



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ
T: 020 7211 6000
enquiries@culture.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/dcms

Dear Dr Rössler,

State of Conservation of the World Heritage Property “The English Lake District”

I am writing to report on the actions taken by the UK State Party in response to World Heritage Committee decision **41 COM 8B.30**. The report is structured in line with the template provided at Annex 13 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The relevant sections of the Committee decision are printed in *italics* for ease of reference.

The UK State Party is content for this report to be posted on the UNESCO World Heritage Centre website.

Kind regards,

Enid Williams
World Heritage Policy Advisor

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS BY THE STATES PARTIES

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT (UNITED KINGDOM) (N422rev)

In accordance with **41 COM 8B.30**, the State Party submits this report on the State of Conservation of the The English Lake District World Heritage Site.

1. Executive Summary of the report

In accordance with Decision 41 COM 8B.30, the United Kingdom State Party has produced a State of Conservation Report for the English Lake District World Heritage Site in response to committee decision 41 COM 8B.30. The following report details the progress towards addressing each of the points included in the Committee decision.

The report is structured according to the format provided by the World Heritage Centre. The text of the Committee decision is given first, in italics. The response of the State Party does not use italics. Paragraphs 1-3 of the Committee decision do not require a response from the State Party and the report below therefore commences with paragraph 4.

2. Response from the World Heritage Committee's Decision 41 COM 8B.30.

Recommends that the State Party gives consideration to the following:

4.a) Providing assurances that quarrying activities within the property will be progressively downsized and extraction volumes limited to what is needed for carrying out conservation of the assets supporting the attributes of the property,

The planning system in England ensures that quarrying activities within the WHS are tightly controlled.

There are presently ten active mineral sites in the World Heritage Property. The ten active quarries produce different types of slate that are used locally and give a distinctive character to the different parts of the WH property. The colour of the slate varies from dark grey, grey, green and blue/black. This variety of slate is a feature of vernacular architecture reflecting the use of the local materials. Given the comments in recommendation (i) about conserving vernacular architecture and Victorian buildings, a reduction in the number of quarries or the levels of production could jeopardise that objective

Limiting quarrying activity

The Lake District National Park (LDNP) is the Strategic Planning Authority for the Lake District World Heritage Site. The LDNP's Local Plan, in place since 2010, seeks to ensure an adequate supply of local building materials to help maintain the distinctive buildings and settlement character and that new mineral sites for quarrying and mining will not be supported. This approach has also been taken forward to our draft Local Plan, currently being consulted on and ensures compliance with national government policy that no major

development which would have a significant adverse impact on the special qualities of national parks should take place except in exceptional circumstances. The special qualities of the National Park and the Outstanding Universal Value WHS are inextricably linked. The State Party can therefore provide an assurance that it does not envisage any circumstances in which new green field consents for quarrying will be allowed in the foreseeable future.

Maintaining the local vernacular architecture and conservation of historic assets.

As recognised by the World Heritage Committee, quarrying is essential to sustain the attributes of the property. Maintaining a supply of local materials is essential for the conservation of attributes and repairs to buildings throughout the property. Additionally, it is important for local materials to be available for use in the construction of new buildings. Maintaining quarries for local slate and stone enables repairs at an affordable level. A reduction in supply leading to an increase in price could result in use of cheaper foreign materials which do not reflect the local distinctiveness of the WH property. The threat to attributes of OUV posed by cheaper Brazilian, Chinese or Spanish slate for example, which has very different characteristics to the local slate, is a serious concern; the site would then not be as 'Authentic' as when it was inscribed.

It should also be noted that Lake District slate is used on significant heritage assets and historic places beyond the boundaries of the WHS, including the Houses of Parliament (Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church WHS). Continuing to supply this material is vital to ensure these buildings are continually maintained to a high standard. Additionally, while active quarries are not an attribute of OUV, historic quarries are an attribute and the contemporary quarries represent a continuation of a tradition that has existed since pre-history. Quarrying has had a significant influence on the physical character of the WHS that is now recognized and valued as an integral part of OUV.

Sustainable development

Quarrying for conservation purposes ensures the long term retention of a skills base of long standing tradition to the English Lake District (from pre-history to the present day) and also provides local employment to sustain the local community. Subject to the strategic approach outlined above and rigorous planning controls exercised by the Lake District National Park, the State Party believes the continuation of active quarrying helps to sustain the OUV of the property. The Planning Authority also undertakes annual monitoring of all active quarries to ensure compliance with the rigid planning conditions attached to quarrying activity. Furthermore, the proper usage, where appropriate, of Heritage Impact Assessment as a baseline for establishing appropriate mitigation will ensure that OUV will not be harmed in the working of existing quarries. Therefore the State Party believes that sustaining the slate industry of the English Lake District, at its existing level, is in line with the Budapest Declaration's intent to ensure an appropriate and equitable balance between conservation, sustainability and development. As noted in the Declaration, World Heritage properties can be protected through appropriate activities contributing to the social and economic development and qualities of life of our communities.

