

# **CUMBRIA COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS STRATEGY**

**2014 to 2019**

**A strategic framework for the management and  
improvement of countryside access and recreation in  
Cumbria**

**7th April 2014**

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## 1. Introduction

Cumbria is blessed with a spectacular and diverse array of landscapes and a high quality natural environment to which the public have exceptional access. Large areas of the county are protected through formal designation where public access is a key objective. They include; the Lake District National Park, the North Pennines, Arnside and Silverdale and Solway Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The primary means of access is through Cumbria's 7,440 km public rights of way network – the second largest in England - made up of a myriad of footpaths, bridleways, and byways. There are also some 390km of unsurfaced minor roads, which provide valuable links for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. In addition there are now some 2,140 square km of open access land, defined through the Countryside and Rights Act 2005, enabling people to walk and roam across large areas of open country.

As well as access to land, Cumbria also has the greatest concentration of inland waters and the greatest length of rivers in England. Water related access and recreation is a key attractor – with the four navigable lakes in the Lake District giving people a right to sail, canoe and kayak, plus the multitude of other lakes, tarns and rivers across the county where fishing, swimming, canoeing and diving also take place.

This access “asset” is arguably unsurpassed in England and provides fantastic opportunities for the public to take part in a wide variety of outdoor recreation on both land and water. This rich combination attracts over 40 million visitors per year, a tourism industry worth £2.2 billion per year and some 33,000 full-time equivalent jobs. The outdoor activity tourism sub-sector is one of the highest economic growth areas in Cumbria (51% of visitors to Cumbria undertake short walks of less than 2 miles and 36% go on longer walks).

Notwithstanding this, overall access provision and the experience this provides for both visitors and local users across the county presents a mixed and fragmented picture. Whilst the county's spectacular scenery, beautiful countryside and open spaces are a big part of the appeal, the means to access these landscapes – via an ancient rights of way network which has evolved over centuries - was not planned or designed to accommodate the array of modern recreational sporting activities and pastimes. It equally was not designed to cater for utility journeys to schools, shops and services.

This mixed picture on land is mirrored on water. Access to, on and in Cumbria's lakes and rivers for a host of activities including fishing, sailing, swimming and canoeing is subject to historical land ownership, statutory rights and local agreements. For example, access to the river network for canoeists remains patchy and is an area of concern for users and landowners alike. Making any significant strategic changes to alter this network is also hampered by a protective and complex system of access legislation.

## **2. Awareness – where are we now**

Continual change in local government, financial provision, countryside use, legislation and management all make it challenging to produce a strategy that is relevant and flexible enough to respond to the changes ahead. At the same time it provides the opportunity to do things differently, to be more innovative, imaginative and collaborative in how programmes of work are developed, funded and delivered; to ensure that countryside access is aligned with other strategic priorities across the County and secures the best use of public money.

Much has happened in policy terms since the Cumbria Countryside Access Strategy (CCAS) was published in 2005 to both directly and indirectly affect access and recreation provision across Cumbria. These influences have included;

- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 established public access rights to large tracts of open land and has not caused the negative impacts that some feared.
- The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 has spawned the development of an England Coast Path, with Cumbria selected as one of five counties in England where the route development process has begun – the outcome of which will be to significantly improve access along the whole Cumbrian coast.
- Natural England's National Trail review – aimed at creating new trail partnerships and a different model for managing national trails.
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 redefined the network of routes available for recreational green road driving.
- The Lake District National Park's framework and action plan for access to lakes, rivers and coast has been produced, giving focus to how these elements are managed in an integrated way.
- Cumbria Tourism's "Adventure Capital" campaign - promoting and marketing Cumbria as a magnet for adventurous outdoor sports and events.
- The implementation of the Go Lakes Travel Programme - an innovative pilot project delivering investment in sustainable visitor transport in South Lakeland, and show casing a different recreation model for making travel choices.
- Nature Improvement Areas, Local Nature Partnerships and the concept of access and tourism providing an 'ecosystem service' or a 'public good'.
- Changes to the Local Transport Planning process through the Cumbria Local Transport Plan.

Over the same period there has been a significant squeeze in public expenditure for delivering access with constraints on resources arising from the comprehensive spending review and its impact on core revenue funding of access authorities and staffing, and changes to the delivery of agri-environment stewardship schemes which have meant the loss of capital access provision payments for land managers.

