

Whitehaven Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (2022-2037)

Consultation Report

Follow up Consultation
February 2022



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Introduction

Cumbria County Council are developing a Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) to identify and prioritise the improvements needed to make everyone feel confident they can walk or cycle around Whitehaven.

The LCWIP will set out a high-level approach for how we can encourage more people to make journeys on foot or by bike, by creating a safe, integrated and well linked network of walking and cycling routes. It will focus on the everyday shorter journeys undertaken within and to urban areas; journeys such as to work or school. It is designed to facilitate a long-term approach to the development of cycling and walking networks but it is also a document that can be revised and updated throughout its 15-year lifespan to reflect changing priorities

Approach to consultation

Public consultation and stakeholder engagement have played a key part in the development of the Whitehaven LCWIP. The Council has sought feedback through:

- An initial public consultation – 14 July to 6 August 2021
- A follow up public consultation – 4 February to 25 February 2022
- Stakeholder workshops and Project Delivery Group meetings.

This report summarises the results of a public consultation undertaken between **4th February and 25th February 2022**.

The consultation was a follow-up to the earlier consultation undertaken in July 2021 and offered a final opportunity to feedback on the proposals, prior to finalising the LCWIP. The consultation focussed on:

- Gauging the level of support for the draft prioritised cycling and walking network plans;
- Whether the network and interventions proposed would encourage the respondent to use active modes of travel more often; and,
- Whether there was support for reduced space for cars to prioritise active modes.

A **consultation document** was produced to enable people to provide informed feedback on the proposals. The consultation document provided:

- background information including information on national policy and a vision for cycling and walking;
- an overview of what the LCWIP is, what it will and will not provide and the development stages and timeline;
- information on how the Council used feedback from the initial public consultation to develop the proposals – ‘you said, we did’;
- draft priority cycling network plans and a brief description of the proposals for each route;
- draft core walking network plans and a brief description of the proposals for each route

The consultation document was made available on the Council’s webpage at <https://cumbria.gov.uk/cyclingandwalking> for the duration of the consultation and printed versions were distributed to key locations for walk-in collection.

A **consultation questionnaire** was produced for those wishing to provide feedback. An online version of this questionnaire was made available on the webpage or alternatively, respondents could complete a paper copy provided at the back of the consultation document and return via a freepost address.

To support the public consultation, a drop-in live event at Whitehaven Library, Lowther Street, Whitehaven, CA28 7QZ was hosted on Thursday 24th February between 2.00pm and 5.00pm.

The public consultation and drop-in live event were advertised in local newspapers and on the Council's social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter).

On Thursday 24 February, Whitehaven library hosted a drop-in event to let the public know about the exciting cycling and walking routes proposed in the LCWIP.

Thank you to all those that attended the event!

Have your say

Friday 4 February to Friday 25 February 2022

A consultation on a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Whitehaven.

Cumbria County Council, in partnership with the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership and Copeland Borough Council are developing an LCWIP to identify and deliver improved cycling and walking provision in the Whitehaven area.

Following on from the successful consultation in Summer 2021, this is a final opportunity to comment on proposals prior to finalising the LCWIP.

 **For more details visit:**
cumbria.gov.uk/cyclingandwalking

Or join us at our live event:
Thursday 24 February
2.00 to 5.00pm
Whitehaven Library, Lowther Street,
Whitehaven, CA28 7QZ



Improving walking and cycling routes in Whitehaven



Proud of our past. Energised for our future.



36% of respondents had also responded to the initial Whitehaven LCWIP consultation in July 2021

Results of the questionnaire

We received a total of **215 responses** to the questionnaire. The results are presented in this document.

36% of respondents (77 people) indicated that they had also provided a response to the initial Whitehaven LCWIP consultation undertaken in July 2021.

About you

A partial postcode was requested to understand the location of respondents.

The table shows the postcodes and corresponding locations against the number of respondents. The largest numbers of responses were from the St Bees and Whitehaven postcodes.