Summary

The State Party considers that existing levels of quarrying, subject to appropriate mitigation to avoid harm to OUV as outlined above, are needed to sustain the OUV of this particular

property and the wider historic environment of England, and in order to sustain traditional skills and the social and economic well-being of communities within the WHS.

b) Formally committing to avoiding any negative impact on the OUV and related attributes of the property from the NWCC energy transportation facility being currently planned: and informing the World Heritage Centre about the results of the HIA and how these will be integrated into the planning consent and in the development consent order (DCO).

The State Party will seek to avoid any negative impact on OUV and related attributes of the WH property from the North West Coastal Connections (NWCC) and Moorside nuclear power station proposals should they be reactivated.

Background

The proposed Moorside nuclear power station development, located outside the WHS boundary, is currently on hold. The proposals included a buried high voltage line within the WHS.

Were the proposals to come forward again The State Party will insist that part of the assessment includes a HIA following the ICOMOS recommended methodology in order to assess and, where appropriate, mitigate any identified adverse impacts on OUV. Historic England would be consulted as required under national planning policy, and the State Party would notify the World Heritage Centre in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. The State Party and other key partners would also work with all the relevant national government departments involved in the initiative, including the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM) on this matter.

Procedures for future proposals

There are formal procedures in relation to any applications of this nature and Development Consent Orders both in terms of consultation, and information requirements. A Development Consent Order (DCO) is the means of obtaining permission for developments categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP). This includes energy, transport, water and waste projects. The Secretary of State will be the determining authority taking into account the views of Historic England, which is a statutory consultee, and a local impact report that would be submitted by a local authority detailing the likely impact of the proposed development on any part of the local authority's area. The Lake District National Park Authority, as the strategic planning authority, would submit a local impact report as would other parties. The NSIP planning process also follows its own practice framework, which mirrors that of the National Planning Policy Framework regarding the protection of WHSs.

The results of the HIA would influence the proposals that would be put forward in the DCO and could also lead to the incorporation of planning conditions into any consent that might be granted in the form of conditions on the DCO.

Summary

The State Party, advised by Historic England, and the Lake District National Park Authority would assess critically the Heritage Impact Assessments undertaken by the developers for

any future NWCC and Moorside proposals and planning decisions would be made taking full account of any potential impacts on OUV and any necessary mitigation.

c) Informing about the timeframe of the integration of WH consideration into the local plans and policies.

The current local plan and policy provides protection of the OUV of the World Heritage site. This continues to remain the case in the updated local plans of the LDNPA and neighbouring local planning authorities.

Policy Framework

The existing local plan (Lake District National Park Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1) (adopted October 2010) is the planning policy framework for any planning decisions until the new Local Plan Review is adopted in 2020. The existing local plan already takes into account WH status and OUV as it seeks to protect the special qualities of the park which embrace OUV as set out in the statutory Management Plan for the English Lake District. Every attribute of Outstanding Universal Value falls within one of thirteen Special Qualities identified for the National Park. Table 7 in section 6 of the Partnership Plan – the Management Plan for the English Lake District (page 234) indicates the relationship between Special Qualities and attributes of OUV. The ICOMOS recommendation (No 442 rev) under section 5 indicated that the legal and planning protection in place is adequate. World Heritage consideration is therefore already incorporated into the existing local plan and policies. The vision and strategic objectives of the proposed local plan sustains the protection of the spectacular landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage. This means protection of the attributes of OUV and special qualities are conserved and enhanced. It seeks to ensure design is inspired by and contributes to local distinctiveness.

Local plan review

The Local Plan Review does not change the existing and strong policy consideration for protection of the WH property. It will indicate all development should protect, promote, and make sustainable use of the OUV and special qualities. The first policy in the Local Plan is identifying the national and international significance of the Lake District in terms of protection and how this will be achieved. The Local Plan Review is progressing to the timetable agreed with the State Party and is expected to be adopted by January 2020.

The State Party will seek to ensure that neighbouring County Council, Borough and District Councils recognise the need for protection of WHS OUV in their planning policies. The Environment Act 1995 requires all relevant authorities (including adjoining local planning authorities) to have regard to the purposes of National Park designation when exercising or performing their functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in the National Park and their Special Qualities which are reflected in the OUV for the World Heritage Site. These organisations are also part of the Partnership and the Lake District National Park Partnership plan which sets out the management of the World Heritage Site. Future reviews of Local Plans should aim to include additional detail about protecting the setting of the WHS in the same way as they do for the National Park.

Monitoring impact of policy

In addition to the local plan policies, the State of the Park report, will review the statutory Management Plan and State of Conservation reports and monitor of the effectiveness of the policies.

Summary

World Heritage considerations are integrated into the existing local plan and the emerging Local Plan. Adjacent local authorities have policies in existing local plans which aim to protect the OUV of the WHS and its setting. These local plans are being revised progressively so that their policies will be more explicit about protection of OUV.

d) Developing proactive strategies, including alternative national farm-supporting policies, with the farming community, to address the issues that threaten the viability of the shepherding tradition that maintains many of the landscape's significant attributes; recognising and financially compensating farmers for their heritage services in caring for the cultural landscape, as well as values such as genetic diversity of herds and food security,

The State Party recognizes fully that agricultural policy is a major factor in maintaining heritage values in rural landscapes. This is especially true in areas such as the English Lake District, where they have been so instrumental in shaping the landscape which is a key component of OUV.

