



## **The 6th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk**

Paris, France, 4 - 5 February 2019

### **On the English Lake District**

We, the Civil Society Organizations who have attended the 6th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk organized by World Heritage Watch on 4-5 February in Paris, coming from 14 countries in 4 continents, as active and concerned citizens dealing with Natural and Cultural World Heritage properties at different places, would like to bring the following to the attention of the World Heritage Committee:

1 We condemn the continuing violation of the World Heritage Status in the Lake District by recreational motor vehicles on the unsealed roads in the Little Langdale area.

We consider that this activity impacts negatively on the **authenticity** of the property by damaging sheep farming, one of the key attributes of the OUV, and by degrading the spirit and feeling of tranquillity and remoteness. The off-road traffic also has a detrimental impact on the **integrity** of the World Heritage Site as it removes crucial elements necessary to express OUV. The perceptible visual and aural effects of motorised off-road vehicles make it difficult to experience the special qualities of the Lake District.

We note that regulatory measures to protect beauty and tranquillity have been used by other National Park Authorities and deplore the refusal of the Lake District National Park Authority to fulfil its statutory duty.

2 We regard plans for a zip wire at the Honister Slate mine and for a Gondola cable car at Whinlatter as wholly incompatible with the Lake District's World Heritage Status.

The visual and aural impact these projects would have on the landscape would be in direct conflict with the Lake District's OUV and the stated purposes of the National Park.

We view the National Park Authority's aggressive pursuit of technology-based developments to attract more thrill-seeking tourists as mistaken and likely to lead to the erosion of the Lake District's OUV and special character.

We deplore the failure of the National Park Authority to involve the World Heritage Centre in these plans, as stipulated in section 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

#### **Recommendations**

We therefore call on the World Heritage Committee to ask the State Party to ensure that the Lake District National Park Authority energetically protects the Lake District's OUV against the impact of current activities and future developments.

We urge the World Heritage Committee to request the State Party to invite an Advisory Mission to advise on current activities and proposed future developments and their potential impact on the OUV of the property.

Paris, 5 February 2019