

SECTION 4 | AN OVERVIEW OF THE WINDERMERE CATCHMENT

The Windermere catchment is
24,350
hectares

(or over 34,000 football pitches)

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Windermere catchment comprises several connected water bodies including Grasmere, Rydal Water, Elterwater and Esthwaite Water – all of which benefit from ORiW.

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Windermere is one of the **best studied** lakes in the world with records dating back to the **1920s**, with organisations continuing to monitor the lake today.

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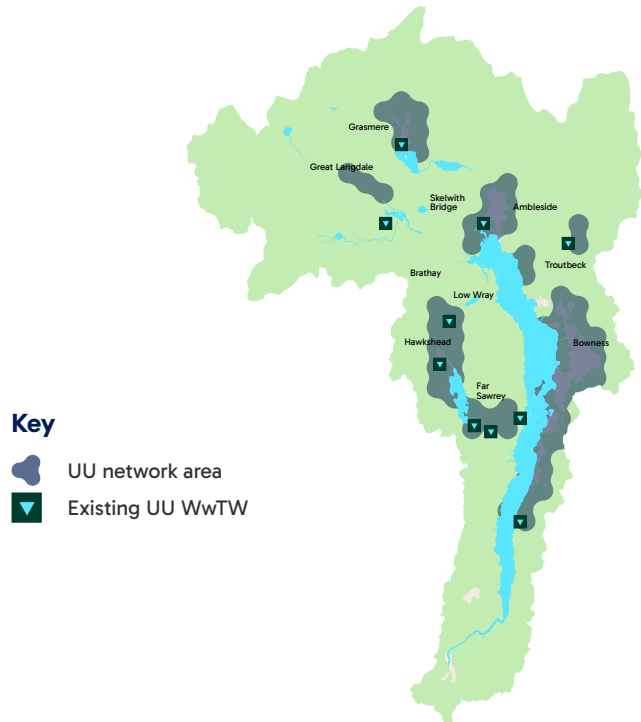


Alongside animal species, the Lake District National Park is **home to over 1,300 plant species**, helping to support rare insects.

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Existing infrastructure in Windermere

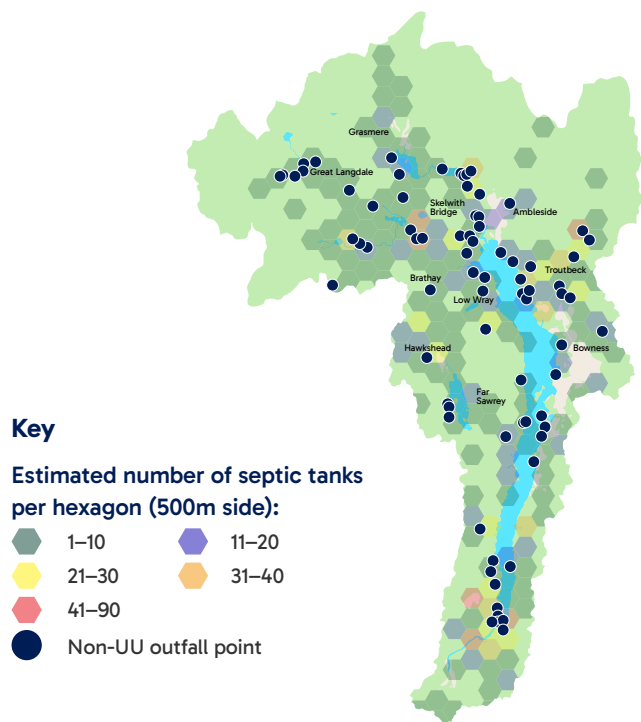
United Utilities (UU) wastewater network



Key

- UU network area
- Existing UU WwTW

Privately owned wastewater assets



Key

Estimated number of septic tanks per hexagon (500m side):

- 1–10
- 11–20
- 21–30
- 31–40
- 41–90
- Non-UU outfall point

How the coalition is supporting the catchment now



Environment Agency

The Environment Agency helps people, nature and businesses prosper together by protecting the environment and supporting sustainable growth. As an environmental regulator, it ensures water companies and others meet their commitments and comply with the law. As an asset manager, it builds and maintains flood defences and nature-based solutions that strengthen climate resilience, protecting homes and habitats.



Love Windermere

The Love Windermere partnership is working to bring about a healthier future for the lake and the surrounding area, balancing the needs of nature, the community and the local economy. Its science-led, collaborative action plan brings together businesses, communities and regulators in the delivery of practical, catchment-wide initiatives to improve Windermere's water quality by focusing on sewage, land management, public engagement and advocacy.



United Utilities

United Utilities serves 8 million customers across the North West, including the Windermere catchment, where it operates public water and wastewater infrastructure. Over the next five years, it is investing £13.5 billion to improve services for communities and the environment, ensuring that it supports growth and resilience in all five North West counties. It has supported and funded the ORiW study to champion a new future for the lake.



Lake District
National Park

Lake District National Park

The Lake District National Park Authority is the planning authority for Windermere and the Lake District. Through the National Park Partnership and Management Plan, it works with landowners, farmers, communities and partners to improve water quality through habitat restoration, nature-based solutions and sustainable land management, helping secure clean, plentiful water for people and nature.



Save Windermere

Save Windermere is an independent, evidence-led organisation that has helped drive greater investment and transparency, stronger regulatory oversight, reviews of discharge permits and scrutiny of wastewater treatment assets. It also undertakes practical work to help private properties connect to the public sewer network. Its work has made sewage pollution and its impact on Windermere's water quality a priority issue locally and nationally, centred on its call to end sewage pollution in the lake.



Westmorland and Furness Council

Westmorland and Furness Council acts as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) responsible for managing local flood risks, including surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. Through this role, Westmorland and Furness manage the Cumbria Innovative Flood Resilience project, slowing the flow around Grasmere, funded through the Environment Agency's Flood and Coastal Innovation Programme.