The State Party and other key stakeholders are working closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) with the aim of ensuring that there are appropriate strategies in place to sustain the shepherding tradition after the UK has left the European Union.

National Level

The UK Government has recently completed consultation on a policy document setting out proposals for the future of agricultural and environmental policy entitled *Health and Harmony: the Future for Food, Farming and the Environment in a Green Brexit*. The idea put forward is to move from direct payments based on land ownership in agricultural use, towards a system whereby public money is used to deliver public goods.

Once adopted, the UK agricultural policy as outlined in the consultation paper would be one of the key ways of Government enabling delivery of its 25 Year Environmental Plan.

In September 2018 the government introduced the Agriculture Bill based on the outcomes of the consultation. The Bill is currently being considered by Parliament and is scheduled to become law in Spring 2019. The draft Bill proposes that the Secretary of State may give financial assistance to farmers for or in connection with a range of purposes, including (C) “managing land or water in a way that maintains, restores or enhances cultural heritage or natural heritage”. This will provide a firm legal foundation on which agri-environment programmes capable of assisting in sustaining the cultural heritage of the English Lake District and its OUV can be based. Until new programmes are introduced the UK government has pledged to maintain the same cash funds as currently available through the Common Agricultural Policy until the end of 2022.

The Lake District's status as a World Heritage Site is explicitly referenced in the Health and Harmony paper, which recognizes that the landscape has been shaped by people and represents a significant part of our heritage. The community framework and social capital of farming communities' needs to be supported to sustain a way of life for farmers that is essential to maintaining the landscape's OUV and to support the maintenance of traditional upland farming in the Lake District based on the open fell grazing of local breeds of livestock including the Herdwick sheep, traditional cattle breeds and fell ponies. The State Party and other key stakeholders will continue to work to ensure that the future policy and the financial framework within which farming operates is clearly focused on sustainability in environmental, economic and social terms and on farm business models that deliver this.

At the same time, the management of other features of the landscape that contribute to OUV can be incentivised through the proposed new environmental land management scheme.

Local Level

At a local level the Lake District National Park Partnership (LDNPP) through the management plan will have a crucial role to play in ensuring the objectives of conservation, protection, transmission and preservation and, where possible, enhancement, are achieved in the WH property. This commitment includes providing benefits to society that include clean water, healthy soils, high quality food, flood protection and access providing the best case for securing ongoing support and funding for the Lake District. The Partnership believe that World Heritage Site status will help partner organisations play a part in securing new funding for practical improvements for the future to support traditional farming and protect and enhance farming as a whole and to deliver more benefits for both nature and our cultural heritage.

At the local level the LDNPP management plan proposes strategies for farming to ensure profitable land management (strategy PE1) and maintaining traditional land based skills (strategy PE2). This has also been highlighted in the breakthrough actions, which set out the detail of what the Partnership intends to focus on over the life of this plan. Breakthrough action BA3 will seek to develop, agree and implement coordinated initiatives to achieve a sustainable and profitable future for the Lake District, its farmers, foresters, land managers, broader rural economy, natural environment, and cultural landscape ensuring the area is in the best possible position post EU exit. The Partnership will seek to secure a package of public, private and innovative funding to support delivery of the LDNPPs shared vision for sustainable hill farming and land management in the Lake District based on the principle of public payments for public benefits, including both cultural and natural assets.

The Partnership Plan indicates it will maximise opportunities provided through funding incentives for landscape conservation available to farming, forestry, and land management. They will influence funding providers to recognise the importance of the cultural landscape in their criteria, such as the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) (also see strategy PE1 – Profitable land management, farming and forestry industries).

The Partnership will support the maintenance of traditional upland farming in the Lake District based on the open fell grazing of local breeds of livestock including the Herdwick sheep, traditional cattle breeds and fell ponies. This will include support for coordinated commons management, breeders' associations, and the culture and traditions which underpin this farming system to ensure these attributes which demonstrate Outstanding

Universal Value are retained (also see strategy PE1 – Profitable land management, farming and forestry industries). Much of this support relies on funding from the State Party.

