

World Heritage Project

The LDNP World Heritage Project has aspirations that the “*The Lake District National Park will be an inspirational example of sustainable development*” and may achieve UNESCO Inscription World Heritage Site [WHS] status.

Pursuit of inclusion on the list is under ‘Cultural Landscapes’ as a World Heritage Site category, a category UNESCO introduced in 1993.

This new category, established in direct response to the Lake District’s previous nominations aims to:

“...reveal and sustain the great diversity of the interaction between humans and their environment, to protect living traditions and preserve traces of those which have disappeared”. (World Heritage Centre.)

The proposed development at Ratherheath will assist the WHS Project in a number of ways:

- The access junction arrangements would provide for the unambiguous distinguished boundary that is a requirement of the UNESCO judgement criteria: the ability to know that arrival has occurred.
- The presence of the traffic calming roundabout will de-urbanise the LDNP beyond by creating the mechanism for inducing rural road character including removing road clutter by de-signing: the A591 into Windermere is one of the harshest and most alien features in the LDNP
- The site could host an interpretative welcome facility to educate and inform visitors about the LDNP WHS.
- The site would be an exemplar of the interaction of humans and their environment to beneficial effect
- The transformational modal transfer facility and improved public transport offer will make the WHS accessible, particularly to the old, young and disadvantaged; who are all generally without the means of private transport
- The size and scale of the proposed Park & Ride would remove a number of cars from the LDNP equivalent to the current car parking capacity of Windermere and Ambleside: transforming the problems of seasonal congestion