LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
AND GUIDELINES

DRAFT

Interim Report No. 2
Draft Character Assessment

June 2007

CHRIS BLANDFORD ASSOCIATES
Environment Landscape Planning
LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK
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AND GUIDELINES

Interim Report No. 2
Draft Character Assessment

Approved By: Dominic Watkins
Signed: [Signature]
Position: Director
Date: 22nd June 2007

CHRIS BLANDFORD ASSOCIATES
Environment  Landscape  Planning
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PREFACE TO THE INTERIM REPORT

This interim report sets out the draft findings of the Character Assessment phase of the study preparation process. It is supported by two separate volumes:

- Figures
- Photographs

The report represents a first ‘rough cut’ of the Character Assessment, and is considered to be a work in progress. It is subject to refinement and updating as the Study progresses, taking into account comments received from the Client Commissioning Group and feedback from stakeholders.

Section 6.0 provides details of the next steps for progressing the Study. In particular, the Guidelines for each landscape character unit defined by the Character Assessment will be prepared during late June, July and early August, and do not therefore form part of the interim report.

CBA
June 2007
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Landscape Character Assessment is a tool for identifying the characteristics that make a particular landscape distinctive from other places and gives it a unique sense of place. Together with an assessment of the landscape’s sensitivity and its capacity to accommodate change, this information can assist with making judgements about planning and managing future landscape changes. Importantly, the Landscape Character Assessment process can also help facilitate and support the involvement of local stakeholders in planning and managing the landscape at the strategic and local scales – encompassing the views of both communities of interest and place.

1.1.2 A partnership of organisations (The Lake District National Park Authority, Friends of the Lake-District, The National Trust and Natural England) commissioned consultants Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines for the Lake District National Park. Details of the Project Brief and individuals involved in the preparation of the Study can be found in Appendices A and B.

1.1.3 In line with good practice, the Lake District Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines are separate elements of a single document. The Character Assessment seeks to capture baseline information about the different landscape types and areas in the Park in an objective, transparent and value free way. The Guidelines involve making judgements about the inherent sensitivities of the different landscape units and their capacity to accommodate change.

1.1.4 This interim report presents the draft findings of the Character Assessment.

1.2 Purpose of the Study

1.2.1 The Study seeks to provide a framework for developing a shared understanding of the current character of the Lake District’s landscapes and its future management needs.

1.2.2 The Study is intended to be a reference document for everyone with an interest in the future management of the Park – including residents, businesses and visitors, students, national and local agencies, farmers and other land managers. It also seeks to provide an inspirational source of ideas and guidance to help encourage locally appropriate management and use of land in ways that conserve valued features of the landscape. In this way, the Study will provide an evidence base against which proposals for change can be judged in an objective and transparent manner.

1.2.3 The specific aims and objectives for the two elements of the Study are:

Aims

Character Assessment

- To improve the knowledge and understanding of the Lake District landscape to help conserve and enhance the overall characteristics, qualities and diversity of landscape character, its sense of place and local distinctiveness
- To identify and understand factors influencing landscape change.
- To provide baseline data to facilitate future monitoring
- To develop indicators to monitor change within individual landscape types/areas.
Guidelines

- To support a holistic approach to managing change and encourage the sustainable planning and management of the Lake District landscape including the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and the enrichment of biological diversity.

Objectives

Character Assessment

- To highlight and describe the character of the physical, cultural, historical, ecological, visual and sensory landscape.
- To identify past, present and future forces for change and describe their impacts.
- To assess the sensitivity to and capacity for change, for the various landscape character areas and landscape types.

Guidelines

- To provide local planning, management and design guidelines, integrated with the Local Development Framework and the National Park Management Plan, for each landscape character area and landscape type.
- To recommend how these guidelines can be implemented.
- To suggest indicators for monitoring landscape change.

1.2.4 The key applications of the Study are to:

- Provide valuable information to influence the full extent of the land use planning system from strategic planning, the Local Development Framework to the development control decision-making process.
- Add to the transparency of the planning process by setting out a method of assessment in line with national guidelines.
- Provide essential information and guidance to land owners and managers.
- Act as an information resource to our partners and customers from national agencies to students and visitors.
- Help guide the working of agri-environment and woodland grant schemes.
- Provide guidance for anyone implementing work on the ground projects.
- Provide a baseline for State of the Park reporting and identify critical indicators of change.
- Be an information source for the National Park Management Plan review.
- Strengthen the potential World Heritage Site Inscription bid.
- Add to the outputs of the Lake District Historic Landscape Classification.
- Inform the development of Strategic Area Management Plans
- Assist in developing property management plans
- Provide supporting information for Supplementary Planning Documents.