Looking to the future we foresee continuing and new challenges and opportunities to be associated with;

- An ever developing array of outdoor sporting activities and organised recreational events, and being able to respond, provide for and manage their impact – both positive and negative.
- Maintaining the quality and provision of access infrastructure across the county to a high standard with reduced resources, that is responsive to a wide variation in use and impact.
- Climate change, the Low Carbon agenda, and the need to be able to plan and respond to extreme weather and other events in order to provide resilience - and to achieve benefits from sustainable tourism and transport.
- Changes in public body responsibilities for managing access which may arise as a result of the current landscape designation review in Cumbria - in particular the potential for a significant expansion of the Yorkshire Dales National Park within the Howgill fells.
- Changes in local authority responsibilities for managing the three National Trails in Cumbria as a result of the current Natural England review, and other long distance routes such as the Coast to Coast Walk.
- Funding some of the large infrastructure projects (for example large bridges) which will be required to secure a high quality route for the development of a continuous coastal access trail in Cumbria.

A key element of the strategy is thus to look at how the joint resources of all the bodies engaged in access across Cumbria can work together to maximum effect, through joint working, collaboration, and through efficient and effective delivery.

### **3. Purpose**

The purpose of the strategy review is to;

- Redefine the focus and strategic direction for delivering an array of countryside access and recreation management activity across the county which reflects a changed political and economic climate with a different set of drivers and priorities,
- bring together the current resources and priorities of the key access authorities and other partner organisations who will deliver the strategy, and realign its annual programming to reflect these changes,
- provide a means to explain and engage with our statutory advisory bodies, access organisations and interests, local communities and potential funders about what we aim to achieve in the future and how we get there.

The review of the CCAS will also help to inform and redefine how we better manage countryside access in a more integrated way and involve all those who have a role to play in shaping and delivering it. Integrated access can be defined as using and improving access to meet wider social goals such as - health, education, social inclusion, sustainable tourism and sustainable transport.

### **4. The development of the Cumbria Countryside Access Strategy 2014 - 2019**

In 2005 the Cumbria Countryside Access Strategy outlined a county-wide consistent approach to access and recreation management for the first time among the three access authorities – Cumbria County Council, the Lake District

and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authorities. The CROW Act introduced the requirement for Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) and one was produced for Cumbria in 2007 after extensive public consultation. It put forward specific proposals for improvement to both physical infrastructure and information about access. And there was a commitment to carry out a review after five years which meets the CROW Act requirement that ROWIPs should be reviewed within ten years. To this end the Lake District National Park Partnership (LDNPP) Plan 2010-2015 contains the following action:

*Create a strategic framework for access and recreation improvements by:*

- a) *Reviewing the CCAS and ROWIP to identify priority delivery projects*
- b) *Creating an access and recreation strategy and action plan for Cumbria and the Lake District*

The existing CCAS and ROWIP were reviewed by staff and members of Cumbria County Council, the Lake District National Park Authority and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, as well as members from each Authority's Local Access Forum. The key tasks in the review process are detailed below

<b>Key stage tasks</b>	<b>Detailed activities</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Ptnrs</b>	<b>By</b>
<b>Audit</b> - carry out internal review and identify areas to update in terms of policy changes and work undertaken since 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree audit template for review of CCAS and ROWIP</li> <li>• Each of the three Access Authorities to carry out the audit exercise and complete the template</li> <li>• meet to review the findings and identify common themes and issues to feed into the revision of the CCAS</li> </ul>	CCC	LD & YD NPAs	July 2012
<b>Revision</b> - draw up a series of recommended revisions to the Strategy to reflect these changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify revisions and changes needed within the CCAS</li> <li>• Develop a new structure and format for the new Strategy</li> <li>• Meet to review and agree the above, and prepare material for the consultation activities</li> </ul>	CCC	LD & YD NPAs	Aug 2012
<b>Consultation</b> - consult with the three Local Access Forums on the review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold a joint workshop/ consultation exercise with Local Access Forums</li> <li>• Plan and identify tasks needed to conduct the workshop or equivalent, and agree who to undertake tasks</li> <li>• Organise, manage and carry out the workshop or equivalent, and record findings</li> <li>• Meet to review findings of workshop and implications for the revised Strategy</li> </ul>	CCC	LD & YD NPAs LAFs	Nov 2012
<b>Drafting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collate comments, draft a revised Strategy</li> </ul>	CCC	LD & YD NPAs LAFs	Jan 2013
<b>First review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCAS Part I reviewed by the Lake District National Park Partnership and LDNPA Park Strategy and Vision Committee</li> </ul>	CCC	LDNPA A	May 2013