The Partnership has formed the Post-Common Agricultural Policy Working Group made up of 15 member organisations of the LDNPP and three other additional partners, (Cumbria Farmer Network, Cumbria Woodlands, Federation of Cumbria Commoners). This group's goal is to make the case for future public investment for sustainable upland land management in the Lake District, including hill farming. Common land makes up 28% of the total National Park area and provides a spectrum of public goods and services in the form of agriculture, biodiversity, tradition and culture, recreation, archaeology and preservation of the upland landscape. Appropriate management of common land is essential to ensure that the full suite of public benefits (including enhancing public benefits such as carbon storage and flood risk measures) are provided and that any trade-offs between services are carefully managed. Proposals to establish a Commons Council for Cumbria with Northumberland is being explored. A Commons Council is one potential tool that can strengthen the governance of commons. The potential commons council is intended to help facilitate entry of commons associations into agri-environment agreements to secure these public benefits. The establishment of a commons council is governed by a statutory process. If DEFRA are satisfied that there is support for a council in Cumbria, they will issue a formal public consultation next year. At this stage there is further work to do to develop the proposal and ensure that all partners and stakeholders understand how it will operate. The Partnership will support initiatives and land management practices that specifically adapt to and mitigate the predicted effects of climate change, by reducing the Lake District's carbon budget whilst also sustaining the Special Qualities and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.

The Commons Cause project will look at ways to make commons more relevant to 21st Century life. It is a national project supported by Heritage Lottery Funded exploring future commons management across England with a focus on Lake District.

It will help people to discover and enjoy the commons and support owners and commoners in managing them to safeguard their history and the wildlife that depends on them and how commons can be made more viable for future generations.

Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (Cumbria LEP) who are part of the Lake District National Park Partnership (LDNPP) have produced a document "Cumbria Rural and Visitor Economy Growth Plan 2017" and this sets out its rural growth priorities which includes supporting farming skills development and best practice; facilitating the process of succession in our farms to provide opportunities for young people; supporting transition to new post Brexit model of farming and sustainable farming.

Helping farm businesses to be profitable in a way that conserves the overall OUV and Special Qualities, and enhances the natural landscape, is fundamental for them to be sustainable and effectively manage the land. The Partnership also has policies in the Local Plan that support proposals for farm diversification to supplement income and strategies for training and repairs to buildings.

Summary

The UK Government will continue to utilize agricultural and environmental policy to promote the sustainability of cultural and natural heritage. There is much to celebrate in

terms of the many local initiatives which have been undertaken as indicated above and a clear local commitment from the Partnership and others to ensure farming continues to be recognised as a key contributor to the OUV of the WHS.

e) Rebalancing programs and funding dedicated to improving natural resources with the need to conserve the valuable cultural landscape that the Lake District is by acting on its key attributes and factors,

There is need for an appropriate balance within funding programmes to sustain and enhance both natural and cultural components of the cultural landscape as these are inter-dependent. The cultural landscape of the English Lake District is the combined works of nature and man. The key focus of World Heritage cultural landscapes is on the interaction between humans and the natural environment and thus both cultural and natural values are the focus of overall management of the site. The needs of the environment and the cultural landscape are compatible and closely linked so farm payments and policy can support both. If the provisions in the Agriculture Bill are passed into law next year, this will assist in achieving a good balance, subject to the availability of resources. Appropriate balances will need to be struck in individual cases and this balance will necessarily vary according to the sensitivities of the location and the effect on OUV.

The LDNPP seeks conserve and enhance the cultural landscape while improving natural resources in a way which is in keeping with both the letter and spirit of the World Heritage Convention. The State Party will continue to advocate within national government for the conservation and enhancement of both cultural and natural resources within the WHS.

Background

The management plan also makes clear the need to secure bigger and better and more joined up resilient habitats, ecosystems and biodiversity. Many elements of the landscape that give the Lake District its beautiful and inspirational qualities arise from the natural environment, like woodlands and wildflowers. In order to manage the WHS effectively it will therefore be important to ensure that both natural and cultural values are conserved.

The proposals in the State Party's consultation paper Health and Harmony and 25 year Environment Plan suggests that farming can deliver outcomes including water quality, biodiversity, carbon storage and natural flood management. They set a direction of travel for future support on a "public payment for public goods" principle. In addition to payment for outcomes around biodiversity, water quality and carbon, the consultation recognises that "Agriculture and farming practices shape our rural historic environment, our distinctive landscape features and our historical monuments". The conservation and enhancement of our cultural heritage contributes directly to a healthier environment, benefitting people, offering support to thriving rural economies and national prosperity". The paper gives the Lake District as an example of traditional farming practices.

The initiatives in progress at the local level

The Partnership will seek to maximise opportunities provided through funding incentives for landscape conservation available to farming, forestry, and land management. The Partnership will influence funding providers to recognize fully the importance of the cultural landscape alongside the natural environment in their funding criteria in schemes such as the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).

The Partnership Post-CAP Working Group will look at the future outcomes to be delivered and supported in future funding policy, including securing and enhancing Cumbria's natural environment, cultural landscapes and social capital - and the public benefits these can provide.

Achieving balanced conservation cannot be achieved by a single issue approach.

The Partnership will seek to develop local scale(s) integrated land management vision(s) that identifies benefit for the cultural and natural landscape, communities and economy of the Lake District National Park (e.g. catchment, valley or other scale visions). It will identify landowners / managers and landscape scale areas within which to take an integrated, collaborative and efficient approach to delivering benefits to people and the environment. Understanding cultural landscape and its interdependency with the natural environment is critical and the Partnership will pilot and develop Sustainable Land Management plans in Borrowdale, Wasdale, Troutbeck where relevant.