The feedback from the consultation therefore mostly reflects the views of people living within or close to the LCWIP area.

Postcode	Count	Location of Postcode
CA27	105	St Bees
CA28	59	Whitehaven, Moresby Parks, Sandwith, Lowca, Low Moresby, Hensingham
CA22	21	Egremont, Thornhill, Nethertown
CA25	9	Cleator Moor
CA26	6	Frizington, Arlecdon, Rowrah
CA20	5	Gosforth, Seascale, Ponsonby
CA24	3	Moor Row
CA13	2	Cockermouth
CA14	1	Workington
CA21	1	Beckermet
BL5	1	Westhoughton
M30	1	Eccles

Question 1 - Do you support the routes on the Priority Cycling Network plan?

Support for the LCWIP proposals

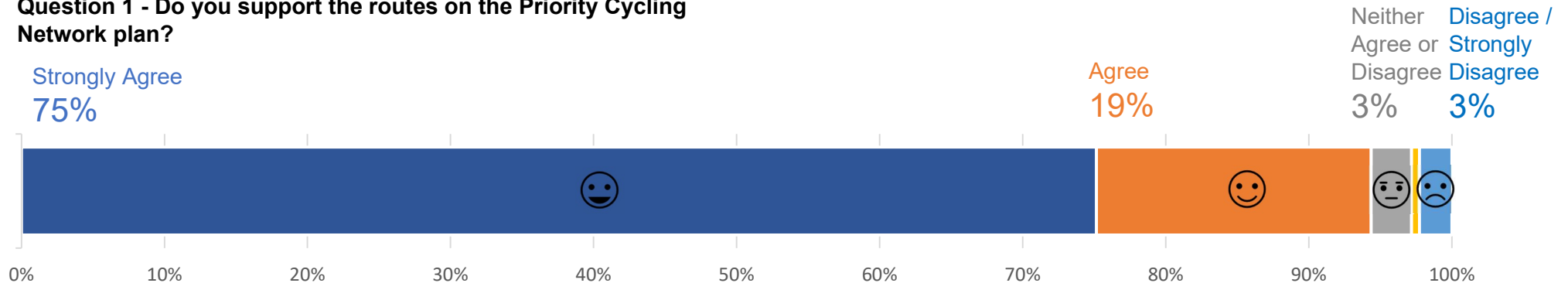
Cycling

The consultation document provided a plan showing the proposed 'Priority Cycling Network' to be included within the LCWIP. In addition, a table was provided that listed each of the routes shown on the plan along with a description of the possible improvements proposed.

Respondents were asked if they supported the routes shown on the Priority Cycling Network plan and were able to select a level of support ranging from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'.

The responses demonstrate **support** for the cycling network proposals with **94%** of respondents either 'strongly agreeing' or 'agreeing' with the routes presented on the proposed Priority Cycling Network plan.

Question 1 - Do you support the routes on the Priority Cycling Network plan?



Total no. of respondents: 177 (38 skipped).

Strongly agree (n.133), Agree (n.34), Neither Agree or Disagree (n.5), Disagree (n.1), Strongly Disagree (n.4)

“Please please please improve the cycle routes. I would cycle everywhere if I could do so without going on the busy roads.”

- A local resident, February 2022

Question 2 - Do you support the improvements identified on the Core Walking Zone plan?