1.3 Approach and Methodology

An Integrated Approach

1.3.1 The overall approach for undertaking the Landscape Character Assessment is based on the latest published guidance¹, taking into account current best practice. Landscape Character

¹ Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland (Countryside Agency/Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002).
Assessment addresses both the relatively objective process of landscape characterisation, which involves identifying, mapping, classifying and describing ‘landscape character’, and the more subjective process of evaluating landscape character to inform planning and land management decisions.

1.3.2 The assessment is based on an integrated approach that takes into account more than just the visible components of landscape. It recognises that historical and cultural associations and the total experience of landscape through all the senses, and through knowledge, are integral to defining landscape character and its distinctiveness. Some components of landscape character are tangible features capable of being mapped and measured, whilst others are more intangible and less easy to define objectively. The components of the landscape are its:

- visible physical components (e.g. landform, buildings)
- visible spatial components (e.g. scale, pattern, colour, texture);
- non-visible components (e.g. sense of tranquillity, wildness, cultural associations).

1.3.3 These components of the landscape combine to create special combinations - landscape character – that vary considerably from place to place, and usually provide such a unique combination of components that it is distinctive and not quite like anywhere else. This gives a sense of place and identity unique to each area. Landscape observation, description and classification necessarily involve objective and subjective matters; this Study embraces these subjective elements by confining description to the components of the landscape rather than recording the assessor’s responses to it.

The Study Area

1.3.4 The Lake District National Park boundary defines the Study Area (see Figure 1.1). Landscape character units may not coincide with administrative boundaries, therefore the assessment considers and records landscape units straddling the National Park boundary and units outside but immediately adjacent to the Park boundary. This approach helps place the Lake District’s landscapes in their proper context in relation to the Cumbria Landscape Classification (see Section 3.0 for details).

The Study Process

1.3.5 The study process is illustrated on Figure 1.2 overleaf. This illustrates the relationship between the separate but linked character assessment and evaluation processes involved in preparation of the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines. Full details of the methodology used in this Study are provided in Appendix C, and summarised below.

Character Assessment

1.3.6 This stage of the process involved capturing baseline information about the character of the Lake District’s landscapes in an objective, transparent and value free way. Desk study research and field survey analysis were used to inform the classification of the Study Area into generic ‘Landscape Character Types and geographically unique ‘Areas of Distinctive Character’, defined and mapped using a Geographic Information System at a scale of 1:25,000.

1.3.7 In order to achieve the level of detail required by the Project Brief, a dual approach to defining and describing Landscape Character Types and Areas of Distinctive Character (also known as Landscape Character Areas) has been adopted. The Landscape Character Types provide a spatial framework within which generic land management strategies and guidelines can be developed – such as the Low Fell or Coastal Limestone landscape types for example.
The Areas of Distinctive Character allow guidelines to be developed that address place-specific land use and development issues – such as Tarn Hows or Lower Windermere for example.

1.3.8 The landscape classification and supporting descriptions were informed by discussions in the field with National Park Ranger and National Trust Property Manager staff to incorporate local knowledge into the assessment. A list of the main sources of information used to inform the Study is provided as Appendix D and the field survey notes are included as Appendix E.

1.3.9 The information gathered from this stage of work is set out in this interim report.

Evaluation/ Guidelines

1.3.10 The character of the landscape varies across the National Park as a result of different patterns of physical, cultural, historical and ecological characteristics. The landscape is not static, and will continue to change in response to a range of social, economic and environmental factors. The scale and speed of change have all increased with technological progress, and some landscapes have limited capacity to tolerate change. Change can erode landscape character by departing from traditional and more sensitive ways of building and utilising the land that respected natural constraints and used natural, locally available materials and techniques.

1.3.11 The evaluation process involves making judgements about the inherent sensitivities of each Landscape Character Type and Area of Distinctive Character and their indicative ability to accommodate different types of change. These judgements are then used to inform the development of land management, planning and design guidelines that highlight needs and opportunities for managing landscape change.