The Lake District Foundation seeks to maximise opportunities provided through funding for local projects. The Lake District Foundation was established as a charity in August 2017. The Lake District Foundation raises funds for, and provides grants to, projects that care for the spectacular landscapes, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Lake District and Cumbria. It seeks to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment and cultural heritage of the Lake District by providing funding and support for conservation, environmental and cultural initiatives in the Lake District and Cumbria and inspiring people to care for and contribute to the natural environment and cultural heritage of the Lake District and Cumbria. It aims to inspire businesses, visitors and other donors to support projects and programmes of work across the Lake District. It will support the delivery of the shared aims of the Lake District National Park Partnership as the main fundraising and grant making partner. This will be achieved through innovative and successful fundraising campaigns locally, nationally and internationally. In the first year they have raised £396,512.

It will support the delivery of the shared aims of the Lake District National Park Partnership as the main fundraising and grant making partner. This will be achieved through innovative and successful fundraising campaigns locally, nationally and internationally.

The Partnership will seek to maximise the learning and benefit delivered through existing Pilot initiatives and the creation of additional land management Pilot projects, developing local scale(s) integrated land management vision(s) that identifies benefit for the cultural and natural landscape, communities and economy of the Lake District WHS (e.g. catchment, valley or other scale visions). The project will identify land owners / manager and landscape scale areas within which to take an integrated, collaborative and efficient approach to delivering benefits to people and the environment. Understanding cultural landscape and its interdependency with the natural environment will be enhanced through developing Sustainable Land Management plans in Borrowdale, Wasdale, and Troutbeck (where relevant as part of the valley planning process).

The State Party believes the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services approach offers the opportunity to develop a more coherent and progressive approach to sustainable development, the environment, economy and people in the planning process. The natural capital and ecosystem services approach is now well embedded in national planning and

environment policy. The elements of natural capital and ecosystem services are already embedded within the Special Qualities of the National Park and the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site. The Partnership's Plan outlines thirteen Special Qualities which define the significance of the Lake District (Lake District National Park Partnership's Plan, Appendix 1). All of the Special Qualities and all of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage are wholly or partly related to the Lake District's Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services. The LDNPP is beginning to use the natural capital and ecosystem service approach in its strategic and delivery work.

Summary

The connections between culture and nature are complex and protection of the cultural landscape of the English Lake District will be undertaken in an integrated way as cultural values are supported by natural values and vice versa. Addressing issues such as climate change, and improving the natural environment, alongside the conservation and enhancement of the attributes of OUV, will be important elements in the good management of the site.

The Lake District showcases the power of cultural values in shaping the natural landscape, and the value in supporting the continuing co-evolution of these elements to enhance and strengthen the resilience of both local communities and the natural environment.

f) Strengthening risk preparedness strategies for floods and other disasters that incorporate local knowledge on how to cope with recurrent disastrous natural events,

Risks such as natural disasters cannot be controlled but can be mitigated by preventive measures in advance. They therefore have to be planned for and the State Party and other actors are committed to maximizing the resilience of the English Lake District. There are many projects working to this aim and strategies for mitigating any impacts from flooding and other disasters are being developed. These projects and strategies are exploring how best to reconcile potential tensions between preventive action and sustaining landscape character that contributes to OUV.

Risk and the management plan

Disaster risk management is an integral part of the management of the World Heritage property and forms part of the Lake District National Park Partnership Management Plan. Disaster risk management utilises traditional knowledge and management practices to mitigate disasters as well as passive protection. The management plan provides a framework for guiding decisions on land use and adapting to climate change.

Flood risk

Given the high rainfall and increasing intensity of rainfall measures are being put in place to manage such high rainfall events. Natural flood management aims to reduce the downstream maximum water height of a flood (the flood peak) by storing water in the landscape or slowing the rate at which water runs off the landscape into the rivers. This can be achieved using a range of techniques that work with the natural features of the catchment to slow down or store flood waters. Re-naturalisation of rivers, changing the river channel to where it wants to flow in flood events is another method of dealing with flood events. Guidance based upon the document "Natural flood management measures, a practical guidance for farmers 2017", which was specifically requested by the farmers and land

managers of the Yorkshire Dales National Park) has been produced by West Cumbria Rivers Trust.

Due to recent flooding events there is a recognition of the need for further action, to be more resilient and to acknowledge the need for communities and agencies to work together to achieve this. The work undertaken by the Environment Agency in conjunction with the Cumbria Flood Partnership is an example of this with the Cumbria Catchment Pioneer.

The implementation of the Government's 25-year Environment Plan Framework (Defra, 2016) is being trialed through a series of Pioneer Projects across England. Cumbria is hosting one such project called the Cumbria Catchment Pioneer Pilot Project. The main aim of Pioneer Projects is to 'test new tools and methods as part of applying a natural capital approach in practice'. Cumbria was chosen for piloting the principles of the 25 Year Environment Plan because of its flood recovery experience and progress it had made with the catchment based approach. The Pioneer Project will focus on developing new and innovative ways of working, to make best use of resources, working at a catchment scale, through community engagement. Using local knowledge and commitment it will enable place-based decision making to build a shared local purpose, within the scope of the 25 Year Environment Plan.