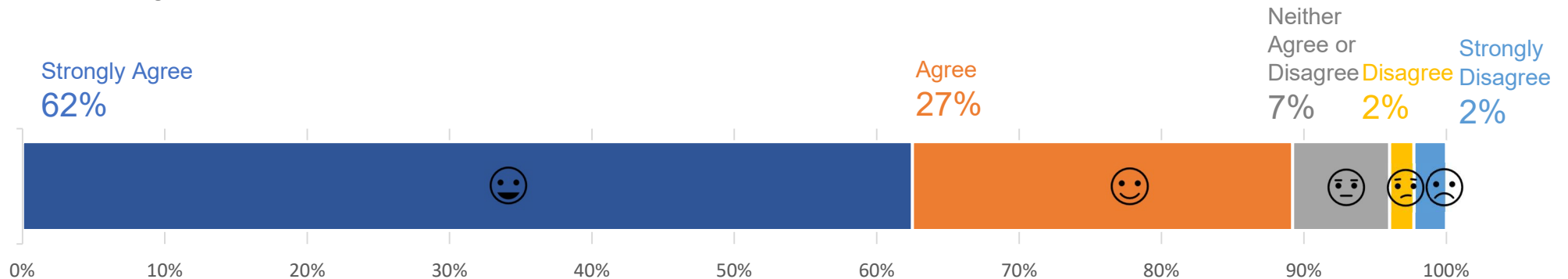
Walking

The consultation document provided a plan showing the proposed 'Walking Network' to be included within the LCWIP. In addition, a table was provided that listed each of the routes shown on the plan along with a description of the possible improvements proposed.

Respondents were asked if they supported the improvements identified on the Walking Network plan and were able to select a level of support ranging from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree'

The responses demonstrate **support** for the proposed walking improvements with **89%** of respondents either 'strongly agreeing' or 'agreeing' with the improvements identified on the Core Walking Zone plan.

Question 2 - Do you support the improvements identified on the Core Walking Zone plan?



Total no. of respondents: 176 (39 skipped).

Strongly agree (n.110), Agree (n.47), Neither Agree or Disagree (n.12), Disagree (n.3), Strongly Disagree (n.4)

“Really happy with the details on intervention types for each walking route and core walking zone.”

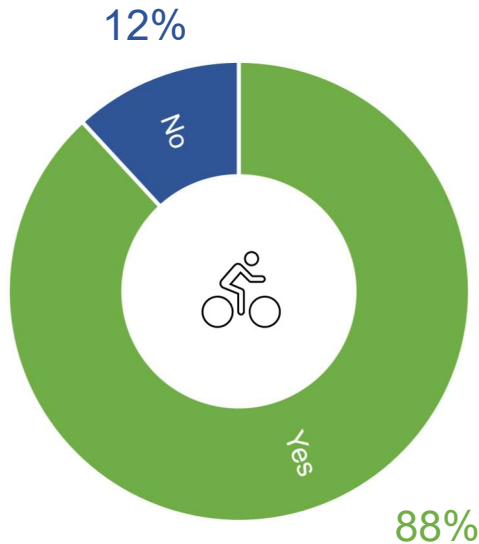
- A local resident, February 2022

Question 3 & 4 – networks and improvements encouraging more cycling and walking.

Networks that encourage cycling and walking

Question 3 - Do you think the routes and types of improvements proposed in the Priority Cycling Network plan, would encourage you to cycle more often, or start to cycle?

When asked if the types of improvements proposed in the Priority Cycling Network plan would encourage respondents to cycle more often, or start to cycle, 88% responded that yes, they felt these routes would encourage them

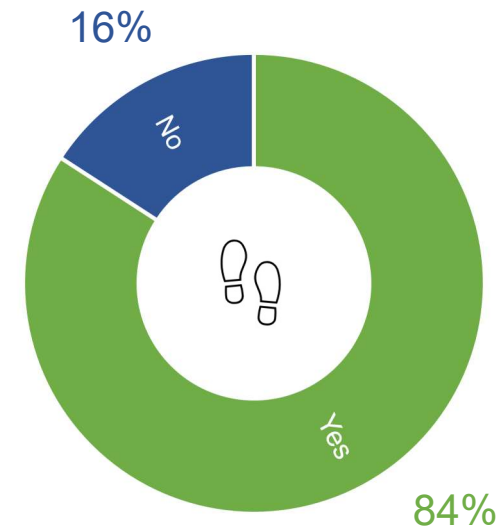


Total no. of respondents: 177 (38 skipped).