1.3.12 With regards to land management, the Guidelines for each Landscape Character Type can be used to:

- Inform the targeting and monitoring of agri-environment grant aid schemes such as Environmental Stewardship
- Highlight the key landscape management issues that need to be considered in greater detail in relation to land management proposals

1.3.13 In relation to spatial planning, development control and environmental protection, the guidelines for each Area of Distinctive Character can be used to:

- Underpin the application of criteria-based landscape development control policies within the Local Development Framework by highlighting the key landscape planning and design issues that need to be considered in greater detail
- Help guide the location and fit of appropriate new development within the landscape, and to promote high quality architectural and public realm design that respects the particular characteristics of the contextual landscape setting
- Provide an evidence base to support the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment of spatial development options and policies within the Local Development Framework
1.3.14 The guidelines will be supported by recommendations for indicators to assist in monitoring landscape change in the Lake District National Park.
Stage 1 – Information Scoping

Stage 2 – Desk Based Research

Stage 3 – Field Survey

Stage 4 – Characterisation

Key Stakeholder & Public Consultation

Stage 5 – Evaluation & Guidelines Preparation

- Sensitivity & Capacity
- Forces for Change
- Opportunities of Managing Landscape Change

Stage 6 – Preparation of Overall Report

- Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change

Interim Report (this report)

Draft & Final Report
Stakeholder and Public Consultation

1.3.15 An important requirement of the Project Brief is to engage major landowners and managers, statutory agencies and other key stakeholder organisations and the general public in the process of developing both the Character Assessment and the Guidelines. The purpose of the consultation process was to strengthen the evidence base by gathering the views of both communities of interest and place, and to promote the value of the Study as a key tool for informing planning and land management decisions.

1.3.16 The process involved consulting organisations within the Lake District National Park Partnership and other key stakeholder groups through workshops, interviews and discussions (see Appendix F for details). The Study has also engaged the general public through a questionnaire-based survey of residents, businesses and visitors. The survey (which is currently ongoing) attempts to find out what people value about the character of the Lake District’s landscapes, and the way in which changes to the landscape should be managed in the future (see Appendix G for details). This process of stakeholder consultation is on going; initial feedback has been fed into the desk study research and field survey stages of the Study to refine and validate the preliminary Character Assessment work.

1.3.17 It is recommended that community involvement in the future application of the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines within the National Park be encouraged through ‘bottom up’ character-based appraisals and design guidance at the local level - such as Village Design Statements, Town Design Statements and Parish Plans for example.

1.4 Structure of the Report

1.4.1 Section 2.0 provides an overview of the evolution of the landscape and the forces for change affecting the Lake District’s landscapes. This considers the physical and cultural influences that have shaped the current landscape, overviews its ecological character and reviews the socio-economic profile of the communities in the National Park. The influence of changes in rural land use and management on the landscape are also examined.

1.4.2 Section 3.0 describes the context provided by the hierarchical classification of Landscape Character Areas and Types defined at the national and county levels. Within this context, the classification of Landscape Character Types and Areas of Distinctive Character defined within the Lake District is presented.

1.4.3 Section 4.0 sets out the descriptions of the generic Landscape Character Types and Sub-types identified within the Lake District.

1.4.4 Section 5.0 presents the descriptions of the geographically unique Areas of Distinctive Character defined within the National Park.

1.4.5 Section 6.0 sets out the next steps for the Study in respect of further stakeholder consultation, the refinement of the draft Character Assessment work, the evaluation process and preparation of the Guidelines, and the preparation of the overall Study report.

1.4.6 A glossary of key terms used in the Study is included as Appendix H.
2.0 EVOLUTION OF THE LANDSCAPE AND FORCES FOR CHANGE

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This section provides an overview of the evolution of the landscape and the forces for change affecting the Lake District’s landscapes. This considers the physical and cultural influences that have shaped the current landscape, overviews its ecological character and reviews the socio-economic profile of the communities in the National Park. The influence of changes in rural land use and management on the landscape are also examined.

2.2 Physical Influences on Landscape Character

2.2.1 The Lake District landscape was formed during the course of 500 million years of geological processes when the climatic conditions periodically underwent great changes. Slate, crystalline rocks, limestone, coal and red sandstone constituted the basic layers which were domed about 280 million years ago. The topography of the Lake District is often compared to a wheel, with the hub approximately at Dunmail Raise and the valleys and lakes radiating out as the spokes. The resulting topography of the Lake District includes England’s highest mountain and deepest and longest lakes.

2.2.2 The underlying geology has had a profound influence on the shape and character of the Lake District (see Figures 2.1 and Figure 2.2). The development of the main geological formations is described below.

Geology and Landform

2.2.3 The Skiddaw Group formation began 450 million years ago when pressures of earth movements solidified huge amounts of accumulated mud and clay on the seabed. The sedimentary rocks in the form of mudstones, siltstones and greywackes were then uplifted by surges in earth movements. Once above sea level erosion through water and frost caused the dark grey rocks to subsequently break up to form small thin flakes. As the rocks were evenly eroded they formed curved or angular mountain profiles with steep smooth sides such as at Skiddaw or Blencathra north of Keswick. In addition the small thin flakes over time have made deep soils, ideal for growing trees such as at Whinlatter where the forests now extend both sides of Bassenthwite Lake and heather.