The Environment Agency has produced a document "Reducing flood risk from Source to Sea". The Cumbria Floods Partnership has been formed with the aims of ensuring Cumbria including the World Heritage property is better prepared and protected against future flooding. This has created a framework for communities, public and private and other organisations to work together. Its aim is to work together to create a single vision, through shared ownership. Its aim is to form an action plan that inspires communities, and all involved in flood risk management, to work together and combine their local knowledge and resources to reduce flood risk along river catchments from source to sea. This recognises that local communities have unique and valuable local knowledge and cultural practices that can contribute to effective management strategies in the face of climate change and flood events.

The Countryside Stewardship facilitation fund encourages group applications that aim to mitigate flood risk through land management and seek potential for natural flood management.

Strategy SL4 (increase resilience to flooding) in the Partnership Plan sets out our strategy. Strategy SL6 of the LDNPP Management Plan considers woodland establishment to slow run off of water. Specific actions are being delivered to reduce in the short term the impact of flooding through a variety of schemes including slowing the speed of rainwater running off the fells into the natural drainage system and in the long term reducing carbon consumption and restoring peat deposits.

Strategy SL6 of the LDNPP Management Plan considers woodland establishment to slow run off of water. However, tree planting on a scale large enough to be effective could have significant impact on the cultural landscape and should therefore be used in combination with other measures at a smaller scale. Increased depth and roughness of the vegetation cover on the fells would also help slow the flow. Robust vegetation, especially trees, helps reduce the risk of landslides and diffuses soil erosion

Flooding can cause a significant risk to multiple attributes of OUV. There is a need to understand the impact on OUV in any mitigation for flooding, with the balance weighed between environmental and cultural impacts.

The Partnership's Forestry Sub group is exploring the planting of a cohort of new landscape trees across the WHS, in ways which are sensitive to the attributes of the cultural landscape, to provide continuity for woodland and landscape trees into the future to prevent further biodiversity loss as well as to contribute to landscape and other WHS attributes.

Other Risks

Other potential risks come from climate change and drought. The recent spell of dry weather and heat wave in the UK leading to drought conditions impacted on farms in terms of using feed which would be needed in winter being used in summer due to lack of grazing for stock and potential for restrictions on use of water. Wider impacts on habitat and wildlife in the site are also being observed. Climate change is happening all over the world and there is a need to plan for this in terms of land use and resources.

The Lake District National Park Partnership has an ambition to lead the way, both locally and nationally on climate change. Since 2010 the Partnership has set a Carbon Budget to manage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at an area scale. To date savings locally of 14,000tCO₂e have been made and it is estimated that annual emissions in the LDNP are 4.55% lower as a result of local actions since 2010. Whilst this is lower than the target of 8% annual reduction, it is a significant achievement. The Partnership has recently recommitted to reach this challenging local target.

Summary

Work is underway to plan for flooding or other disasters, to maximise resilience and to develop strategies for mitigating any impacts from flooding and other disasters. There are many good local initiatives which are already being put into practice to tackle the issues of flooding, learning from local people and cultural practices that can contribute to effective management strategies in the face of climate change and flood events. The strengthening of risk preparedness strategies for floods and other disasters incorporating local knowledge is being actively addressed and is already underway.

g) Developing convincing programs to prevent depopulation, including:

a) develop affordable housing for new households and for local retirees,

Ensuring a supply of housing for local people is addressed through the existing LDNPA Local Plan policies and carried forward in the review of the future Local Plan. The Housing Provision Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) recognises the need to provide housing for local people at affordable levels. All new housing is either local occupancy, currently restricted to people living in the locality defined in accordance with the SPD (as a result of local consultation), or affordable housing where the price is restricted. This provision of local housing/affordable housing, is designed to meet the needs of the local community. The policy will not change in principle as a means of combating the issue of demand for second homes and holiday homes which results in elevating house prices beyond the means of the local population.

This commitment is further embedded in the LDNPP Management Plan in strategy VC5 which seeks to ensure the availability and supply of a full range of housing types, sizes and

tenures to meet local needs and strategy VC6 seeks to ensure a high proportion of housing is in permanent occupation. The Partnership's aim is to make living in the Lake District a quality, affordable experience for everyone and will seek to bring about a step change in delivery of the scale and pace of locally affordable housing by capitalising on opportunities such as those presented by Community Led Housing schemes. The current local plan target for local housing each year is a minimum of 60 houses and in the proposed local plan review this will increase to 80 per year.

Community involvement

The Lake District National Park has encouraged local communities to undertake housing needs surveys to establish and provide evidence of local housing need which then informs decision making on future planning applications and allocations of land for local housing.

Local charities such as the Lakeland Housing Trust also make a valuable contribution to providing housing for local people at an affordable price.