<b>Re-drafting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collate comments, draft second version of CCAS Part I</li> <li>• Develop first draft of CCAS Part II: key strategic actions</li> <li>• Identify and include partner organisations to form CCAS Part II Delivery Group</li> </ul>	CCC	LDNP A	March 2014
<b>Second review and endorsement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second draft of CCAS Part I reviewed and endorsed by CCC Cabinet and LDNPA Park Strategy and Vision Committee</li> </ul>	CCC	LDNP A	April 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCAS Delivery Group complete Part II</li> </ul>	CCC	LDNP A	May 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCAS Parts I and II presented to LDNPP for endorsement</li> </ul>	LDN PA		June 2014

This new Strategy intends to revise, update and combine the CCAS and the ROWIP, integrate the LDNPA's Access to Lakes, Rivers and Coast Strategy of 2009 and include certain aims for water-related access and recreation described in it. It outlines the Partnership's goal for access in Cumbria and its' priorities for effective management of access and recreation across the county. The 24 key actions from the original CCAS and the seven areas for improvement in the ROWIP have been distilled into five priority areas for action.

This Strategy is in two parts;

- Part One is the strategic overview of access and recreation and includes the goal and the five priority areas. The Strategy does not set out any of the three Access Authorities policies, nor is it limited to these three organisations. It aims to show how the strategy fits in and links with other policy and strategy documents within Cumbria and puts access and recreation closer to all those organisations that have a role to play in providing for, managing, delivering and using it.
- Part Two is a strategic action plan that describes the detail of what will be achieved year on year and the aspiration of the organisations who will deliver it. It also sets objectives to measure if targets are being reached.

## **PART ONE**

### **5. Goal - where we want to be**

Our goal for access and recreation in Cumbria is that:

**“Cumbria is a place where visitors and local people can explore, enjoy and develop an understanding of the diverse countryside, both on land and water, and are enabled to do so in a variety of sustainable and responsible ways.”**

In order to achieve this goal the three access authorities, their statutory local access forums and key access providers across the county are committed to

working together to maintain and improve public access and recreation to the countryside of Cumbria.

This can be summarised as four strategic aims; describing what we will do:

- a) Provide high quality, well maintained access to the countryside including the public rights of way network, open access land, access to water and other means which meets the needs of its users.
- b) Develop an integrated network of access, recreation and transport facilities on both land and water that will contribute to improved quality of life and health and carbon emission reduction, by encouraging people to walk, cycle and take public transport.
- c) Ensure access and recreation contributes to a thriving economy whilst protecting and, where possible enhancing, the sustainability of the County's natural and cultural resources.
- d) Work with partners, visitors, businesses, residents and farmers and landowners to encourage responsible use of the countryside and to minimise conflict through appropriate management and guidance.

## **6. Priority Areas of Work**

We have identified five priority areas of work, and under each of these are a series of strategic actions that will contribute to the achievement of our goal and our strategic aims. The five priority areas of work are:

- **Improving Rights of Way and Countryside Access**
- **Managing Rights of Way and Countryside Access**
- **Interpretation, Awareness and Promotion**
- **Outreach**
- **Access to open country**

### **6.1 Priority Area 1: Improving Rights of Way and Countryside Access**

#### **Background**

Since 2007 the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) has been the driver behind the delivery of a prioritised programme of access improvements to enhance people's access to the countryside and to improve access and recreation opportunities for all. Within the LDNP the development of a strategic framework for access to water and its associated action plan had a similar intention for lakes and rivers.

#### **Where we are now**

Improvements have been delivered in three broad areas:

- Barrier reduction – through initiatives such as the County Council's Parish Paths Initiative and the LDNP's Access Improvement Fund, the three authorities have undertaken a comprehensive programme of improvements to

access and rights of way furniture where restrictive items such as ladder or step stiles are replaced by kissing gates or wicket gates.