Borrowdale Volcanic Group

2.2.4 At the end of the deposition of the Skiddaw Slates, several subterranean vents opened causing volcanic eruptions. The explosions scattered a mixture of volcanic material and the shattered rocks that covered them widely forming the dark lavas to light green slaty rocks of the ‘Borrowdale Volcanics’.

2.2.5 The Borrowdale Volcanics were hard and less affected by erosion forming the highest and most rugged part of the Lake District and lead to the formation of the dramatic, towering craggy pikes and fells of Langdale Pike, Bowfell, Coniston Old Man, Great Gable, Helvellyn and Seafell Pike and the crags, hollows and peaks on the minor fells. In addition at Armboth Fells is located the largest area of blanket bog in the Lake District.


Coniston Limestone

2.2.6 Approximately 440 million years ago, the majority of the area was submerged under a shallow sea until earth movements again uplifted the central fells and produced fracture lines. Storm water then flowed into the fracture lines and other structural weaknesses and brought silt down into the sea. The resultant rock formed from this silt is called Coniston Limestone. It formed a narrow band from the Duddon Estuary across the southern slope of the Old Man of Coniston, through Tarn Hows and Ambleside to Shap on the edge of the Lake District. Although this band has made no obvious impact on the landscape the flora found on the limestone is unique.

Silurian Flags and Slates

2.2.7 Between 435 and 395 million years ago the Silurian Flags and Slates were created through the large deposits of erosion silt and mud laid down rapidly. Areas of comparatively low relief (the highest hills reached elevations of below 400m) and fewer craggy fells mark the outcrop of the Silurian Flags and Slates. The underlying rocks dip gently to the south, leaving generally steeper north facing hillsides. The mudstone or gritstone formed breaks down fairly easily and produces a good depth of acidic soils that supports much of the semi-natural woodland in southern Lakeland especially around the wooded hills around the shores of Windermere.

Granite

2.2.8 Between 350 and 400 million years ago the area was thrust out of the sea into a high dome as a result of the northern and the European continental masses colliding. These earth movements opened up subterranean cavities into which magma flowed changing the rock within contact chemically and physically. Condensing vapours crystallised into the metal minerals, lead, zinc, copper and iron. Magma that reached shallow earth and cooled more slowly to form granites. The Granite is found on the surface at Ennerdale, Ekdale and the Caldew Valley.

Carboniferous Limestone

2.2.9 The Carboniferous Limestone was formed 270 to 350 million years ago when a shallow sea rich with life forms inundated the area. The remains of these creatures accumulated in thick beds to form carboniferous limestone. The seas receded leaving behind tropical swamp forest as the climate subsequently warmed. When the sea again rose, the land plants drowned and became buried allowing slow decomposition forming peat beds. These peat beds underwent chemical changes to produce coal. The Carboniferous Limestone survives around the northern rim of the Lake District such as at Clints Quarry SSSI located 1km north of Egremont.

Sandstone

2.2.10 After the uplift 50 million years ago when the volcanic minerals such as lead, copper and haematite were formed, desert conditions prevailed, with abrasive sandstorms. The carboniferous layers were stripped away. The stripped material, together with the debris of older broken rocks, settled around the dome created in the uplift and was consolidated to form sandstone. The red desert sand due to its iron content and the absence of organic material created a sand-based rock known as ‘new red sandstone’. It is located along the west coast and in the north and north-east to south-east.
Glaciation

2.2.11 Although the creation of the ‘solid’ rocks of the area have a profound influence on the landscape, the effects of glaciation during the last glacial period are also important. The profile of the area’s valleys was considerably modified by the scouring effects of valley glaciers producing the well-known ‘U’-shaped cross section, numerous hanging valleys and, higher on the mountain slopes, many beautifully-shaped corries. Erosion of rock outcrops by passing glaciers formed the smooth, rounded ‘roche moutonee’ form of outcrop seen on many hillsides. Overdeepening of valley floors produced the rock basins today occupied by lakes. Deposition of glacial debris, in the form of boulder clay or moraines, has given a distinctive character to many valley floors and has, in place, created natural dams behind which lakes and tarns have formed.

