



Lake District  
National Park

# Windermere

Lake Warden and Lake Ranger Services 2020-2021

## Annual Report



## Contents

	page
1. Introduction	2
2. The lake wardens and the lake ranger teams	2
2.1 The lake wardens	3
2.2 The lake rangers	3
3. A prosperous economy	4
3.1 Lake usage	4
3.2 Boat registrations	4
3.3 Moorings	5
3.4 Slipway	5
3.5 Winter storage	6
3.6 Tender storage	6
3.7 Jetty storage	6
4. World class visitor experiences	6
4.1 Promotion of services	6
4.2 Water safety and byelaw promotion	6
4.3 Training and courses	7
4.4 Events on Windermere	7
5. Vibrant communities	8
5.1 Windermere byelaw exemption applications	8
5.2 Byelaw incidents	8
5.3 Incidents on the lake	9
6. Spectacular landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage	10
6.1 Water quality and bathing waters	10

## 1. Introduction

Welcome to the annual report of the Windermere Lake Warden and Lake Ranger Services. This report covers our activities from 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021, which were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is intended to inform partners, stakeholders and those with responsibility for managing the lake. It also provides an insight into who has used the lake during the period this report covers.

Information provided in this report reflect the strategies identified in the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) partnership plan for 2015 to 2020 which is described in four sections;

- **A prosperous economy**
- **World class visitor experiences**
- **Vibrant communities**
- **Spectacular landscapes, wildlife and cultural heritage**

## 2. The lake wardens and the lake ranger teams

The wardens and rangers have continued to work together successfully from the joint base at Ferry Nab, which has shared office space. The Lake Warden Team continued to work through the pandemic supporting all partners including Cumbria police and the LDNPA. Throughout the lockdown in March the operation continued as you would expect, managing moorings the Ferry Nab site etc, carrying out patrols and managing customers and user's expectations throughout this difficult period. Most importantly we continued to support our communities.

The Lake Ranger Team was furloughed for two months but were supported by volunteers during the busy summer months when restrictions were eased.

Each team has their own boats but are trained to use each other's. First aid kits and defibrillators' are shared between the teams along with information to mutually support operational delivery.



## 2.1 The lake wardens

South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) provide a lake warden service on the lake which includes; a patrol and rescue service, manage lake moorings and public jetties, provide boat winter storage and other customer and boat services at the Ferry Nab office. All wardens are trained in first aid and provide Royal Yachting Association powerboat training for other agencies. Water safety training is also provided for schools and other organisations. Unfortunately we were unable to carry out training and school visits for this year. This year has been similar to last year however we are now seeing increased activity as the restrictions lift.

The wardens also inspect and maintain eight public jetties around the lake. Rock marker and navigation buoys on the lake are also checked weekly whilst other navigation aids are provided and maintained by the warden service. Additionally, an important role is to monitor lake encroachment and dredging applications and provide support to council's legal and property services.

Throughout the second lockdown and lifting of restrictions, the wardens continued to operate and implementing the current COVID-19 regulations. Signs have been installed on site reminding users of their responsibilities in regards to social distancing and other related information, sanitisation stations are located throughout the site. We are still implementing a two hour jetty wait and as restrictions lift we will review our position on the public jetties. There has been limited reception activity and we are still advising users to our online systems for registrations and renewals etc.



## 2.2 The lake rangers

The Lake Ranger Team recruited a new lake ranger in early 2022 to fill a vacancy from the previous year. Through a successful bid external funding bid were able to recruit two casual lake rangers. These staff helped the bolster the Lake Ranger Team for a very busy 2021 season on the navigable lakes in the Lake District with many visitors coming to the Lake District due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and uncertainty.

Like in 2020 for 2021 we were also unable to make use of our volunteer lake ranger support due to working within the COVID-19 restrictions and making sure we operated within our safe working procedures.

The Lake Ranger Team did their best in a challenging season to educate lake users. Many visitors we first time visitors and new to the lake. The teams focus is to educate lake users and the promote safety so everyone can enjoy themselves on the water safely. For repeat offenders or in exceptional circumstances we do have to enforce the lake byelaws.

## 3. A prosperous economy

The Lake District's economy is centred on the community it serves and the spectacular landscapes which have been preserved by land managers. It is also supported by a strong visitor economy attracted by the environment and lifestyle it offers. Lake Windermere forms one of these assets and the economic output from the activities in and around the lake contribute to both the local and visitor economies. During this reporting period the impact of national lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic affected use of the lake, shown in the new boat registration and slipway figures.

