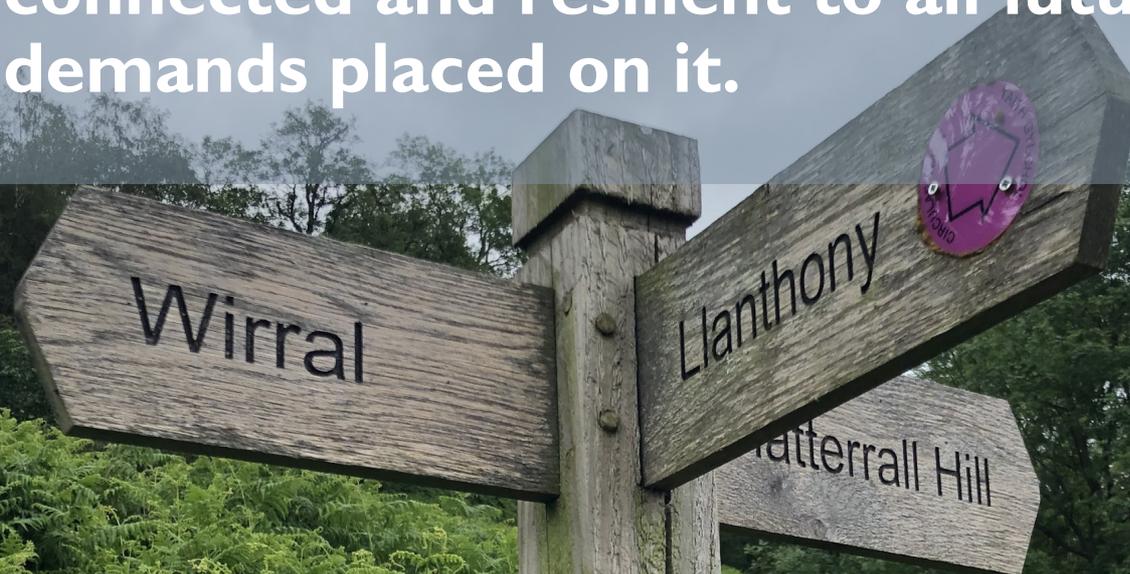


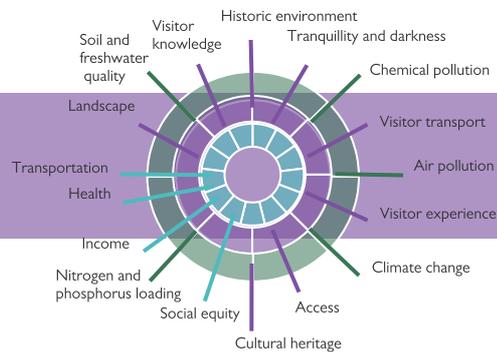
We will ensure that the rights of way network and access land is more accessible to more users, well connected and resilient to all future demands placed on it.



Our rights of way network is the arterial lines of footpaths, bridleways and by-ways that criss-cross the Park area. This along with open access land allows people to immerse themselves in our special qualities on foot, cycle, horse, mobility scooter and horse and carriage for outdoor recreation with multiple health and wellbeing benefits.

This policy relates to our statutory responsibility to manage, develop, integrate and promote the rights of way network and other land the public has access to within the National Park.

RIGHTS OF WAY



Why this is important

The rights of way network is vital to our function to provide opportunities for enjoyment of the National Park. Maintaining a well-connected and accessible network is one of the levers at our disposal in opening up the Park to all potential users and breaking down barriers to engagement.

Experiences available within the National Park can reduce the negative impacts of poverty, improve opportunities for social inclusion and improve the health and wellbeing of the population. Improving the quality of the rights of way network and the way we share information about it, is vital to enabling all potential users to access these benefits.

An accessible well-maintained network of footpaths, bridleways and by-ways creates greater opportunities for users to utilise walking, cycling, horse mobility scooter, and horse and carriage as alternative modes of transport to private motor vehicles.

How the policy will be implemented

The Authority has a long history of working in partnership to address issues of access and rights of Way. This will continue during this plan period, working with the Local Access Forum we will focus on the following:

Reducing barriers to access along our rights of way network through the removal of obstacles, such as stiles.

Addressing erosion associated with human access through rights of way improvement work.

Creating safe off-road routes capable of accommodating multiple users where compatible with the special qualities of the National Park (see also Active Travel Policy).

What success looks like

All potential users of the rights of way network and access land are enabled to appreciate and enjoy the special qualities of the National Park in a sustainable way, and thereby benefit their health and well-being.

Key settlements are connected by more accessible rights of way which could support multiple users.

How we will measure progress

We will monitor the rights of way network with the aim of increasing its accessibility year-on-year.

We will monitor the total length of rights of way that have been improved with the aim of increasing the figure year-on-year.

We will monitor progress on the development of more accessible rights of way to connect settlements (see also Active Travel Policy).