Hydrology and Drainage

2.2.12 The Lake District was free from ice approximately 10,000 years ago. The rivers in the Lake District developed from vast braided systems emanating from the ice sheet margins during the ice ages. In the upland areas, rivers are often misfit streams located in the glacial trough valleys or locally follow deeply incised meltwater channels, often crossing earlier watersheds and diverting drainage. In lowlands towards the south of the Lake District, completely new river and estuarine systems developed after the last ice age on the till and glacial outwash plains and sea levels rose.

2.2.13 The river network of becks and rivers radiate out from the central fells of the Lake District and meandering through the main valleys towards the Solway Firth Duddon Estuary or Morecombe Bay (see Figure 2.2). The rivers originate high on the fells where surface water accumulates in becks in narrow gullies and cracks in the rocks, creating waterfalls over the steeper hillsides. The becks then flow down the hillsides into the deeper and wider valleys where they join to form the main rivers. The principal rivers in the Lake District are the Rivers Cocker, Derwent, Eamont, Lowther, Leven, Bela, Winster, Crake, KentLickie, Duddon, Annas, Esk, Calder and Ehen.

2.2.14 In the Lake District there are sixteen lakes located in the ice-scoured valleys which radiate out from the central fells. The shapes of the lake were formed according to the degree of resistance met by the glaciers. The longest lake is Windermere. Since the retreat of the glaciers, silting of lakes has produced some relatively large alluvial flats - Crummock Water and Buttermere, once a single large lake, is now divided by a wide, flat alluvial plain. Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite Lake have been separated in the same way.

2.2.15 The rest of the water bodies in the Lake District have been designated as Tarns. Tarns were formed where glaciers survived after the ice had retreated, persisting in deeply shaded hollows that gradually melted leaving smaller lakes on the tops of the fells often separated by ridges or arêtes. However numerous tarns have already disappeared and become peat bogs on the fellside.

Soils and Agricultural Capability
2.2.16 **Figure 2.3** illustrates the distribution of agricultural land quality throughout the Lake District. The majority of the fells have poor to very poor quality agricultural land due to the shallow nature of the soils and topography of the area. Therefore this area is used to graze sheep. In the valleys towards the edges of the Lake District the agricultural land quality improves to good to moderate quality, which are suitable for a range of arable crops. However the majority of the land in the valleys is used to graze cattle and sheep instead while arable farming is rare in the Lake District.

**The Influence of Minerals on the Landscape**

2.2.17 Many Lake District rocks have been quarried, mostly for use in the construction industry. There are many miles of drystone walls and numerous village buildings made of local stone, which came from small local quarries.

2.2.18 Granite quarries were located at Threkkeld, Carrock and Caldbeck providing building materials. In addition another type of granite is exposed in the west of the Lake District in Beckfoot Quarry SSSI, Eskdale, Wasdale and Ennerdale. This is pigmented with iron, and local buildings and drystone walls are pink.

2.2.19 Sandstone forms building blocks used in castles, towers and churches along the west coast and in the north and north-east to south-east. Due to its hard characteristics, slate sheets made from Borrowdale Volcanics have been used over the years as a roofing material throughout the area.

2.2.20 The Silurian flags and slates vary greatly in content and hardness, which is reflected in the drystone walls. Some of the harder stone has been quarried for roofing slate, but it is typically mudstone or gritstone such as at Ashgill Quarry SSSI and Coniston Mines and Quarries SSSI near Coniston.

2.2.21 Several of the volcanic sediments have been metamorphosed to form the characteristic ‘Lakeland Green Slate’, the use of which in local building contributes greatly to the character of the Lake District’s built environment. Numerous large slate quarries scar several hillsides, notably in Kirkstone, Honister and Coniston areas.

2.2.22 Mines in the Lake District were created to exploit mineral ores, which formed as ‘veins’. These mineral veins filled cracks along joints and faults in between the surrounding rock where mineral-laden groundwater cooled and depressurised as it progressively circulated through the bedrock. Examples of these mines include the Greenside lead and silver mines, the Borrowdale graphite mines and the Coniston Copper mines. In addition, coal was mined at depths of 400m and extended under the Irish Sea. The combination of coal and local iron ore led to the establishment of steel works at Workington, ship building at Barrow-in-Furness and many other manufacturing enterprises. Coal working finally ceased in 1986.

2.3 Human and Cultural Influences on Landscape Character

2.3.1 As described in Section 2.2 above, the physical character of the Lake District landscape is the product of millions of years of geomorphological processes. However, the landscape also bears the imprint of successive periods of human settlement and land use dating from as early as 12,000 BC. This section provides an overview of the interaction of cultural processes with the natural environment in the Lake District over time, highlighting the main

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8 Lake District National Park Authority, Education Service (date unknown) Outline Geology of the Lake District
9 LEADER + (Cumbria Fells and Dales) (Date unknown) Mineral Wealth
human influences that have created the current character of the landscape. It also gives a broad overview of the land settlement character patterns and vernacular building styles as well as of the past and current perceptions of the Lake District landscape.