### 3.1 Lake usage

Lake usage has been measured using the following sources of data:

- Boat registrations
- Moorings
- Slipway
- Winter storage
- Tender storage

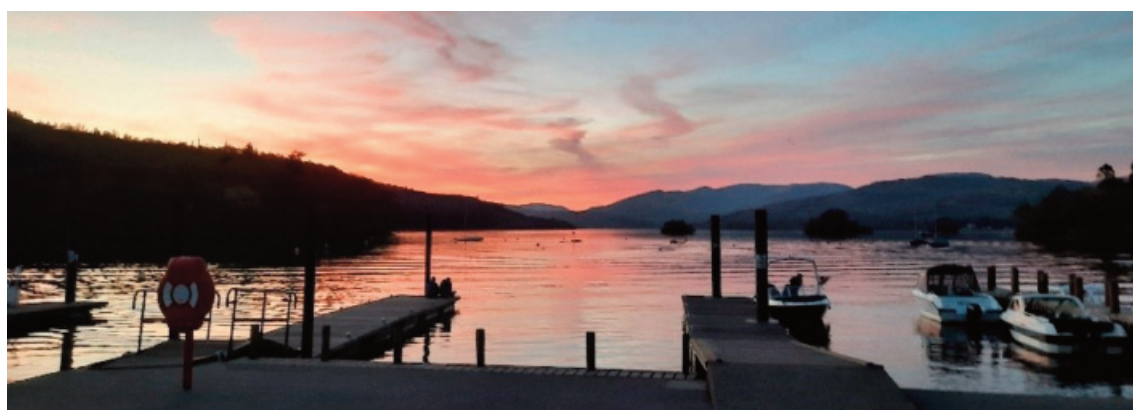
### 3.2 Boat registrations

All power driven vessels used on the Lake Windermere must be registered with the Lake District National Park (LDNPA).

The table below shows the total number of registered power driven boats over the past five years. This shows an increase in overall boat registrations for 2021 compared to the previous four years.

**Boat registrations table**

Power driven boat registrations	Oct 2020 - Sept 2021	Oct 2019 - Sept 2020	Oct 2018 - Sept 2019	Oct 2017 - Sept 2018	Oct 2016 - Sept 2017
New registrations	1,119	702	641	735	772
Renewals	2,961	2,694	2,851	2,852	2,805
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,080</b>	<b>3,396</b>	<b>3,492</b>	<b>3,578</b>	<b>3,577</b>



## 3.3 Moorings

There are now a total of 764 mooring sites on the lake for which SLDC have planning consent and are available to lease. The number of sites has reduced over time due to access difficulties from the lake shore. There is a plan in development to use some of these mooring sites as temporary stopping points for boats, thereby increasing income on unused mooring areas.

Currently there are 703 leased during the reporting year to date; a 7.8% Increase on last year.

### Breakdown of the mooring usage by fee type since October 2016

Fee type	Description	Oct 2020 - Sept 2021	Oct 2019 - Sept 2020	Oct 2018 - Sept 2019	Oct 2017 - Sept 2018	Oct 2016 - Sept 2017
A	Open deck yacht	28	19	32	34	34
B	Retained moorings - no boat attached	57	76	50	52	49
C	Craft - up to 11m	572	508	543	562	581
D	Commercial mooring	6	7	6	6	6
E	No fee - unused	38	40	42	46	46
S	Service moorings	2	2	2	2	2
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>718</b>

## 3.4 Slipway

In total there were 1,002 powered crafts launched on the public slipway this year; a 4.4% increase on last year. The impact of the pandemic restrictions can be reflected in the monthly totals for these figures. They do not include use of the slipway by permanent mooring and berth holders as they receive free use of the slipway. Non-powered vessels such as canoes and dinghies also receive free use of the slipway and are not included in the figures as there is no accountable transaction.

### Slipway usage

Slipway usage	Craft numbers
1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021	1,002
1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020	959
1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019	862
1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018	950
1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017	815

## 3.5 Winter storage

There is capacity for 155 boats from 5m to 11.5m to be stored at Ferry Nab over winter. During the winter of 2020/21, 153 boats were stored in three locations; main car park, overspill car park and Braithwaite fold overspill. Boats are stored from mid-October until the end of March.

## 3.6 Tender storage

Currently there are 196 tenders being stored at Ferry Nab; 154 in the dinghy racks, 37 in the trailer park and five on jetty berths. There is one customer on the waiting list for the dinghy racks, with a number of customers on the waiting list for the dingy park. The plans to extend the dinghy racks are still in development.

## 3.7 Jetty storage

There are 26 jetty berths at Ferry Nab marina, with 10 suitable for vessels up to 14 metres in length overall. The rest are suitable for vessels up to 13 metres in length. At the end of this reporting period three jetty berths were vacant and available to lease.

