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UK Government



Westmorland  
& Furness  
Council

## 1000 hours spent restoring popular Grasmere walking route

A much-loved Lakeland walk has been repaired by Fix the Fells, thanks to funding from the UK Government and support from Westmorland and Furness Council.

Visitors to Easedale Tarn in Grasmere may have noticed a team of Fix the Fells rangers working above Stythwaite Steps earlier in the year. This route between the tarn and the steps is a favourite with walkers and owing to its popularity, sections of the path had become muddy and eroded, vegetation had disappeared, and loose stone and soil had been washed away.

Since April, four skilled upland path rangers spent over 1,000 hours repairing a 400-metre stretch of the route, at a cost of £34,070, thanks to funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Their work included installing stone drains, creating a durable stone-pitched surface, and forming small pools to slow water flow. These pools also create habitats for wildlife and have already attracted newts and dragonflies, which is an early sign of success.

Isabel Berry, Manager of the Fix the Fells Partnership, said: "This project wouldn't have been possible without the funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Fix the Fells is entirely supported through fundraising, so grants like this make all the difference in tackling some of the most pressing erosion problems in the Lake District National Park."

Pete Entwistle, Fix the Fells Area Ranger who led the project, added: "We're delighted to have completed the work at Stythwaite Steps this year. Choosing techniques that work for both the environment and path users is always a challenge, but seeing the immediate positive impact here has been incredibly rewarding."

These improvements mean visitors can continue to enjoy this iconic walk in the knowledge it's now protected for years to come.

If you'd like to support the work of Fix the Fells by volunteering or making a donation to future projects, please visit their website: <https://www.fixthefells.co.uk/>

Ends

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**Website:** <https://www.fixthefells.co.uk/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/fixthefells1>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/fixthefells>

## **Notes to editors:**

### **About Fix the Fells**

Fix the Fells is a partnership programme between the National Trust, the Lake District National Park, Natural England, Friends of the Lake District and the Lake District Foundation. The aim of the Fix the Fells partnership is to protect the spectacular Lake District landscape from erosion damage by repairing and maintaining upland paths.

Fix the Fells has been operating since 2001 and needs over £500,000 each year to fix and maintain over 400 miles of paths across the UNESCO World Heritage Site. All funding has to be raised from grants and donations.

Fix the Fells Rangers and Volunteers work every year to repair damage and create sustainable paths across the Lake District, to balance conservation with public access.

The core, heavier repair work is done by National Trust Rangers each year from March to November. But volunteers keep working all the year round doing maintenance work and smaller repair projects, including keeping drains clear to divert water off the paths. If drains get blocked water can cause huge damage by washing away great swathes of topsoil and stone in heavy rainfall.

There are approximately 3,100 km (1,926 miles) of paths across the Lake District National Park. See: <https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor>

### **About the National Trust**

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/the-lakes](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/the-lakes)

The National Trust is a conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people: Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley, who saw the importance of the nation's heritage and open spaces and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. Today, across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we continue to look after places so people and nature can thrive.

The challenges of the coronavirus pandemic have shown this is more important than ever. From finding fresh air and open skies to tracking a bee's flight to a flower; from finding beauty in an exquisite painting or discovering the hidden history of a country house nearby - the places we care for enrich people's lives.

Entirely independent of Government, the National Trust looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 780 miles of coastline and 500 historic properties, gardens and nature reserves.

The National Trust is for everyone - we were founded for the benefit of the whole nation. We receive on average more than 26.9 million visits each year to the places we care for that have an entry fee, and an estimated 100m visits to the outdoor places that are free of charge. Paying visitors, together with our 5.6 million members and more than 53,000 volunteers, support our work to care for nature, beauty, history. For everyone, forever.

### **About Westmorland and Furness Council**

## [Welcome to Westmorland and Furness | Westmorland and Furness Council](#)

Created in 2023, Westmorland and Furness Council is a local unitary authority covering 3,754 square kilometres from Barrow in the south to Alston in the north. With a population of 225,385 people, Westmorland and Furness is England's third largest unitary authority by area.

Its vision is for Westmorland and Furness is to be: "A great place to live, work and thrive."

### **About the Lake District National Park**

Information about the National Park can be found on our website [www.lakedistrict.gov.uk](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk)

The Lake District is one of 15 National Parks. The others are: Brecon Beacons, the Cairngorms, Dartmoor, Exmoor, Loch Lomond and Trossachs, Northumberland, North York Moors, Peak District, Pembrokeshire Coast, Snowdonia, the Yorkshire Dales, the Broads, the New Forest and the South Downs.

In July 2017 the Lake District National Park was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status in the cultural landscape category. More information about the Lake District World Heritage bid can be found on [www.lakesworldheritage.gov.uk](http://www.lakesworldheritage.gov.uk)

### **About the Lake District Foundation**

<https://www.lakedistrictfoundation.org/>

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 to increase fundraising 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. Our aim is to inspire businesses, visitors and other donors to support projects and programmes of work across the Lake District.

### **About Natural England**

Natural England is the government's adviser for the natural environment in England, helping to protect England's nature and landscapes for people to enjoy and for the services they provide.

Within England, we're responsible for:

- promoting nature conservation and protecting biodiversity
- conserving and enhancing the landscape
- securing the provision and improvement of facilities for the study, understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment, eg new tower hide at Shapwick Heath National Nature Reserve
- promoting access to the countryside and open spaces and encouraging open-air recreation
- contributing in other ways to social and economic well-being through management of the natural environment, eg changes to wildlife licensing to improve flexibility for developers.

### **About Friends of the Lake District**

<https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/>

The Lake District Foundation is the charity for the Lake District.

The Lake District Foundation funds, collaborates and inspires change on things that matter to the region. By prioritising our natural environment, climate and people, their work is an example of sustainable development in action.

The Lake District Foundation works with everyone who loves the Lake District, including businesses, visitors, community groups and public bodies.