- Specific improvement projects - based on the 1,200 prioritised ROWIP suggestions submitted by user groups and local communities. These range significantly in scale and type from the successful 'Miles without Stiles' projects for people with limited mobility, to creating new routes to further develop walking, riding or cycling networks, or upgrading existing ones to improve the quality of access.
- Water-based improvement activity – the alignment of the England Coast Path National Trail from Allonby to Whitehaven has been agreed by the Secretary of State and progress is now being made on the second stretch from Whitehaven to Silecroft. Within the Lake District the existing Access to Lakes Rivers and Coast Strategy was prepared in 2009 to find out more about current use and the needs and preferences of users. Four years on an action plan has been developed and is being implemented to enhance accessibility to lakes and rivers and to promote the diverse opportunities available on and in them. For example an accessible 'wheely' boat for limited mobility anglers and other users now operates on Coniston Water and a canoe trail leaflet describing four routes on Windermere is now available for download.

Success in implementing the ROWIP has had mixed results. Some large scale schemes such as Carlisle City/ Sustrans Connect 2 cycling project and the Coniston to Foxfield cycleway have faltered due to significant hurdles including landowner permission and funding. Conversely funding for a further six large schemes have been successful in delivering improvements to the network, for example the Allonby to Maryport cycleway. The ROWIP has also delivered some 50 small scale improvements, delivered in partnership with local communities around the county and have made a big difference at a local level. The picture is therefore one of limited change at a strategic level but lots of small incremental changes which over time significantly benefit users.

**Key strategic actions** (see Part Two for more details on proposed actions)

1. We will identify and implement practical countryside access network improvements to provide a more effective resource for utility journeys and recreational activities.
2. We will encourage sustainable travel by supporting the development of transport hubs, strategic and local cycle routes.
3. We will continue to develop and implement improved access and recreation opportunities to the coastline and inland water bodies of Cumbria.
4. We will contribute to the development of Cumbria and the Lake District as the Adventure Capital (AdCap) of the UK

## **6.2 Priority Area 2: Managing Rights of Way and Countryside Access**

### **Background**

The core statutory duty of the County Council, as with any Local Highway Authority, is to assert, protect, map, record, continuously review and update the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way (PROW), as well as practically maintain the PROW network across Cumbria. The LDNP and YDNP have an agency agreement with the County Council to maintain PROW on the

Definitive Map and Statement within their respective National Parks, apart from the urban centres of Windermere/Bowness, Ambleside and Keswick in the Lake District. Fulfilling this duty is a fundamental role for all authorities and will remain a key priority.

Managing access and recreation is more than legal and practical work however. All access providers have to balance the needs of countryside users with those of local communities, landowners and managers. There is therefore an important advisory role to play in encouraging responsible use of the countryside and resolve conflict through appropriate management and guidance which needs to be done in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

### **Where we are now**

The main areas of involvement over the last five years have been:

- Continually reviewing and updating the Definitive Map and Statement through statutory legislation such as Definitive Map Modification Orders
- Organised recreational events – Cumbria is a nationally recognised destination for many large scale recreation events, primarily running, cycling and swimming, or a combination of all three. Scafell Pike is one of the destinations in the Three Peaks Challenge and that brings particular issues for the remote community of Wasdale. They have been managed through the CCC led Event Advisory Group and the Sustainable Outdoor Recreational Challenge Events (SORCE) toolkit, developed by Nurture Lakeland.
- Recreational green road driving – although the number of routes available to motorised users is much reduced after the NERC Act 2006, the Hierarchy of Trail Routes approach is now County-wide and provides the basis for a sustainable management regime for mechanically propelled vehicles on legal routes, including unclassified county roads
- Fix the Fells – currently over 120 upland paths are seriously eroded through public use and the impacts of our weather. Partners have been committed over the last ten years to tackle this issue and have successfully repaired or restored over 200 routes.
- Water-based activity – until the advent of coastal access in 2009 the focus for the management of water based recreation was on the four navigable lakes in the Lake District and maintaining river access agreements across the County. New byelaws have been introduced on Lake Windermere and the operation of the Lake Patrol Team, previously delivered by the LDNP, South Lakeland District Council and Cumbria Police, has changed dramatically.

### **Key strategic actions** (see Part Two for more details on proposed actions)

1. We will work with countryside users, local communities, landowners and managers to encourage responsible use of the countryside, and resolve conflict through appropriate management and guidance.
2. We will fulfil our statutory duties under relevant legislation to survey and maintain the public rights of way network and provide for countryside access. We will maintain a consistent record of the current condition of the PROW network and review the Definitive map and Statement.

### 6.3 Priority Area 3: Interpretation, awareness and promotion

#### Background

The demand for attractive, high quality information about access to the countryside across the county is ever apparent, and is reflected in a highly developed market response by the private sector in providing a wide array of products and material available across a range of platforms and media. This information attracts visitors to the area, enables users to plan their visit, think about where they want to go, what they want to do and help them achieve it.

