

# Our investment for Windermere



# Our action plans for Windermere

In November residents were invited to find out more about our multi-million pound investment at four sites around the lake: Hawkshead, Near Sawrey, Elterwater and Ambleside. It was great to meet lots of you and share our proposals.



## Here's a quick recap

At Ambleside, Elterwater and Hawkshead we're planning to build storage tanks which together will be large enough to hold around 11 million litres of storm water – the equivalent of more than four Olympic-sized swimming pools.

While at Near Sawrey and Elterwater we're developing a surface water separation scheme. This will see rainwater diverted away from the sewer network to create a Sustainable Drainage Solution (SuDS) feature in a landscaped area where it will be able to soak away into the ground naturally, freeing up capacity in the sewer network and at the local wastewater treatment plant.

This is just the start of our future plans for the area. We have seen nutrient reductions in the lake, but climate change is making us all work harder to see the benefits of our investment.



[Click here to see our full proposals](#)

You can also pick up a copy from the United Utilities Information Centre: 8 Crescent Road, LA23 1EA

# What happens next?

We'll be continuing to progress our proposals before submitting for planning approval in summer 2024. In the meantime you may see an increase in the number of people in the area local to our works. Our teams will be carrying out ground investigations and environmental surveys to help develop our solutions. We'll do all we can to minimise any disruption and this work will not affect your water and wastewater services. Look out for your invite to more events where we'll be sharing detailed next steps.



## We can come to you

If you would like us to come and talk to your community or interest group about our plans or how we provide water and manage wastewater, please email [Windermere@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:Windermere@uuplc.co.uk) and we'll be in touch.

## Join a treatment works tour

There's still time to book a treatment works tour around Windermere. For more information visit: <https://uuhub.co.uk/windermertours/>

# Lake Annecy solution – what is this?

A number of people who attended the sessions asked about the Lake Annecy solution – which relates to calls for a sewage-free Windermere, based on an approach taken in the 1960's and 70's around Lake Annecy in France and other examples, such as Washington Lake in the United States.

In our engagement with local campaigners and community stakeholders, we have been interested to hear more about these examples and to help us all understand more about it, we have undertaken a review of the system at Annecy. This has helped us develop a high level engineering design, replicating this approach for Windermere. This has now been presented for review to a number of stakeholders.

Undertaking something on a par with that of Lake Annecy would see an end to every single discharge going into Windermere whether that be from United Utilities operations, the private wastewater treatment plants along the shoreline and the 1,800 individual septic tanks.

To enable that, it would need:

- A 67km new pipeline around the perimeter of the lake
- A 1.1km tunnel under and across the bed of the lake
- A new wastewater treatment works built at Grange over Sands
- A timescale of between 10 to 15 years to construct and complete
- Support from across the local community for it, from a wide variety of bodies within Cumbria and at a Government and regulatory level

# Lake Annecy solution – what is this?

We're keen to continue these discussions with interested parties so we can work with others to develop this further, if this solution is something that the community and its stakeholders would want to see.

In the meantime, we will continue with our existing plans to improve our own impact on the lake - reducing storm water spills into Windermere and making an early start on the £41m programme that will see improvement work at Elterwater, Hawkshead, Near Sawrey and Ambleside.



## Hi-tech sensors to track water quality in Esthwaite

Hi-tech sensors will track water quality in real-time thanks to a new partnership. We've teamed up with landowner the Graythwaite Estate, to host the sensors along the shore of Esthwaite Water and Cunsey Beck, which flow into Windermere.

The new monitors, installed by [RS Hydro](#), will be able to measure the water for a number of different factors, all at the same time. These include organic material, ammonia, nutrients, water temperature and levels of oxygen which give a good indication of the health of a lake or river at a given time.

This is just the latest research project aimed at advancing the collective understanding of water quality conditions in and around Windermere.



## Love Windermere The Podcast

Love Windermere has launched a new podcast series where listeners can hear directly from those working to make a difference to Windermere. The chair of Love Windermere Andy Brown is the first guest in a conversation recorded in Bowness. Future episodes will include all partners involved with the Love Windermere initiative along with others who live, work and play around the lake.

Available wherever you listen to your podcasts.



[Click here to find out more](#)



