Annual report 2014–15

Lake District
National Park Partnership

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Foreword

Having been Chairman on the Lake District National Park Partnership since 2007, I have witnessed, first hand, the development of this exciting approach to looking after the very special place that is the Lake District National Park. It was the first time this type of approach had been adopted by any of the English National Parks and to have been a part of this is deeply satisfying. The Partnership also owns the Vision for the National Park which importantly means their enthusiasm and commitment to work together and manage the huge variety of issues, pressures and challenges, has been captured.

This year has been one of great importance for the Lake District National Park Partnership, as it made great strides in its quest for World Heritage Site status and reviewed the Partnership’s Plan. It has grown in how it works together to achieve a common goal, to realise the Vision for the Lake District by 2030.

It’s encouraging to see all that the Lake District National Park Partnership has achieved set out in this document, and it reflects the importance, and indeed the benefits, of partnership working in protecting this special place. It is also important that the Partnership recognises where it could improve, and looks ahead to the future. I am confident that we are taking significant steps in the right direction to ensure the Lake District is a place where a prosperous economy, world class visitor experiences and vibrant communities all come together to sustain the spectacular landscape, its wildlife and cultural heritage.

Hopefully in the longer term as a cultural landscape with UNESCO recognition too.

Rt Hon Lord Clark of Windermere DL, PC
Chairman, Lake District National Park Partnership
Did you know?

The percentage of people of working age who are unemployed remains lower in the National Park than in Cumbria, the north west region and nationally, at just 0.4 per cent.

Source: Labour Market Briefings, Cumbria Observatory
We’ve helped achieve a prosperous economy by:

- Securing £2 million of funding from the Local Growth Fund for the Optimising Connectivity programme (improving links between transport hubs and jewel destinations along the A591 corridor).
- Continuing to deliver Connecting Cumbria, increasing the number of premises in the National Park with access to superfast broadband.
- Holding a Farming and Forestry Task Force meeting in the west of the Lake District, trying out a different form of engagement.
- Agreeing a business case to increase farming and forestry skills among young people.
- Establishing the Cumbria Tree Health Group.
- Working with the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to produce a pipeline of projects suitable for future funding bids.
Did you know?

96 per cent of visitors to the Lake District National Park rate the overall experience of their visit as good or very good.

Source: Cumbria Visitor Survey 2012, Cumbria Tourism
We’ve helped achieve a world class visitor experience by:

- Developing Lakes Culture, a Cultural Tourism Plan.
- Continuing to deliver Fix the Fells and securing the £350,000 annual funding target.
- Agreeing the Cumbria and the Lake District Access and Recreation Strategy.
- Securing the return of a Cumbrian stage in the 2015 Tour of Britain and we are currently negotiating its return for future years.
- Installing two new steamer jetties on Lake Windermere to improve lake connectivity and access.

We’ve helped achieve vibrant communities by:

- Submitting a proposal to Government for planning controls to limit holiday home ownership.
- Delivering the final year of the £7 million GoLakes Travel programme – improving access and travel in the Central Lakes and securing £1 million funding for the See More project to further this work across the Park in 2015–2016.
- Further developing a car parking strategy for providers across the National Park to improve co-ordination.
- Increasing partner involvement in the Lake District National Park Authority’s Distinctive Area way of working with communities.
- Highlighting the importance of retaining access to rural GP services to the Secretary of State for Health.
Did you know?

92 per cent of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the National Park are in favourable or recovering condition, against a target of 95 per cent.

Source: Natural England, 2014
We’ve helped maintain spectacular landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage by:

- Completing the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership Strategy and drafting an action plan.
- Developing a breakthrough action for the Partnership’s Plan 2015-2020 to improve the biodiversity evidence base for the National Park.
- Developing a Lakes score card to help prioritise the improvement and protection of water bodies in the Lake District.
- Producing a carbon savings report which for the first time monitored savings from renewable energy installations and land management.
- Maintaining an up-to-date climate change action plan.
- Agreeing to support the National Trust’s Sustainable Land Management project, seeking to develop and implement a new and innovative approach to assess the value and benefits of land, and the priorities for its management.
- Developing a World Heritage Site Nomination Document setting out a compelling story as to why the Lake District warrants inscription. This document, along with the Partnership’s Plan will be submitted to UNESCO in early 2016. See lakesworldheritage.co.uk for more information.
Did you know?

In 2014/15, 1,594 volunteer days contributed to maintaining the upland paths in the Fix the Fells Programme.

Source: Fix the Fells, 2015
Other Partnership success in 2014 to 2015

• We’ve developed a brand new Lake District National Park Partnership’s Plan 2015-2020, which for the first time sets out Partnership strategies for the next five years, along with breakthrough actions and a revised set of indicators.

• We’ve welcomed the University of Cumbria, on to the Partnership who bring with them a wealth of research, learning and leadership expertise – a great asset to the Partnership.

• We’ve used the Business Task Force to help lobby Cumbria County Council not to introduce on-street car parking charges.

• We’ve launched a campaign to raise awareness of our aspiration for World Heritage inscription #lakedistrictbid

Where the Partnership has done less well

• Unlikely to achieve 80 per cent* superfast broadband coverage of premises in the Lake District, as part of Connecting Cumbria programme (Phase 1).

• Action plans for both the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership and the Cumbria and Lake District Access and Recreation Strategy have not been agreed to planned timescales.

• Achieving a carbon savings of 3.26 per cent carbon savings, against a 4 per cent target over four years.

• Not progressing a clear mandate for a programme of Valley Planning across the National Park.

[*estimated only]
‘An inspirational example of sustainable development in action.’

The Lake District National Park Vision
What is the Lake District National Park Partnership?

The Lake District National Park Partnership (the Partnership) was formed in 2006 to give organisations with a role in the Lake District National Park more involvement in its management. There are currently 25 organisations involved, made up of representatives from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. In 2006 the Partnership agreed a vision for the National Park in 2030, representing a collective commitment to work together in the best interest of the National Park, its environment, communities, economy and visitors.

The Vision for the Lake District National Park

What will it look like in 2030?

It will be a place where a prosperous economy, vibrant communities and world class visitor experiences all come together to sustain the spectacular landscape, its wildlife and cultural heritage. Local people, visitors and the many organisations working in the National Park, or have a contribution to make to it, must be united in achieving this.
The future of the Partnership

Although this Annual Report looks back, the Partnership itself remains firmly focussed on the future. 2015 marks the beginning of a brand new and exciting era for the Partnership with a new five year plan and hopefully World Heritage Status in 2017. The challenge, as previously, will be to ensure resources are targeted to what matters most, in order to manage and protect the Lake District for all to continue to enjoy.

The plan and its 34 strategies cover everything from biodiversity, water quality, farming, skills and training, to employment, housing, transport and tourism, across all four themes of the Vision.

The plan also includes breakthrough actions, on which the Partnership will focus their combined attention.

The plan also has a new monitoring framework including two sets of interlinking indicators. One set to measure the condition of the Lake District’s Special Qualities and Outstanding Universal Value and another to measure the delivery of the strategies set out in the plan.

However, neither the plan nor the Partnership claim to have all the answers. The Partnership acknowledges the continued need to evolve, improve and adapt to ensure it has the greatest impact.
This report covers the period January 2014 to March 2015.
All reports can be seen at: www.lakedistrictpartnership.co.uk
If you require this in an alternative format, please get in touch.