders including the Lake District National Park Partnership, Lake District Business Task Force, landowners and Authority Members to understand key issues the local plan should address.
- Worked collaboratively with neighbouring local planning authorities, Cumberland Council and Westmorland & Furness Council, to develop a shared evidence base.

The timetable is available to view on the new local plan webpage.

We established project management and governance arrangements

Preparing a local plan is a complex process. It involves many people across the Authority and from other organisations. Thinking early about how the work is planned, managed and signed off helps us monitor our progress and keep the work on track. It also helps us anticipate and manage any risks to us adopting the plan within 30 months.

The Project Initiation Document (PID) sets out the management framework and approach for delivering the local plan. It provides clarity on scope, governance arrangements, resources and the timetable.

The Authority's scheme of delegation determines how decisions are made on the local plan; these grant delegated authority for all decisions on the local plan to be made by the Director of Sustainable Development. Authority Members will be updated regularly at Strategy Meetings and periodically at Authority Committee.

We planned how we'll consult on the plan

Public consultation is essential for the local plan to represent the needs of our communities. It must be easy for people to have their say in a way that works for them, so they can influence the way the area develops. By planning this early, we can ensure people are aware in advance and can get involved from the start.

We have undertaken a scoping consultation to get people's views on what the plan could contain and how we propose to consult on the plan at key stages.

The PID explains the approach to consultation and engagement. This will be reviewed and updated regularly following feedback from the scoping consultation and as new ideas around creative methods of engagement emerge.

Our local plan communications aim to ensure target audiences understand the consultation, its purpose and how to participate, supporting high-quality engagement. We have identified key audiences and developed personas so communications and engagement can be tailored effectively.

We intend to use a range of engagement methods, including both digital and in-person activities. This approach is reflected in feedback from the scoping consultation which confirmed that the majority of respondents (45%) would like to be consulted through digital methods, followed by drop-in events (23%) and focus groups (19%). Engagement will take place both during and outside of the specified consultation periods to ensure we are consulting with a range of individuals.

We began scoping the content of the plan

Scoping includes considering how well the existing plan is working and gathering baseline information about the area. This helps to identify our future needs and ambitions. Starting this early means we can begin preparing the new plan with a clear vision, making it quicker and easier to consult on the plan and make decisions about it.

We carried out a scoping consultation between 9 September and 25 October 2026. The consultation explained why the local plan is being reviewed, sought feedback on how engagement should be carried out and what issues the local plan needs to address.

The consultation was managed through an online survey for residents, visitors, businesses and other stakeholders. These responses will help guide the preparation of the local plan and the evidence base required to support it. The consultation was carried out in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026.

In 2026, the Authority adopted the Lake District National Park Partnership Plan 2026-31. This is the joint management plan for both the Lake District National Park and English Lake District World Heritage Site and establishes the vision and strategic objectives for the Lake District Local Plan. The Partnership Plan was consulted on between November 2025 and January 2026 and feedback shows strong support for the adopted vision and ambitions for the future.

We began a Strategic Environmental Assessment

We are legally required to identify, describe and evaluate likely significant effects on the environment from:

- Implementing the local plan
- Reasonable alternatives, taking into account the plan's objectives and scope

This process will consider how community, national and international environmental protection objectives and any other environmental challenges are taken into account in the plan. It will help us to predict significant environmental effects and develop ways of preventing, reducing and offsetting these.

It is important we start this work early and are transparent about how we're doing the assessment when engaging stakeholders and communities.

We have started this work by:

- Collating relevant baseline information and preparing a baseline report
- Mapping relevant plans and programmes
- Drafting a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening assessment

Other ways we are getting ready

- We are procuring a digital consultation platform to support effective consultation and engagement throughout local plan development.
- We are continuing to engage with Town and Parish Councils through planning training sessions and cluster meetings to build their knowledge of planning and help them get involved in the local plan process.
- We are running a call for sites exercise until 26 March 2026 to identify potentially suitable sites that could accommodate various development needs.

How to stay up to date

Information about local plan progress and the timetable is available on the new local plan webpage.

Sign up to become a Lake District expert to stay informed about upcoming Authority consultations.

Follow the Lake District National Park Authority on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn.