

Windermere Gateway

Windermere Gateway is a series of projects around Windermere railway station to help secure the long-term vision for delivering a mix of new homes, jobs, sustainable transport connections and creating a real sense of arrival for residents and visitors alike. Windermere Gateway is being driven forward by partners including the Lakes District National Park and the National Trust, and the housing and infrastructure projects are moving forward with planning permission secured for highway improvements.

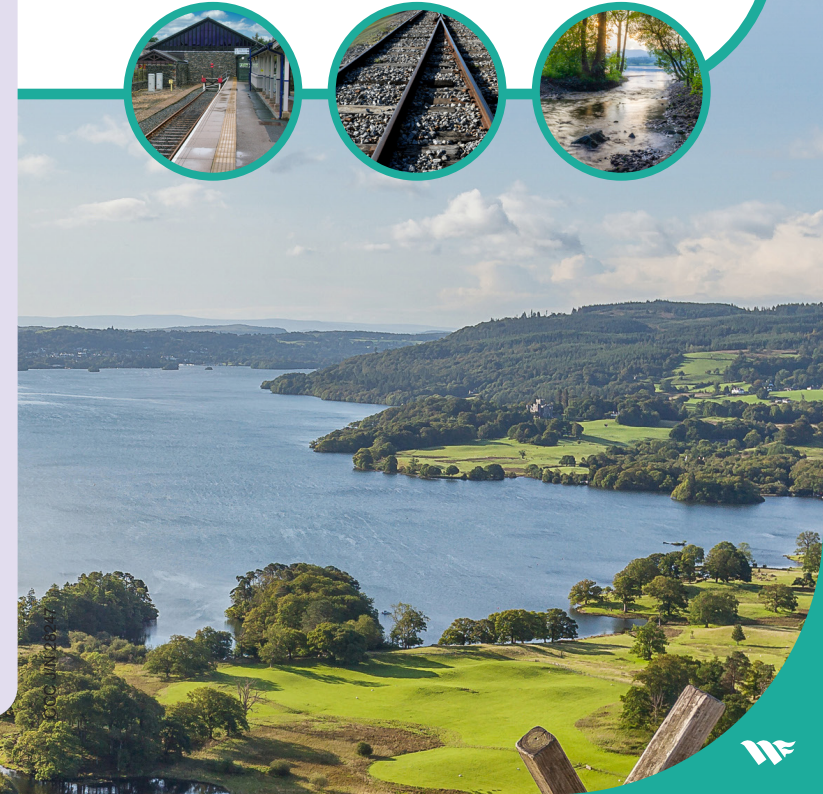
Within the Windermere Gateway area an integrated approach to transport, travel and movement infrastructure provision is proposed. The improvements will enhance Windermere station and its role as a sustainable transport interchange, as well as reinforcing the sense of place and character of the town whilst protecting the setting's heritage assets.



Options are being developed but the intervention should include improved station waiting facilities for both trains and buses; redevelopment of the station forecourt to improve bus, taxi and drop-off provision; and better and more direct walking and cycling links towards Windermere and Bowness-on-Windermere, as well as to new affordable housing at Orrest Head Farm.

Investment would bring the following benefits:

- Better integration between bus and rail, leading to increased mode shift to public transport;
- Increased walking, wheeling and cycling leading to a more active, healthier Windermere; and
- A reduction in congestion and greenhouse gas emissions in the Lake District.



The Heart of the Lakes corridor in the Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan covers the key transport links through the Lake District National Park World Heritage Site, the A590/A591 and the Lakes Line railway.

The visitor economy is essential to the prosperity of business and communities within this corridor. However, seasonal visitor demand places significant pressure on the transport network, and traffic congestion impacts on the environment of the Lake District. Providing good accessibility for the rural communities in this area is a challenge, and poor accessibility also negatively impacts on the ability of businesses to recruit and retain workers.

An integrated approach to transport is needed to support the visitor economy and the Lake District's status as a World Heritage Site. This approach includes improving sustainable transport options into and around the Lake District.

Westmorland and Furness Council is promoting two key complementary proposals to help achieve these aims: Capacity improvements to the Lakes Line, and Windermere Gateway, including interchange improvements to Windermere rail station. The two schemes will work together to bring benefits greater than the sum of their parts; improving sustainable travel for visitors to the Lake District, and improving accessibility and choice for local residents and businesses.

Lakes Line improvements

The Lakes Line is a single-track branch line between Oxenholme Lake District, on the West Coast Main Line (WCML), and Windermere. The line also serves stations in the town of Kendal and the villages of Burneside and Staveley.

The line is capacity constrained, and this limited service with irregular frequency is a major barrier to its success, its ability to support a growing visitor economy, provide accessibility to local communities accessing education, health, services and employment, and the decarbonisation of our transport networks. Improvements will enable the Lakes Line to act as a real alternative to private car travel within the Lake District.

The preferred option for improvements is a dynamic passing loop starting at Burneside station, which would allow different trains to pass each other on the line. This would be delivered in conjunction with a new platform, level crossing upgrades and line speed improvements. The business case shows that the scheme would enable two trains per hour and a regular 'clockface' timetable, and could achieve high value for money with the following benefits:

- Significant increase in passenger numbers, with associated increases in rail revenue;
- Reductions in congestion, collisions and greenhouse gas emissions;
- Additional jobs, GVA and investment in the visitor economy sector; and
- Better integration with future West Coast Main Line timetables.

