

The Lake District

A relict glaciated landscape

A relict glaciated landscape is one that once was covered in glaciers and ice, but since disappeared. What remains are landscapes with huge environmental, cultural, and economic value.

The value of the Lake District

- Over 16 million tourists visiting the Lake District every year provides over 16,000 jobs.
- Tourism is worth over £1.1 billion to the local economy in the Lake District.
- Local services, such as better infrastructure and roads, improved for tourism also benefits local people.

The landscape and ecology are fragile

- Additional tourist traffic causes congestion.
- Seasonal and poorly paid jobs.
- Footpath erosion.
 - Walkers destroy vegetation and compact soil.
 - Exposed soil is washed away by heavy rain.
 - The path widens when walkers try to avoid eroded paths.

The LDNPA (Lake District National Park Authority) work to repair footpaths and manage the area. Repairing footpaths is expensive.

Threats to the Lake District in the future due to climate change

- An increase of non-native species. Non-native species, especially plants, push out native plants and wildlife that depends on them, therefore loss of native species.
- Greater risk of extreme weather events.
- Migration of certain habitats upwards due to warming.
- Drying out of peat, releasing a huge amount of stored carbon.

Key players in management

- LDNPP (Lake District National Park Partnership) is made up of 25 organisations representing public, private, community and voluntary sectors.
- LDNPA is responsible for management but does not own much of the land.

'Low carbon Lake District'

- Launched in 2008, it is an initiative working with businesses and communities to reduce emissions. It is doing this by:
 - Setting carbon reduction targets and promoting the highest energy efficiency standards.
 - Working to rethink how visitors get to the Lake District.

The vision for the future

The Lake District is now recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Key players are promoting sustainable development to achieve a prospering economy, excellent tourism opportunities and resilient communities, all working together to protect the environment.