#### Where we are now

Complementing this commercially viable information is a wide range of specialist information and guidance produced by the three access authorities and other organisations with an interest in access and recreation. These include information on the definitive map, open access, all ability routes as well as guidance for landowners about public rights of way, open access and rights and responsibilities for water-bodies. Information can also assist in the management of an area and is an important means of encouraging a greater understanding of the countryside and an appreciation of the need to look after it.

Examples include:

- Open Access walks leaflets produced by Cumbria County Council
- Lake user guides for Bassenthwaite, Coniston, Ullswater, Derwentwater and Windermere and a greener boating handbook
- Canoe trail leaflets for Windermere
- Miles without Stiles routes for people with limited mobility
- Dent Conservation Area audio trail

Another area where the access authorities have a key role is signing on the ground – both advisory signs and waymarking of routes. Since 2007 a new suite of advisory signs for use across the County has been adopted and new fingerposts now contain distance and destination information where rights of way leave the road. The online resource of countryside access information is now no longer limited to the three access authorities with organisations such as the National Trust, Natural England, Forestry Commission, Nurture Lakeland and United Utilities all promoting access and recreational activities.

#### Key strategic actions (see Part Two for more details on proposed actions)

The challenge for the future will be to try to find the right balance in meeting users and visitors needs for information in the most efficient, cost effective and inclusive way, which is complementary to rather than overlapping with the private sector.

1. We will provide clear, accessible and reliable information on countryside access and opportunities for recreation across Cumbria across all formats and social media.
2. Where information is provided on access and recreational activities it will include how to access them by bus, boat, train, cycle or on foot.

## **6.4 Priority Area 4: Outreach – improving opportunities to enjoy the countryside**

### **Background**

The countryside of Cumbria is a place that everyone should be able to enjoy. It is increasingly apparent, through research such as Defra's Diversity Review that certain sectors of the population do not access the countryside as much as others, for various social, economic and cultural reasons. These include people with limited mobility, those who live in inner city areas, particularly young children, and ethnic minorities. In Cumbria this also includes the local population of the west coast industrial belt.

It is widely recognised that everyone should have an equal opportunity to enjoy the benefits of countryside access and an outreach programme has a large part to play in the social inclusion agenda. Outreach differs from general information provision in that it is targeted at particular groups such as school children, ethnic minorities, students and limited mobility and disability organisations, rather than just to the individual as part of a recreational visit.

### **Where we are now**

Both National Parks have dedicated education and learning teams which lead on their outreach programmes and the LDNP has entered into a partnership with the John Muir Trust to deliver the John Muir Award, the Trust's environmental engagement and outdoor learning scheme. Cumbria County Council's Countryside Access Team has delivered outreach work in the past, notably with AWAZ, the umbrella organisation for black and minority ethnic (BME) communities in Cumbria (AWAZ means 'voice' in several European, Middle Eastern and Asian languages)

Examples of encouraging wider participation include:

- Assisting BME groups to visit the countryside, through the MOSAIC project in the National Parks and through AWAZ across wider Cumbria. MOSAIC was a national project, led by the Campaign for National Parks, which aimed to build sustainable links between BME communities and the National Parks and Youth Hostel Association. It ran from 2009 to 2012. The Cumbrian MOSAIC community champion is now a member of the Lake District Local Access Forum
- The Miles without Stiles and barrier reduction programme across the whole County has widened access for people with limited mobility
- Development of the Young Ranger Service within the Lake District National Park encourages 14 to 18 year olds to sample life as a National Park Ranger and learn about the special qualities of National Parks
- CCC and Disabled Ramblers event in Smardale

### **Key strategic actions** (see Part Two for more details on proposed actions)

To ensure that equality and diversity legislation is complied with, all organisations with an interest in access and recreation (through either land ownership, statutory purpose or by user group) should continue to provide and promote opportunities for all under-represented groups to access the Cumbrian countryside.

1. We will continue to provide and promote opportunities for all under-represented groups to access the Cumbrian countryside.

## **6.5 Priority Area 5: Access to open country**

### **Background**

Open Access commenced in May 2005, significantly increasing the available access land in wider Cumbria and within the YDNP. In the LDNP there was already general *de facto* access above the fell wall and it is estimated that the Lake District only gained a further 4% of land available to the public. However, there are still nearly 500 square miles of such land that people access, enjoy and have an impact upon.