**Historical Development of the Landscape – An Overview**

2.3.2 After the end of the last glaciation around 14,000 years ago, the entire area below 800m was eventually colonised by dense deciduous woodland. Since then, human influence on the landscape has been continuous up to the present day.

2.3.3 Visible archaeological and historical remains make up a large part of the area’s cultural significance. The Lake District landscape is a gradually evolving living and working landscape and is distinct from other UK cultural landscapes in terms of remoteness, a marginal economy, its land use pattern and its scenic attractiveness. It has been shaped by thousands of years of farming and industry and compared to the rest of Britain has changed little since the Middle Ages.

**The Prehistoric Landscape**

2.3.4 The earliest human groups came to the Lake District at the end of the last glaciation, c.12,000 BC in pursuit of large game animals. The open tundra landscape of that period was very different to the present day, and dry land extended across what is now the Irish Sea basin. During the Mesolithic (c.8,000 – 4,000 BC) groups of hunter-gatherers settled on the coast of the Lake District where there was an abundance of resources within the estuaries and the sea. Throughout this long period changes to the landscape would have been limited to small clearings in the forest cover for settlement and possibly for creating attractive grazing areas for wild herbivores.

2.3.5 During the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods (c.4,000 – 1,500 BC) settlement remained highly mobile and woodland clearings were small and temporary. Agriculture began to have an increasingly important role in subsistence, but wild animals and plants continued to provide important sources of food.

2.3.6 The earliest visible archaeological monuments in the Lake District date from the Neolithic, and comprise large stone circles such as Swinside and Castlerigg. Polished stone axes were manufactured from volcanic tuff quarried in the Central Fells and have been found not only in the Lake District but also as far away as Ireland, Scotland and southern England.

2.3.7 After c.2,000 BC the climate became warmer and drier and settlement expanded onto the lower fells, up to around 300m. This has left an important archaeological legacy of hut circles, enclosures, clearance cairn fields and early field walls. By the the Late Bronze Age (c.1,000 BC) climatic deterioration led to a decline of soil quality and peat formation and many of the settlements on the lower fells were gradually abandoned. This decline in settlement and agricultural activity appears to have continued into the first half of the 1st millennium BC.

2.3.8 In the early prehistoric period human influence on the landscape was relatively minor. However, from the Bronze Age onwards the effects of agriculture and settlement became more significant, but overall the landscape would have seen periodic forest clearance, settlement and cultivation and then regeneration of vegetation following abandonment.

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10 This overview is based on earlier work by CBA in conjunction with John Hodgson (LDNPA Archaeologist) and Jamie Lund (NT Archaeologist) for the *Outline Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the Lake District Candidate World Heritage Site* study undertaken in 2006.
The Roman Landscape

2.3.9 In the last centuries of the 1st millennium BC the pollen record indicates a major resurgence of woodland clearance that intensified in the Roman period. It is likely that many of the later prehistoric native settlements in the Lake District would have continued in occupation throughout this time. Forest clearance and cultivation in the valleys was now relatively permanent and some woodland would have been managed. Agriculture was assisted by a short-lived improvement of the climate. The Romans constructed a series of forts connected by a road system, many of which survive as well-preserved monuments (e.g. Hardknott, Ravenglass and Ambleside).

The Early Medieval Landscape

2.3.10 Little is known of settlement in the immediate post-Roman period, but palaeo-environmental evidence provides a mixed picture, with some parts of the Lake District seeing continued cultivation in a relatively open landscape while other areas appear to have been abandoned and recolonised by woodland. There is some evidence of renewed clearance and cultivation in the late 6th/early 7th centuries, including the first appearance in the pollen record of flax and hemp. Known sites of this Anglian period include a probable monastery at Dacre, mentioned in Bede’s writings, and a small hillfort at Shoulthwaite near Thirlmere. A rich local tradition of ecclesiastical sculpture developed from this period and reached a peak in the 10th century after the arrival of Norse immigrants from Scandinavian settlements in Ireland. In addition the Norse settlers left a rich legacy of place names in the Lake District and may also have introduced the Herdwick sheep, although there is no firm evidence for this.