Yes (n.156), No (n.21)

Question 4 - Do you think the types of improvements proposed in the Priority Core Walking Zone plan would encourage you to walk more often?

When asked if the types of improvements proposed in the Priority Core Walking Zone Network plan would encourage respondents to walk more often, 84% responded that yes, they felt these routes would encourage them.



Total no. of respondents: 177 (38 skipped).

Yes (n.149), No (n.28)

Reallocation of road space

The consultation document provided background information on the LCWIP development process and how the improvements proposed have been specified with consideration of the latest best practice guidance for cycling and walking infrastructure design. This includes updated guidance from the Department for Transport where the standards for design are much higher than in the past.

The guidance emphasises the need to develop coherent, direct, safe, comfortable and attractive networks. On main routes designs should look to include cycle provision that is physically protected from traffic, as well as the separation of pedestrians from cyclists where flows are high.

Developing high quality continuous cycling and walking infrastructure can however be challenging in urban areas where there are competing demands on road space (i.e. parking, loading, vehicle/HGV movements, active travel) and limited opportunities to expand the boundaries of the highway.

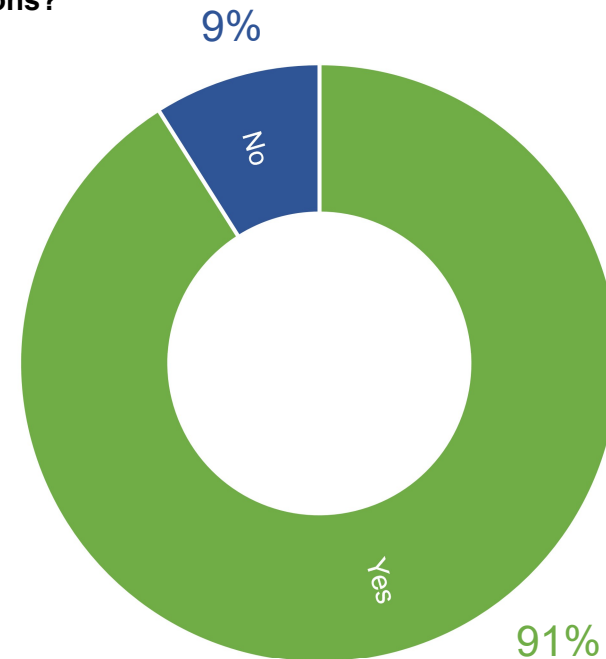
Respondents were asked if walking and cycling improvements would be supported if it meant less space for other road traffic in some locations.

The responses demonstrate **support** for the reallocation of road space with **91%** answering 'yes' they would support walking and cycling improvements when this could mean less space for other road traffic in some locations.

Question 5 – reallocation of road space for cycling and walking.

Question 4 - We would like to build high quality continuous cycling and walking infrastructure that will contribute to a more liveable and sustainable Whitehaven. Cycling and walking infrastructure can be difficult to deliver in built up areas where there are competing demands on road space.

Would you support walking and cycling improvements when this could mean less space for other road traffic at some locations?



Total no. of respondents: 175 (40 skipped).

Yes (n.159), No (n.16)

You said, we responded

The questionnaire provided the opportunity for open answers on the cycling routes and walking improvements proposed in the consultation document. In addition, respondents could provide any further general comments on cycling and walking in the LCWIP area.

To analyse these responses, comments were grouped into ‘themes’ and where possible actions assigned against these themes for consideration in the LCWIPs development.