## 4. World class visitor experiences

**A world class visitor experience provides high quality and unique experiences for visitors within a stunning and globally significant World Heritage Site. We also strive to extend the international appeal and quality of Lake Windermere as a visitor destination by supporting a range of events at Ferry Nab and around the lake. We also aim to provide education and training to local and regional organisations. The warden and ranger services also strive to provide support to other agencies and build on strong partnerships.**

### 4.1 Promotion of services

The customer information screen has been a useful source of public information since installation in the reception area of Ferry Nab's offices. Updated information from SLDC and LDNPA regarding lake services and safety are included, along with information on invasive species from the Environment Agency. Safety information is also available on the Lake District National Park website and in free leaflets and posters at Ferry Nab. There are four water safety videos online which promote carbon detectors, kill cords, life jackets and swimming visibility devices. Both services use social media to promote safety and business messages to customers.

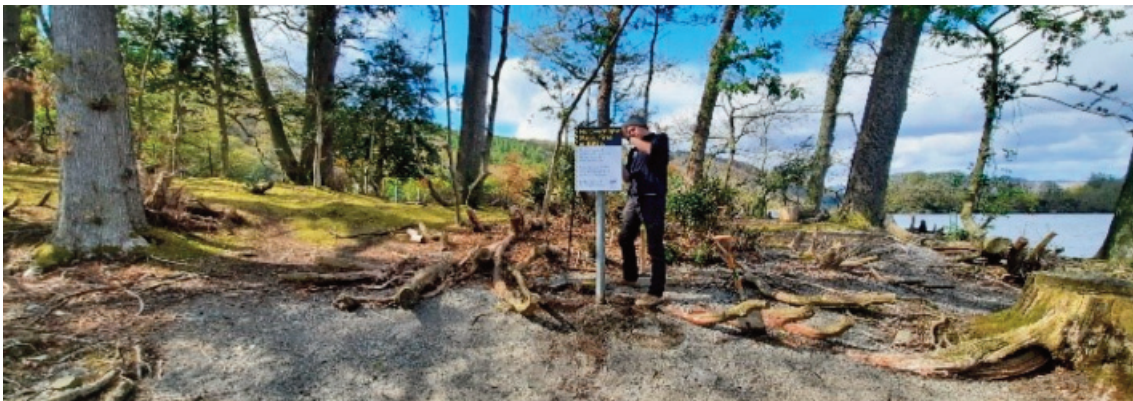
### 4.2 Water safety and byelaw promotion

The Lake District National Park website continues to promote water safety videos which includes carbon monoxide detectors, kill cords, life jackets and swimming visibility devices. Through the season we have made the best use of our social media channels to promote these safety messages to customers.

The Windermere Lake User guide is available again during the 2021 season both electronically on the LDNPA website and in printed format. These guides show where users can access the lake and promote important safety messages. Windermere Lake Byelaw booklets are available for lake users at Ferry Nab and on the LDNPA website. These were also posted out to all registered powered vessel owners through the registration process.



Due to the increase in open water swimming we have installed some swim safety and boat safety posters at key locations around Windermere. To ensure swimmers are more aware of the risks and for boaters to encourage them to keep a look out for swimmers in the water.



We also due to need installed signage on some of the islands to educate lake users on what they should not be doing whilst enjoying the area.

The team also supported several multi-agency patrols by working closely with the safer Lakes team to assist with these land patrols from the water. Tackling anti-social behaviours in a co-ordinated and targeted approach.

### 4.3 Training and courses

Ferry Nab continues to hold the status as a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) training centre, providing certified courses to official bodies and other authorities. During the 2020 to 2021 season the lake wardens and lake rangers could not deliver courses due to the pandemic.

### 4.4 Events on Windermere

Lake Windermere hosts a wide range of events with a variety of national and local organisations.

The Great North Swim returned to Windermere on the 11th June and it was great to welcome back such a high profile event



## 5. Vibrant communities

**Vibrant communities are people successfully living, working and relaxing within upland, valley and lakeside places where distinctive local character is maintained and celebrated.**

**Both services work closely with the lake community to ensure that the lake is as safe and as welcoming as possible for all users. This includes:**

- **Administration of Windermere Byelaw exemptions**
- **Educational activities on water safety**
- **Lake Ranger and Lake Wardens active presence on the lake.**
- **Providing support, advice and guidance for outdoor recreational events.**

### 5.1 Windermere byelaw exemption applications

Within the 2008 Windermere Navigation byelaws, byelaw 12 allows individuals and organisations to apply to the LDNPA for exemptions from the speed limits and other byelaws.

A request was received from the Windermere Motor Boat Racing Club for the four race events that had to be cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions to be postponed to 2023. Following a consultation process this postponement was agreed to. The clubs four race events planned for 2021 all went ahead with no issues.