2.3.11 Areas of settlement and cultivation in the valleys would by now be permanent and there is evidence of the development of a system of transhumance (movement of stock to summer pastures in the fells) from at least as early as the 9th century. Small huts known as shielings were constructed by the graziers for occupation during the summer and often survive as low foundations in the fells. This pattern of transhumance continued into the medieval period but seems to have disappeared by the end of the 15th century, with some former shielings becoming permanent farmsteads.

The Medieval Landscape

2.3.12 The Normans captured Carlisle in 1092 and over the following decades ownership of the Lake District was divided between Norman aristocratic families. In time, these families donated some of their holdings to monastic institutions that were established in the Lake District (e.g. Furness, Shap and Calder Abbeys) or outside (e.g. Fountains Abbey). The monasteries were adept at developing their assets and were responsible for the development of two key industries in the Lake District namely sheep farming/wool production and iron smelting. Both of these would in time have major impacts on the landscape.

2.3.13 Iron smelting took place on a relatively small scale during the medieval period using iron ore from Low Furness and charcoal produced from the extensive broad-leaved woodland in the Lake District. The distribution of the archaeological remains of medieval smelting, known as ‘bloomeries’, is largely coincident with the present day distribution of ancient semi-natural woodland. The scale of the industry developed in the 16th and 17th centuries with the introduction of water-powered tilt hammers and bellows and in the 18th century with the introduction of the blast furnace. The greatest landscape impact of iron production was on the extent and character of the Lake District woodlands. The medieval industry is likely to have had a limited effect, but as the scale of production increased, the demand for greater quantities of charcoal led firstly to a depletion of the woods in the 16th century and
then the development of the coppice rotation system which produced more sustainable supplies. However, by the end of the 19th century even this was insufficient for the demands of the blast furnaces and shortages of charcoal led first to the expansion of the industry to the Scottish west coast and later to furnaces standing idle for longer periods. The last blast furnace, at Backbarrow, ceased production in 1965.

2.3.14 The areas of former coppiced woodland in the Lake District contain well-preserved evidence of charcoal production in the form of woodsmen’s huts and charcoal burning platforms (pitsteads) and some local surnames still reflect this important industry (e.g. Ashburner). Most of the coppice woodlands have reverted to high forest and where they do survive their survival is in large part due to the existence of the local iron industry.

2.3.15 Settlement in the early medieval period was generally dispersed, with individual farms and hamlets distributed throughout the valleys. Whereas, the feudal system introduced by the Normans came to underpin economic life later during the medieval period. Most arable land was farmed in strips in the valley bottom, enclosed and separated from the fell land by a wall known as a ‘ring garth’. Grazing land on the fell was controlled by the lord of the manor together with other rights to resources such as wood and peat (for fuel) and bracken (for animal bedding and roofing). Dairy farms or ‘vaccaries’ were established in some of the valleys including Buttermere and Ennerdale.

The Statesmen’s Landscape (c1550-1750)

2.3.16 Following the dissolution of the monasteries (1536) and the gradual acquisition of farms by individual families, a new social class who were to become known as 'the (e)statesmen' emerged during the later 16th century. They were yeoman farmers with customary rights but with freehold claim on their various landholdings. As a result the statesmen were not bound by a total oath to their lords as others had been before and were able to pass down their farmsteads (including the right of pasture, peat-cutting and wood-collecting on the commons) to their families. This custom ensured a continuous possession within the family and consequently led to continuous investment and improvement in individual farm holdings and subsequently a gradual accumulation of wealth. The only exception to their freedom was during times of border raids when they had to place men and horses at their lord’s disposal. It is due to the reduction in the lords’ influence that the change of the landscape laid in the hands of the statesmen farmers.

2.3.17 The system of cultivation in strips with a common, open field enclosed by a ‘ring garth’ wall, began to break down as a result of these changes in society and tenure. Walls and hedges were erected through private agreement to demarcate individual landholding in areas that had previously been managed as common land and the number of intake fields also increased and further reduced the amount of common land.

2.3.18 Statesmen had the common right to graze their animals on the open fells. Although there were no exclusive rights for individual farmers to particular parts of the land beyond the ring garths, for decades farmers used to stick to the same areas. The ability of the Herdwick sheep to instinctively stay within the bounds of their ‘home patches’ enforced this heafing system. The sheep were led to the upper fells for grazing whereas the lower fells with better-sheltered pastures were reserved for cattle. The common use of the uplands was significant as a social binding for the tenants. Routes that provided communication between farms located on the valley bottom and the common fells were established to allow stock to reach their particular grazing allotments or ‘heafs’. These routes, known locally as outgangs, can often be recognised in the landscape today, carefully picking a route through the network of small intakes and enclosures on the valley sides.
Parliamentary Enclosure (c1750-1870)

2.3.19 In the Lake District lowlands, the Parliamentary Enclosure of the mid 18th century had two effects. First, it was a land reform which was to have profound social consequences in allowing the enclosure of the former common grazing lands and by doing so taking it out of the control of lord of the manor and handed it over to the individual farmers. It was only the wealthy statesmen farmers who profited from this process since the small farmers lost their rights for grazing and their shares were incorporated into the estates of the yeomen farms. Gradually the number of working farms was reduced and land was consolidated into fewer hands. Second, the enclosure led to a change in land-use since the enclosed fields could be drained and cultivated at will by their new owners.

