

Which special qualities of the Lake District National Park are being damaged?

Please describe how in your experience the overbearing, intimidating, sometimes threatening presence, as well as the noise and exhaust fumes of recreational vehicles degrade each of the following:

A world class cultural landscape: Recreational motor vehicles destroy the harmony of natural and farming features, so characteristic of the Lake District. Agricultural vehicles, in any case very infrequent, do not have a negative impact.

Unique farming heritage: Recreational motor vehicles constitute a threat to the normal workings of the sheep farms through which the roads run. They have driven one farmer off his farm.

A source of artistic inspiration: This is the landscape that inspired writers and painters, and made them into fervent conservationists. The presence of recreational motor vehicles degrades the very characteristics they cherished.

A model for protecting cultural landscapes: Beatrix Potter bought this land to conserve it for future generations. She then left it to the National Trust. Allowing activities that destroy the harmony, beauty and tranquillity of this area is a reversal of these pioneering conservation efforts.

A long tradition of tourism and outdoor activities: For centuries people have come to enjoy the beauty and tranquillity and to pursue outdoor activities without spoiling the experience for other people. The influx of recreational motor vehicles since around 2000 introduced a new kind of tourism which in the long-term diminishes the attractiveness of the area.

Opportunities for quiet enjoyment: The vast majority of people come here to get away from the pressures of modern life, especially motor vehicle traffic. To encounter overbearing, noisy motor vehicles and to have to breathe in their exhaust fumes in this tranquil landscape negates this fundamental quality of the Lake District. But even the prospect that at any moment you might be faced with 4x4s or motorbikes and have to be on the alert constantly radically changes the experience of these routes and this landscape.

Which attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Site are being damaged?

Please describe how in your experience the overbearing, intimidating, sometimes threatening presence, as well as the noise and exhaust fumes of recreational vehicles degrade each of the following themes and their attributes:

Continuity of agro-pastoralism tradition in a spectacular mountain landscape: recreational motor vehicles are an intrusive element, agricultural vehicles are part of it.

Herdwick and Swaledale flocks of sheep: the routes run through two sheep farms and recreational motor vehicles severely obstruct the normal farm work, as has been described by the farmers in their letters.

Key literary associations with the landscape: This is part of the area Wordsworth wrote about and which inspired him to write of the best known poems in the English language.

Opportunities for quiet enjoyment and spiritual refreshment: It is impossible to enjoy this road and the surrounding countryside quietly in the presence of recreational motor vehicles. Agricultural vehicles are much less frequent and form an organic part of the landscape and its farms.

Conservation movement: this area is the cradle of the conservation movement in the UK. It was left to the National Trust by Beatrix Potter, under the condition to preserve it for future generations. What we are witnessing now is a reversal of these early conservation efforts.

Question 28: Options for future management of the routes

- 1) Option 5 (Prohibit all motor vehicles but allow other users) is clearly the best outcome. In the comment box you could add that you want agricultural vehicles to be exempt.
- 2) Option 9 (Prohibit specific groups) Write in the comment box that you want recreational motor vehicles to be banned.
- 3) Option 17 Specify in comment box that you want agricultural users to be allowed but all other motor vehicles to be banned.

The reason for this choice: Recreational 4x4s and motorbikes are by far the most frequent motor vehicles of this route. Their overbearing, intimidating, sometimes threatening presence, the noise and exhaust fumes they produce have put a blight on this route and this beautiful landscape.