In 2021 the Lake Flying Company applied for a lake byelaw exemption to allow take off and landings on the surface of Windermere by a replica of the hydro-aeroplane 'Waterbird' at speeds in excess of the Windermere byelaws. This event is called Wings over Windermere and the event was to celebrate and promote Windermere's major historical and cultural contribution to early aviation, as being the birthplace of British naval and civil marine aeroplanes. This event was approved with various conditions but unfortunately the plane did not successfully complete the trials on Windermere and the actual event was cancelled.

### 5.2 Byelaw incidents

The lake rangers had a very busy season promoting safe enjoyment of the lake. Whilst on patrol, lake rangers have interacted with over nine hundred lake users, either giving out advice or enforcing the byelaws.

The lake rangers have given out over 300 warnings for navigation offences and over 400 warnings for registration offences throughout 2021. Of these interactions 53 are being reported to court this year.

Booze and boating clearly do not mix and put all lake users at risk. During the 2021 season three masters of vessels have been reported for court in relation to being unfit to navigate through drink or drugs. Two of these cases have now been determined under the Single Justice Process by Magistrates with both defendants being found guilty. The prescribed limit for alcohol for the purposes of the Merchant Shipping (Alcohol) (Prescribed Limits Amendment) Regulations 2015 applicable to professional and recreational boaters on Windermere is 25 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath.

These two cases demonstrate that the LDNPA will take robust action against those who choose to ignore common sense and consume alcohol whilst in charge of their vessel on the lake.

We continue to encourage lake users to report inappropriate behaviour and byelaw breaches to the Lake Ranger Team through the duty lake ranger phone – 07768 320 241 or email the team through [LakeRangerTeam@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:LakeRangerTeam@lakedistrict.gov.uk)

We have provided details on how to report byelaw infringements on our website which is promoted and made available to the public with a byelaw infringement report template available to download.

**<https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/visiting/things-to-do/water/lake-byelaw-enforcement>**

### 5.3 Incidents on the lake

The wardens have attended 143 incidents during the reporting period, supported by the lake rangers in some cases. What is classed as an incident on the lake covers a very diverse range of occurrences, from rescue situations to a boater who has run out of fuel. Most common incidents are observed during routine boat patrols where remedial action is taken; the relevant person or organisation is notified of any action taken or issues which need attention.

#### Incident Analysis for October 2020 – September 2021

Incident category	Sports boats	Yachts	Motor cruisers	Jet skis	Canoes/ row boat	Misc
Fatality (lake based)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personal injury / illness	1	2	2	0	0	1
Persons fallen overboard	0	0	1	0	1	0
Persons capsized	0	5	0	0	1	0
Persons jumped in / swimming	0	0	1	0	1	2
Boat sinking / sunk	1	5	1	0	0	0
Collisions	0	2	1	0	0	0
Adrift / ashore	13	38	12	0	4	0
Damage to boat / property	0	3	0	0	0	0
Problem with mooring or stops	0	4	3	0	0	0
Broken down - not adrift	12	3	3	0	1	0
Complaints:						
A) behaviour complaints	2	0	1	0	0	3
B) crime/theft complaints	0	8	2	0	0	0
C) other complaints	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fire	0	0	2	0	0	1
Missing persons	0	2	1	0	0	0
Other hazards	0	0	0	0	0	4
<b>Totals - 204 incidents</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>

## 6. Spectacular landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage

Lake Windermere sits within a unique landscape which is universally valued. It is located within an internationally recognised National Park and World Heritage Site in which natural and cultural resources are assets to be managed and used wisely for future generations.

The wardens and rangers aim to assist with improving the natural environment in and around the lake to ensure a healthy, diverse and high quality biodiversity on land and on water. Water quality and habitat management schemes are in operation throughout different points of the year.

### 6.1 Water quality and bathing waters

Due to the pandemic and the associated lockdowns prevented bathing water sample to be taken. Following the lifting of restrictions a limited programme of sampling resumed. In consultation with The Environment Agency the Minister took the decision not to produce a classification for 2020. As bathing water classifications requires and uses up to a 4 year rolling dataset the 2020 data gap needs to be taken into consideration for future classifications until 2023. Taking that all consideration the 2020 classification is excellent for all of our bathing sites. (Please see appendix 2 for full details).

#### Windermere bathing waters table 2020-2021

Area	Year	Classification	Year	Classification
Windermere, Lakeside YMCA	2020	Excellent	2020	Excellent
Windermere, Millerground Landing	2020	Excellent	2020	Excellent
Windermere, Rayrigg Meadow	2020	Excellent	2020	Excellent
Windermere, Fellfoot	2020	Excellent	2020	Excellent