The table summarises the key themes, comments against these themes and how we have responded

Theme	You said	We responded
Connectivity	You would like to see the route between St Bees and Whitehaven become a priority of the Whitehaven LCWIP.	You were happy that following the first consultation in which we received a large number of responses supporting a Whitehaven to St Bees route, that this link has been added to our network. You commented that a cycling route between Whitehaven and St Bees would be well used and much safer for cyclists and walkers as the narrow country roads joining the two aren't safe for active travel and currently discourage people from cycling and walking. We have now completed the prioritisation of the routes in our network that support a joined up approach to the delivery and have identified this route as a priority for further feasibility.
	You wanted to see a connection from Whitehaven all the way to the Sellafield site.	When defining the geographical extent of the Whitehaven LCWIP, we considered the likely distance that would be travelled by cycle or on foot, along with the LCWIP technical guidance which highlights that cycling has the potential to replace trips made by other modes, typically up to 10km. For walking, the distances travelled are shorter, typically up to 2km. We do however understand that some people will travel greater distances by cycling or on foot. The Council are developing a separate piece of work looking at active travel within 5 strategic corridors across Cumbria, these corridors will connect longer commuting, or leisure routes and could include links such as the Whitehaven to Sellafield site.
	The proposed walking routes do not utilise green spaces and primarily seem to involve utilising existing pavements alongside main arterial roads.	The aim of the LCWIP is to create safe and accessible walking routes to our Core Walking Zones (Town Centre) and this follows the Department for Transport's LCWIP guidance for routes up to 2km. We want to connect our Core Walking Zone to residential areas, schools, business sites using routes with the greatest volume of footfall. These are the Primary Routes you can see on our network plans. Because the Primary Routes have the highest usage, they often follow more direct arterial roads. We want to ensure that these routes with the highest usage are safe and accessible for users of all abilities as a priority. Once improvements are made to our Core Walking Zone and Primary Routes, we want to address the secondary links that feed into the main routes and that may include routes away from heavy traffic.

Question 6, 7 & 8 – general comments on walking and cycling and the improvements proposed.

Question 6 Would you like to comment on any of the cycling routes proposed?

Total no. of respondents: 110 (105 skipped).

Question 7 Would you like to comment on any of the walking improvements proposed?

Total no. of respondents: 81 (134 skipped).

Question 8 Do you have any further comments relating to cycling and walking in Whitehaven?

Total no. of respondents: 99 (116 skipped).

Theme	You said	We responded
Safe and Secure Cycle Parking	Improvements and new routes will be more attractive in Whitehaven if dedicated places to park and secure bikes were available.	When developing and designing the routes within our LCWIP's, this will include all of the infrastructure needed such as cycle parking. Safe and secure storage fit for purpose is essential at both the journey start and end and will be considered throughout the life of the LCWIP as each route is delivered.
Steep Gradients	You were concerned that the steep gradients in Whitehaven and routes on the network plan, some of which include gradients, will not incentivise an increase in cycling.	All routes will be improved in line with the latest guidance, promoting inclusivity and access for users of all abilities where possible. This will include a priority cycling network that considers the terrain and gradients alongside the ambition to deliver direct and coherent infrastructure. Given the landscape in Whitehaven, a small number of our routes will include varying / undulating topography which will have an impact on the onward design as gradients will contribute towards varying cycle speeds.
Maintenance of Routes	You want to see the adequate maintenance of existing and new active travel infrastructure.	Cumbria County Council are currently undertaking a review of maintenance, this review is expected to be further developed by the new authority. As the development of new routes progresses, the future maintenance will also be considered as part of the design process.
Links to Education Sites	You said that the Priority Cycling Network map doesn't go far enough to connect to educational sites in Whitehaven.	The LCWIP will provide a network rather than links to individual sites. The focus of the LCWIP is to enable modal shift and concentrate the resources on those cycle routes that are likely to achieve the greatest shift towards active travel transport to produce a core network. Over time, as this core network is delivered, branches linking individual sites such as schools directly to the cycle network can be added.