Summary

National Park planning policies are in place and the LDNPP Plan seeks to address the issue of loss of population due to the lack of availability of housing for local people. The policies have already and will continue to contribute towards the provision of housing for local people in order to retain local people within the communities they have been brought up in and keep the communities viable.

b) ensure that communities have a mix of commercial outlets that serve the local community,

The limited experience of researching commercial issues in National Parks suggests that the conditions in the National Parks are usually not like other rural areas of relatively small settlements and dispersed population. The influence of tourism in the Park provides an obvious retail 'boost'.

In addition, tourist expenditure can help to support shops and services which could not be supported by local residents' expenditure alone. There are, however, potential disadvantages to the influence of tourism, including the lack of choice for local residents' day to day shopping needs. This is being addressed through local planning policy.

Local Plan Policy CS20 (Vibrant settlement centres) seeks to support retail and town centre uses (leisure, recreation, offices and arts and culture and tourism) that maintain and enhance the vitality and the historic character of the centres. In villages there is support for retail and town centre uses where evidence demonstrates that there is a local community need for the development. The Policy seeks to retain existing shops for retail use and to resist loss or change of use of shops and services unless there is evidence demonstrating that they are unsuitable or unviable and there is no community need for the shops or service. UK planning legislation includes oversight for changes of use.

c) further develop and market local products that benefit residents and local farmers,

The development and marketing of local products is undertaken at a local level within the World Heritage property and there is a commitment from the LDNP Partnership to further develop and market local products that benefit residents and local farmers.

The Partnership has developed, a programme to capitalise on the opportunities associated with being a WHS, using it as a catalyst to deliver positive benefits for the community, economy, cultural landscape and natural environment. The Partnership's World Heritage Site Marketing Group has been established to promote and maximise opportunities for adding value to local produce through developing an English Lake District World Heritage branding and links with the WHS. Projects under this programme are being taken forward subject to external funding.

Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership has prepared a rural and visitor economy growth plan which indicates priorities for rural growth. These include using the English Lake District World Heritage brand to sell the best of our produce, and add value to under-utilised rural resources and deepening the existing rural supply chain. The brand has been developed in consultation with the LDNP Partnership and was launched to the public at the Westmorland County Show in September.

Summary

Local initiatives and policies already in place are working to address the issues of depopulation due to high house prices, and those proposed will seek to ensure a mix of commercial outlets and maximise the benefits to local businesses and farmers. Further development of national policy on second homes/holiday homes would have the potential to add to the measures being implemented at local level.

h) Developing an interpretation strategy at the landscape level which communicates the different strands of the Outstanding Universal Value by using the documents put together for the nomination dossier,

Work is being led by the Partnership to develop an interpretation strategy at the landscape level which communicates the different strands of OUV. The result will be a guide for the English Lake District World Heritage Site that can be used by partners to enable their own story telling, provide a framework for communicating the OUV to local communities and visitors.

The strategy will be linked into the production of interpretation structures and relate to both the special qualities of the area and OUV. The strategy will ensure visitors are able to easily access relevant information in a variety of ways, including the development an official visitor website. The aims will be to offer a breadth of experiences for visitors that benefit their health and wellbeing and enhance understanding and appreciation of the OUV of the WHS and the Special Qualities of the National Park.

An outline application for funding for this work has been accepted in principle by the Rural Payments Agency and a detailed application will be made shortly. The outputs of the project will include interpretation structures for the 13 Lake District Valleys; interpretation plaques at key transport hubs and boundary plaques marking the entry to the WHS property. This will showcase and interpret the cultural landscape of the Lake District WHS to provide a narrative to understand the OUV of the site and highlight the key attributes of OUV for each of the 13 valleys. It will raise the profile of the site as a destination for international visitors, and cultural tourists.

There will be engagement with local residents through a World Heritage to further develop the sense of ownership of the World Heritage site at a local level and to understand what

elements of this landscape make it special. This proposal has been agreed with the World Heritage Steering group and funding is being sought to implement this.

The Partnership has commissioned an inspirational poem about the Lake District by the poet Tony Walsh, extolling the virtues of the Lake District landscape and World Heritage Site. This initiative has been publicly launched and has been taken up by local and national press and resulted in a high degree of interest and has raised the profile of the World Heritage Site, with an emphasis on the cultural and natural landscape that makes it special.

Summary

The interpretation strategy to communicate the OUV of the English Lake District as effectively as possible is being actively developed and will be implemented over the next two years

i) Ensuring that careful attention is paid to conservation of landscape-defining features such as land-use patterns, structures such as shelters, dry stone walls, hedgerows, and also to vernacular architecture and Victorian buildings, not only in designated Conservation Areas, but in the whole property,

Policies to protect landscape-defining features throughout the whole World Heritage property are set out in local and national planning policy, as detailed above. Additionally, the LDNPA engages with local communities and civic society to build understanding of the OUV of the site and encourage those communities to actively participate in its management.

