

Cumbria Tourism strongly supports this proposed project. Pre pandemic Cumbria's tourism economy was worth over Â£3bn and for the economic success of the County both in terms of local employment and retaining our vibrant communities this must be maintained. Many visitors to North and West Cumbria access the County via the A66 and the single carriageway sections currently delay journeys, increase the number of accidents and sustain injuries, all of which in turn cause closures/diversions which can cause very severe disruption to local settlements.

Cumbria's stunning landscape is a precious resource and one of the key factors in attracting visitors. We acknowledge there will be landscape consequences to this project but recognise these need to be balanced with the economic, safety and social benefits. We are aware that Highways England have looked at all other options to improve journeys in pursuit of their 3 project priorities " economic, transport and community " but have concluded this is the only way forward.