### **Where we are now**

The three access authorities (CCC, YDNP, LDNP) invested significant internal and external resources to ensure the new access rights would be introduced as smoothly as possible. All authorities identified and undertook extensive works to improve entry and exit points to open access land and also the provision to the public of information, interpretation boards and advisory signs. The National Parks used internal budgets to undertake this work whilst CCC secured Access Management Grant Scheme funds from Natural England.

All three authorities undertook either visitor or land manager surveys between 2005 and 2011. The general results are the same; that open access has had limited impact on either visitor behaviour or land management. For example:

- Only 15% of visitors observed in the YDNP were off the rights of way network.
- 73% of people surveyed in the LDNP said their walk was entirely on rights of way.
- Natural England's analysis of LDNP data concluded that in nine out of ten sites surveyed, open access had not changed the pattern of use or had any implications for site management.
- CCC recorded no increase in visitor numbers on 13 open access sites.
- 80% of landowners in the LDNP with open access land said it had made no difference to their land management practices.

### **Key strategic actions** (see Part Two for more details on proposed actions)

All three authorities have stated that future management of open access land will focus on the statutory duty of maintaining the existing access asset, dealing with any applications for closure or restrictions, and working with Natural England on the statutory review of open access.

1. We will continue to manage the right of access to open country and registered commons as part of our statutory duties under the CROW Act 2000

## PART TWO

### 7. Strategic Action Plan

The Strategic Action Plan will help deliver the goal and strategic aims of the CCAS. There are a number of Key Strategic Actions for each of the five priority areas. A working example is given below.

<b>Cumbria Countryside Access and Recreation Strategic Action Plan 2014 – 2019</b>					
<b>Priority Area 1: Improving Rights of Way and Countryside access</b>					
<b>Key Strategic Action</b>	<b>Proposed actions</b>	<b>Lead Organisation/ Partners</b>	<b>Estimated annual budget</b>	<b>Completed by (where applicable)</b>	<b>End of year status and comments</b>
<b>1. We will identify and implement practical countryside access network improvements to provide a more effective resource for utility journeys and recreational activities.</b>	1a. Develop and implement an annual action plan of practical improvement projects across Cumbria, based on proposals in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)	LDNPA/ CCC/ YDNPA/ UU/ NT/ FC		Annual	
	1b. Implement an annual programme of barrier reduction such as replacing stiles with gates, improvements to bridges	LDNPA/ CCC/YDNPA		Annual	
	1c. Implement and promote new 'Miles without Stiles' routes	LDNPA/ CCC/ YDNPA/ UU/ NT/ FC		Annual	
<b>We know we are succeeding when:</b>	Annual prioritised action plan agreed by all partner organisations; Progress and delivery of individual projects monitored and reported on by CCAS Delivery Group				
<b>Key performance indicator</b>	1b. Minimum of 50 pieces of access furniture made less restrictive per year; 1c. Minimum of 1.5km of route made accessible for those with limited mobility per year				

The Key Strategic Actions for each priority area will not change over the five year lifespan of the Strategy. The 'Proposed Actions' column provides a greater level of detail on how each strategic action will be implemented but without listing every individual project. These will be more dynamic as time limited projects will come and go and other initiatives and priorities will undoubtedly evolve over the next five years.

The Strategic Action Plan has been compiled by organisations that have a lead role in facilitating and developing countryside access and rights of way projects in Cumbria and the Lake District. This CCAS Delivery Group will comprise of:

- Cumbria County Council
- Lake District NPA
- Yorkshire Dales NPA
- National Trust
- Forestry Commission
- United Utilities
- Cumbria Tourism
- Local Access Fora
- Natural England

These organisations could also contribute to an annual action plan which will list the individual projects that make up each proposed action. For example under proposed action 1c 'Implement and promote new Miles without Stiles routes', the Lake District NPA has identified Windermere to Orrest Head as a route and is working with South Lakeland District Council and Windermere Town Council to implement this. In this way other organisations with either a remit to promote and support access and recreation in the area, or as landowners, will be involved in the establishment of each annual actions plan. Organisations will include:

- Arnside and Silverdale AONB
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust
- North Pennines AONB
- RSPB
- Solway Coast AONB
- Larger private estates, for example Rydal, Muncaster, Lowther
- National Farmers Union
- User groups, for example the Ramblers', Cumbria Bridleways Society