

## **To the Members of the Lake District National Park Authority**

As experts working in the fields of sustainable resource management and climate change we welcome the National Park Authority's vision for the Lake District as an example of sustainable development. You rightly regard climate change and resilience as one of your cross-cutting themes, with particular implications for sustainable travel.

Could we ask you to address a connected problem as a matter of some urgency: that of green lane driving in the Lake District?

Although using motor vehicles as a leisure pursuit on unsealed roads is only part of the problem created by increasing visitor numbers and increased traffic flows into the National Park, this activity is unsustainable in two important aspects: not only do off-road motor vehicles using green lanes have high carbon emissions, they also adversely affect the landscape character of the Lake District, regardless of the engine type they use. Natural England has characterised the High Fells as "the most biologically diverse suite of upland habitats in England" with internationally important fell habitats. Motor vehicles disturb this highly fragile environment and disrupt its tranquillity through visual and noise intrusion.

Importantly, the Authority does not have to wait to deal with the problem: it can act now by regulating access to green lanes in the interest of carbon reduction and of protecting the unique landscape and biodiversity of the Lake District fells.

We think that in the context of the Authority's intention to foster sustainable tourism, for instance through its "Smarter Travel" strategy, an effective policy on green lanes is essential. And we are confident that the LDNPA will want to develop such a policy without delay, taking into account the need to protect the landscape character of the Lake District National Park and World Heritage site.

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**Professor Andrew Balmford, Professor of Conservation Science, University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute**

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**Professor James Bullock, Professor of Ecology, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology**

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**Professor Andrew Church, Professor of Human Geography, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) University of Brighton**

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**Professor Gregory A. Houseman FRS, Emeritus Professor of Geophysics, University of Leeds**

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**Professor Davey Jones, Professor of Soil and Environmental Science, Environment Centre Wales, Bangor University**

**Professor James Longhurst, FIEEnvSc, FHEA, CEnv, CSci, HonFSE, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Environment and Sustainability, Professor of Environmental Science, Faculty of Environment and Technology, University of the West of England**

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**Professor Ioan Fazey, Professor of Social Dimensions of Environment and Change, University of York**

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**Professor Piers Forster, Professor of Climate Physics and Director, Priestley International Centre for Climate Change, University of Leeds**

**Professor Guy Garrod, Professor of Environmental and Rural Studies, Newcastle University**

**Professor Kevin Gaston, Professor of Biodiversity and Conservation, University of Exeter**

**Professor Martin Genner, School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol**

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**Professor Lindsay Stringer, Professor in Environment and Development, Department of Environment and Geography, University of York**

**Professor Jorge Vinueles, Harold Samuel Professor of Law and Environmental Policy, Founder and former Director of the Cambridge Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance**

**Professor Robert White FRS, FGS, FAGU, Emeritus Professor of Geophysics, University of Cambridge**

**Professor Mark Whittingham FRSB, Professor of Applied Ecology, University of Newcastle**

**Professor Rebecca Willis, Professor in Practice and Senior Research Fellow, University of Lancaster**

**Professor Michael Winter OBE, Professor of Land Economy and Society, University of Exeter**