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National Park purposes (Environment Act 1995):

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage (of the National Parks); and
- To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities (of the National Parks) by the public.

In pursuing the statutory purposes, National Park Authorities have a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities.” And if it appears that there is a conflict between the two purposes, then greater weight must be given to the first (Sandford Principle 1974).

The Lake District National Park Partnership (the Partnership) was formed in 2006 because many organisations with a role in the Lake District National Park did not have a real sense of involvement in its management. There are currently 25 organisations involved in the Lake District National Park Partnership. It is 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.


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The Lake District Foundation was established as a charity in August 2017. Prior to this, under the name Nurture Lakeland, the organisation had been working for 23 years (1993) to raise funds from visitors and the tourism industry. We also delivered sustainable tourism programmes and messages across Cumbria, gaining national recognition. The Lake District Foundation will build on this work and grow in reach, impact and influence.

Visitor Giving: A toolkit for Destination Organisations

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