With regard to hedgerows, there is existing protection for these features of the landscape. Legislation covers hedgerow removal in the form of The Environment Act 1995 and schedule 4 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. It is a criminal offence to remove a protected hedgerow in contravention of the regulations. Additionally, government payments to farmers offer additional protection to these features, as they incentivise their conservation.

The Partnership will seek to ensure these features are maintained and repaired. Boundaries are protected to some extent under cross compliance rules for farmers, under which agricultural payments are made.

These schemes can include requirements to retain the features identified on the farm environment plan for the duration of the agreement (which includes buildings, walls, hedges and historic features). They may also include options to maintain and restore these features in addition to the basic requirement to retain them.

The Hedgerows and Boundaries Grant is a standalone scheme under Countryside Stewardship and is a popular approach with farmers and stakeholders. Applicants select from a range of investments such as hedgerow laying, coppicing and restoration of dry stone walls. They create habitat and feeding areas for birds, insects and small mammals as well as adding to the character of the local landscape.

Other standalone capital grant schemes include catchment sensitive farming water capital grants and the traditional farm building restoration pilot scheme. The Lake District National Park and National Trust have engaged farming advisors to assist in providing advice to farmers on such schemes and at this time there are 14 schemes for barn restoration in the pipeline. The importance of protecting landscape features such as dry stone walls and

traditional barns and protecting the traditional pattern of farming is an integral part of their work.

There is a suite of engagement advice and support available through Natural England to ensure that all farm businesses that wish to apply for grant support to manage landscape features have access to high quality advice. Additionally, the Farm Facilitation Fund administered by Natural England applies to groups of farms for funding for training and the sharing of expertise within the farming community.

The UK Planning process and Local Plan (both existing and proposed) seeks to ensure development sympathetic to local distinctive character in terms of alterations and development affecting vernacular buildings throughout the WH property not just conservation areas. This has always been part of the protection of the Lake District National Park and its special qualities and that will not change given the relationship of the attributes of OUV to the special qualities. The features which make the WH property special and contribute to OUV are fully considered in any proposals for development and redevelopment. The LDNPA provides online guidance to potential developers via the LNDP web site. The need to protect vernacular buildings and ensure new buildings are sympathetic to the character of the area will require a local source of building materials such as can be obtained from the existing working quarries and is a reason to ensure these quarries are retained.

Victorian villas with their designed landscapes are an attribute of OUV and are concentrated in those parts of the area which afford views of lakes and mountains most prized for their Picturesque qualities. Measures, such as listing, are in place to protect them from any proposals which would impact on their character and harm OUV. The Lake District National Park Authority is also providing additional staff resources for the protection of the cultural heritage of the WHS. This includes an active volunteer programme which makes a positive contribution to the World Heritage Site both in practical on the ground projects and in leading walks which help communicate the values of the WHS to the public.

Rusland Horizons is one of the first community-led Landscape Partnership Schemes to be funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and supported by the Lake District National Park Authority. Between 2016 and 2019 they will have carried out a range of projects to revive traditional skills, and to learn about, enhance and enjoy the heritage, habitats and wildlife of this quiet and very special place in the southern part of the WHS. There are opportunities for local people to volunteer and engage with the project with practical conservation, cultural heritage, oral history, and wildlife projects. Training opportunities have been created such as supporting two new coppice apprentices through a three year apprenticeship in the valley. "Hands on Heritage" is about creating opportunities for local people and visitors to explore the natural and cultural heritage of the area and the crucial connection between people and the landscape, both in the past and in the present. Another project "Valley futures" offers young people the opportunity to learn practical and rural management skills whilst undertaking an apprenticeship in Environmental Conservation and this involves four new apprentices and they have restored dry stone walls and hedgerows.

The Fix the Fells project has been established to mitigate the erosion from people, coupled with severe weather events and climate change, which is causing ugly scars and environmental damage in the fragile mountains. Fix the Fells project with National Trust

rangers and volunteers tackle this erosion problem by repairing and maintaining over 200 upland paths, helping to keep the Lake District a special place for us and for future generations.

National Character Area (NCA) profiles have been written by Natural England, with input from diverse sources of expertise, to list the key attributes of landscapes within England. NCA profiles have been compiled for all the landscapes of the Lake District. The NCA profiles are publicly available to provide a resource to developers, businesses and decision-makers. Landscape Character Assessments and World Heritage Landscape maps are being reviewed and created to develop better landscape monitoring.

Summary

Successful local initiatives are being carried out by the Lake District National Park Partnership and existing policies and schemes are protecting the built environment and the spectacular landscape as well as engaging with local communities. Careful attention is being paid to the conservation of landscape-defining features such as land-use patterns, structures such as shelters, dry stone walls, hedgerows, and also to vernacular architecture and Victorian buildings, not only in designated Conservation Areas, but in the whole property.

j) Submit by 1 December 2018 a report on the implementation of the above recommendations to the World Heritage Centre and to ICOMOS

This letter constitutes the requested report

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

None

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

None

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

The State Party is content for the full report to be uploaded to the World Heritage Centre's State of Conservation Information System.

6. Signature of the Authority



Enid Williams
World Heritage Policy Adviser

