



Lakeland Legacy

Environmental Impact Statement – Version 3 (August 2025)

1. Introduction

Lakeland Legacy is a small, independent service offering respectful ash scattering ceremonies by kayak on the lakes, rivers, and coastal waters of Cumbria. We also provide consultancy to help families identify and access meaningful land-based locations.

This statement sets out the measures we take to safeguard the environment, explains our engagement with stakeholders, and reaffirms our commitment to good-faith, proportionate, and environmentally responsible practice.

2. Nature of Activity

- Solo, kayak-based ceremonies.
 - Typically unaccompanied, discreet, and brief.
 - Conducted on deep, open water or suitable river settings.
 - Low volume: 5–20 ceremonies per year, never at the same location twice.
 - Ashes only: no flowers, petals, mementoes, or biodegradable tributes are introduced.
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3. Environmental Safeguards

Water Protection

- No ceremonies within 1 km of springs or abstraction points.
- Reservoirs (e.g. Thirlmere, Haweswater, Buttermere, Ennerdale) are excluded entirely.

Wildlife & Habitats

- No use of shallow reedbeds, spawning zones, or breeding areas.
- Sites within SSSI or SAC designations (e.g. Wastwater, Ullswater, Derwentwater) are excluded unless express landowner-initiated permission is granted.

Biosecurity

- “Check, Clean, Dry” protocols followed when operating across multiple lakes.
- All equipment and clothing decontaminated to prevent spread of invasive species (e.g. crayfish plague, *Crassula helmsii*).

Public Amenity

- Ceremonies are conducted away from swimming areas, boat routes, and busy shoreline spots.
 - Service is deliberately low-visibility, solo, and non-intrusive.
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4. Consultancy Service Safeguards

For land-based requests, we:

- Research environmental designations before advising on suitability.
 - Seek landowner consent where required.
 - Liaise with relevant bodies (Natural England, Local Authorities, Wildlife Trusts) where appropriate.
 - Apply the same principles of small scale, ash-only, no trace.
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5. Stakeholder Engagement

- Phase 1 (Jan 2025): Draft policy shared with Environment Agency, LDNPA, Friends of the Lake District, National Trust, Crown Estate, Cumbria Wildlife Trust.
 - Phase 2 (June 2025): Follow-up engagement with Natural England, United Utilities, Environmental Health teams at Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness Councils, lakebed owners.
 - Feedback received has directly shaped exclusions (e.g. reservoirs, sensitive SSSIs) and strengthened our safeguards.
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6. Monitoring & Record-Keeping

- Secure digital log of every ceremony (date, waterbody, What3Words location).
 - Locations varied to avoid cumulative impacts.
 - Annual review of stakeholder feedback.
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7. Philosophy & Commitment

Our model — low volume, ash-only, respectful, and carefully researched — is a safer alternative to unregulated public scattering.

With academic grounding in Geography, professional experience in legal and government engagement, and a personal track record of land stewardship (tree planting, wetland restoration), Lakeland Legacy is committed to setting a high standard in this emerging area.

We believe every scattering should honour both the person remembered and the landscape they loved.

 info@lakelandlegacy.com

 07716 655684

 www.lakelandlegacy.com