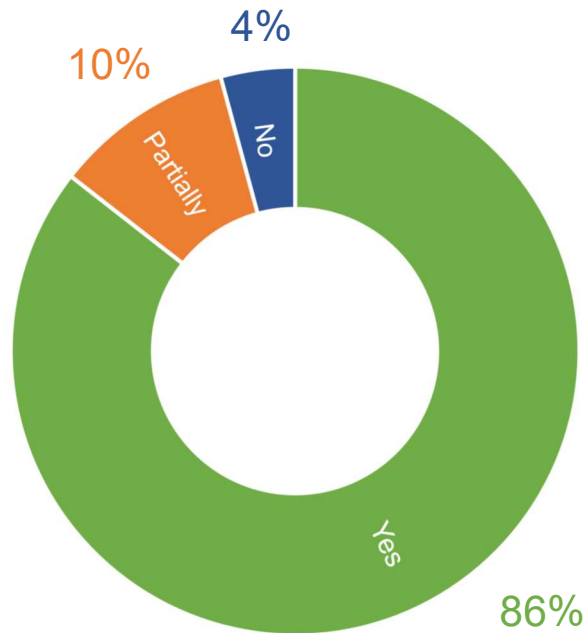
“Please do everything you can to make our roads safe for families to walk and cycle on.”

How did we do?

The remaining questions provided an opportunity to comment on the consultation document and questionnaire.

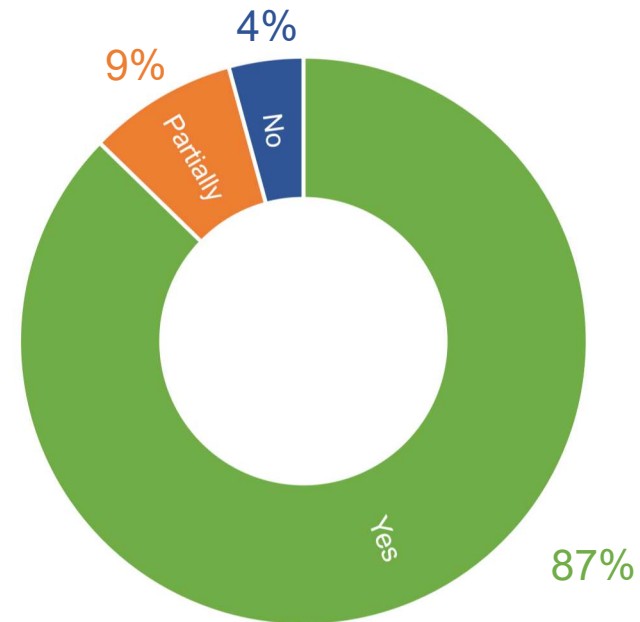
The feedback received will help us to reflect on the approach taken and inform future consultations.

Question 9 – Did we provide enough information for you to properly respond to this consultation?



Total no. of respondents: 166 (49 skipped).
Yes (n.142), No (n.7), Partially (n.17)

Question 10 – Did the questionnaire allow you to express your opinions fully?



Total no. of respondents: 165 (50 skipped).
Yes (n.144), No (n.7), Partially (n.14)

Next Steps

It has been important to facilitate a community led approach to the development of the Whitehaven LCWIP. Your feedback, provided through stakeholder workshops and two separate rounds of public consultation, will compliment technical work to establish a robust evidence base for the Plan. It will also be used to demonstrate support for the proposals, a vital component of future delivery funding bids.

We've received clear and constructive responses throughout the engagement and have tried to respond to this feedback when updating the networks put forward in the LCWIP. We would like to thank stakeholders and the public for taking the time to comment on the proposals.

The LCWIP for Whitehaven will now be finalised and the improvements identified will be prioritised to help understand how we target delivery of these routes over the next 15 years.

The Whitehaven LCWIP will be presented Cumbria County Council's Local Committee for approval, before seeking endorsement from Copeland Borough Council Executive Committee.

The consultation on the Whitehaven LCWIP is now closed.

You can still provide general feedback on cycling and walking in the places you live by emailing Cumbria County Council's Cycling and Walking Team at:

cumbriacyclingandwalking@cumbria.gov.uk



