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From waterfalls to Wainwright – there’s a new way to explore Ullswater

Communities and businesses around the Lake District’s Ullswater Valley are celebrating the launch of a brand new walking route – the Ullswater Way - around what many believe to be England’s most beautiful lake. The new, 20-mile walking route connects the spectacular scenery along the shores of Ullswater and surrounding mountains, with the picturesque villages and attractions, meaning visitors can enjoy even more of this special corner of the Lake District.

Following the floods in December, people in the Ullswater area of the Lake District have been working hard to get reconnected and let people know how they are ‘open for business’. This has been particularly important in areas like Glenridding and Pooley Bridge where the flood damage made headline news across the country.

The creation of a promoted circular route around Ullswater has long been an ambition of the community, so the opportunity was seized and a partnership project was put into action between the community and Lake District National Park, the National Trust, the Ullswater Association, Eden District Council, Ullswater Steamers, and See More Cumbria with additional funding from the Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust.

Suzy Hankin, Area Ranger for the Lake District National Park, said: “The Ullswater Way is a fantastic example of local people working in partnership on a project that will hopefully give the local economy a much needed boost. Ullswater remains one of the most popular corners of the Lake District, yet people tend to explore it in pockets rather than connecting their journey. The community around Ullswater wanted to encourage visitors to enjoy the valley’s iconic scenery on foot, but to also utilise links to the public transport network, and hopefully give people a reason to stay for longer.

“Although there were already existing walking routes in the area, there wasn’t a fully connected route around the lake. So we have been working with local people, businesses and landowners to improve access, including a new 2.5km public right of way, and the installation of new waymarkers, fingerposts and gates to make it easier for people to navigate the route on the ground.”

The route around Ullswater crosses sections of open fell and farm land, offering visitors stunning views of the lake and fells, as well as the path Wainwright described as ‘the most beautiful and rewarding walk in Lakeland’. The Ullswater Way also includes a new section of footpath near Maiden Castle, once the site of an Iron Age Hill fort it now offers spectacular views of the Ullswater Valley, as well as views to the Pennines to the East and Blencathra to the west.

Jim Walker, from Ullswater Steamers, and Chair of the Working Group said: "Ullswater is famous for its stunning views of the lake and the surrounding mountains – from kayaking to climbing Helvellyn and from the spectacular waterfalls at Aira Force to simply enjoying the local hospitality. The Ullswater Way now means long distance walkers can now walk round the full 20 mile route, and those who want to explore at a more leisurely pace can break up the journey by including a trip on the historic Ullswater Steamers or open top bus."

The Ullswater Association has also created an Ullswater Way leaflet with a map, which shows the length and level of the walks, and a video will be available on the LDNP website and www.Ullswater.com which also has lots of local information to help you make the most of your trip to this special corner of the Lake District. There is even a special 'Friends of the Ullswater Way' group committed to developing bespoke interpretation along the route.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Photo shows: launch of the Ullswater Way, Eric Robson...

For further details please contact Sarah Calderbank, PR and Social Content Editor for the Lake District National Park Authority on 01539 724555.

More information can be found at www.ullswater.com – the website of the Ullswater Association.

More information on See More Cumbria:

See More Cumbria and the Lake District is a programme of work being delivered by Cumbria County Council, The Lake District National Park Authority and Cumbria Tourism which will maximise the economic benefit of travel in the county by focussing on the quality of visitor travel to Cumbria's international destinations, particularly the Lake District.

In July 2014, £1 million of revenue funding was secured for 2015/16 from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) through a partnership bid between the County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority.

For more information on sustainable travel options in Cumbria and the Lake District visit www.seemorecumbria.co.uk

There are five project strands within the See More Cumbria and the Lake District programme covering a wide range of activity, including enhanced visitor transport services, cycle route development, better information about travel options, comprehensive marketing and corridor travel planning activity. For travel information visit www.seemorecumbria.co.uk

Helping international visitors to use buses, trains and water transport, as well as walking, cycling and hiring low emissions vehicles will reduce the impact of their travel on the local environment and community, while making their trip to the area more enjoyable and relaxing.



Logos still needed:
Ullswater Steamers
UA
NT