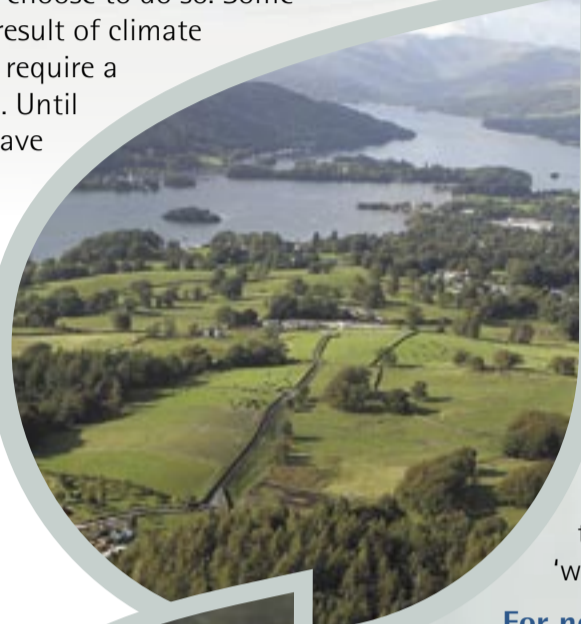




What is the Problem?

The water quality of Windermere has been declining for many years. As a result several native plants and animals are badly affected whilst some non-native ones are doing well. Many of these unwanted changes are caused by human activities and can be reversed if we choose to do so. Some changes may be the result of climate change and probably require a more global response. Until now these changes have been the subject of research, but actions to resolve the problems have been limited.

It is now time to act.



The Vision - what do we want to do?

A partnership of organisations has resolved to restore Windermere to its former high quality. In doing so the Windermere Catchment Restoration Programme Partnership has established a shared vision for Windermere and its catchment

– including the lakes and tarns, by way of the streams and rivers which feed into them. This is:

“A healthy Windermere catchment, for now, for ever”.

Healthy: because we wish to see a healthy Windermere in terms of water quality and natural wildlife and habitats.

Catchment: because everything we put on the land or discharge into the streams or rivers finds its way to the lake; so to protect the lake we must protect the whole 'water' or 'drainage' catchment.

For now, for ever: because everything we do should be a permanent investment, not just for the short term.



Who is involved?

The partnership currently includes the following organisations. All have a role and responsibility to protect and enhance the lakes, and share a common vision that lake restoration will come about through whole catchment management.

- Environment Agency
- Lake District National Park Authority
- Natural England
- National Trust
- United Utilities
- Forestry Commission
- Cumbria Tourism
- South Lakeland District Council

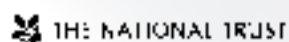
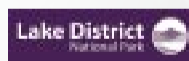
From 2009 a number of opportunities will be provided encouraging clubs, societies and the local community to get actively involved in the programme.

Windermere Catchment Restoration Programme

Objectives

1. To improve the water quality and protect the natural ecology of the catchment and its lakes.
2. To increase environmental awareness amongst resident and visitor communities by providing opportunities to celebrate and enjoy what is special about Windermere and its catchment.
3. To ensure that improvements to lakes and landscape in the catchment support a healthy local economy.

Supported by:



For further information please go to www.windermere-lakes.co.uk



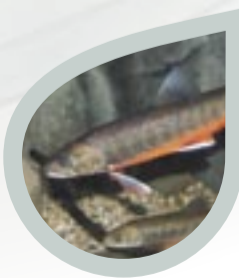
Alternative formats are available from 01539 724555

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What benefits will come from it?

Benefits will be environmental, social and economic.

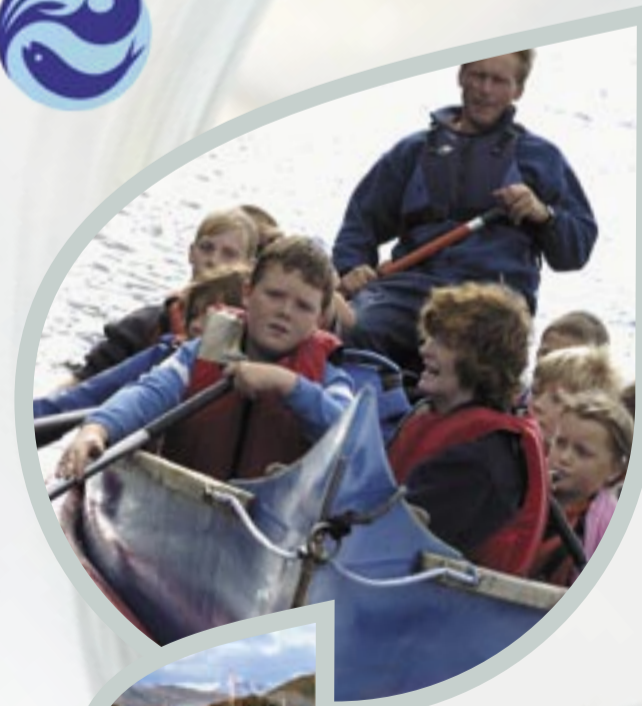
Environmental: A reduction in soil erosion and deposition in rivers and lakes; reduced nutrients entering the catchment, and improved water quality in bathing waters. Wildlife and habitats will also improve.



Social: Visitors and residents understanding and actively engaged in resolving lake issues and enhanced health benefits for all through greater access.

Economic: Promotion of more sustainable farming, woodland management and tourism.

A healthy Windermere catchment, for now, for ever.



www.windermere-lakes.co.uk



What is a catchment?

The area of land, including the hills and mountains, woodlands, and buildings which water drains from, before flowing into the streams, rivers, lakes and tarns. The Windermere Catchment includes rivers such as the Rothay, Brathay and Troutbeck, as well as tarns and lakes including Grasmere, Rydal Water, Esthwaite and Elter Water.



What we expect to see

We will bring together all the existing and valuable work currently taking place which can contribute to the Windermere catchment restoration programme.

This will be supplemented by new projects that meet the catchment's needs. These might include:

- Protecting vulnerable soils against erosion through river corridor and ghyll fencing, and improving woodland and grass cover across the catchment.
- Reducing the amount of nutrients entering water courses by raising awareness about the use of household products.
- Working with farmers to reduce fertiliser usage.

The local community and visitors will be encouraged to get actively involved to help achieve a healthy Windermere catchment, for now, for ever.

