

**Paul:**

I'm back on the road and heading north to one of the jewels in the British landscape, the Lake District.

The largest national park in England, the lakes covers an area of over 2,000 square kilometres and has a population of 40,000 residents, but that is immensely inflated by tourists with almost 20 million visiting in 2019.

So it's a place of vast importance, both culturally and economically. But even this rural haven, isn't free from the threat of river pollution.

**News broadcast 1:**

Prolonged high temperatures have resulted in harmful algae bloom spreading across England's largest lake.

**News broadcast 2:**

Earlier this month, parts of Windermere turned green. Algal blooms can occur naturally but they're made worse by sewage, runoff from farmland and septic tanks.

**Paul:**

The pressure from sewage as well as agriculture and tourism is having a major impact on the very thing that draws people to the area: Lake Windermere. And campaigners like Matt Staniek are worried for the lake's future.

**Matt:**

So, this is the north basin. See where all those islands are... just past that, the lake splits into essentially two millponds. From that end to that end, this summer, this entire area was blue-green algae.

You could see it from space - there's satellite imagery to show the extent of this bloom and it peaked on the thirteenth of August.

And you know this is an oligotrophic lake in its natural state, which means extremely low in nutrients.

And in an oligotrophic lake, you will not see cyanobacterial blooms.

And the reason that now Windermere's eutrophic, which is extremely high in nutrients, is the human impact that we're seeing and this is just getting worse and worse as more people visit here and put too much pressure on inadequate infrastructure.

And we've got big tourism industry - I mean look at the tourists that are driving past us right now.

My big fear is that in the bed of the light, right at the bottom, we've got this layer of sludge which is essentially decades worth of pollution that has collected at the bottom and sits there.

It's extremely high in nutrients and this in itself is going to create a whole lot of issues, if it finds a way to the surface of the lake.

**Paul:**

It's crying, isn't it, in anguish saying, 'Do something about this'.

**Matt:**

That's my biggest pet peeve of this situation. Why does it take something terrible happening for us to actually say, no, we should put an end to sewage pollution in the Lake District National Park. I

It's dying, you know. What's going to happen when someone dies in Windermere, if it smells like rotting dead fish?

No one's going to come here. This isn't just looking at the next five years of Windermere. We have to look into thirty years' time. What's going to happen - and what do we need to do?

We need to invest in the infrastructure.