2.3.20 Parliamentary Enclosure in the Lake District was a gradual and slow process, which lasted for more than a century. During this time, farming methods basically remained the same, and in summer the animals were still grazed on the High Fells as the farmers of the central area managed to keep their uplands unenclosed and under common right. Discernible remnants of the enclosure period are the many prominent dry stonewalls which were erected around any privately owned field or fell compartment. As a result many large areas of almost high upland fell was divided up with ruler straight precision.

The 18th and 19th Century Industrial Landscape

2.3.21 The Lake District is rich in minerals and other natural resources such as wood and running water which provided an ideal basis for the development of a number of important industries. While some of these will have had their origins in prehistory, it was not until the medieval period that production took place on what could be termed an ‘industrial’ scale. The peak period of Lake District industry was the 18th and 19th centuries from which time quarrying, mining, metal processing, wood and water-powered industries have left a rich heritage throughout the entire area.

2.3.22 Slate, limestone, and granite were all quarried within the central Lake District fells. Slate from the Lake District was in great demand as a building material from the 17th century. Many of the quarries are still clearly identifiable today. Limestone was used for building mortar and also as an improver for areas of acid pasture, the stone was first quarried, roasted and crushed before it was spread on the field. Limestone quarries can be hard to detect since they become well vegetated after abandonment although the limekilns themselves remain a common sight in many areas. Granite was quarried for use as a hardwearing building material and later for use as road stone. Craggy rock faces and waste heaps are reminders in today’s landscape.

2.3.23 The role of mining for the various minerals to be found deep beneath the Lake District fells in shaping the contemporary landscape is sometimes missed by the casual visitor. Vast quantities of iron, copper, lead, zinc and barites were extracted from these fells over the centuries, along with more unusual minerals such as graphite, cobalt and tungsten wolfram. The miners of the early and mid-19th century have left a wealth of archaeological evidence of their energy and determination in the form of stone-arched levels, ore smelters and crushing mills, water leats, wheelpits, mineral railways, spoil heaps and derelict buildings.

2.3.24 During the 18th and 19th centuries bark peeling, charcoal burning, potash manufacture, swill basket making as well as the manufacture of bobbins, tools and tool handles, hoops and barrels, brushes, and furniture was undertaken throughout the Lake District. Corn mills, paper mills and woollen mills are testimonies of the use of waterpower in the 18th and early 19th centuries.
2.3.25 Farming continued to play an important role during the early age of industrialisation. A first phase (c.1750s to 1780s) of agricultural production was spurred by the demand from industrialising communities. In the meantime turnpike roads facilitated exportation of surplus production to other parts of the country. The second phase (lasting until c.1815) was marked by the Napoleonic Wars, which brought great prosperity for agriculture and farm-based occupations. During the third phase (c.1815 to 1880) efficiency of the farming was increased by the introduction of mechanisation and new scientific methods (improved crops and animal breeds). However, the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1848 led to a major decline in the Cumbrian grain production, especially after the opening up of the American prairies by the railway system. The prosperous period of Lake District farming came to an end and numerous small-scale farmers left the area to seek work in factories elsewhere in England.

Victorian Tourist Landscape

2.3.26 In the mid 18th century the discovery of the Lake District ‘picturesque’ landscapes by the English ‘elite’ initiated early tourism. Popularity increased as the Romantic poets and writers (among others Wordsworth, Coleridge, Southey) revealed more about the Lake District and further increased visitors.

2.3.27 The extension of the railway network to the centre of the Lake District in the 1840s made journeys to the area much easier. Day trips were possible and popular in combination with a lake tour on a steamboat. ‘Mass tourism’ for the emerging Middle Classes arrived during the mid to late 19th century when travelling became more affordable with higher wages and more free time. Hotels, villas and other tourist infrastructure proliferated along Lake Windermere and Derwentwater.

2.3.28 Property in the Lake District became increasingly valuable as visitors settled in the area. Many of the small-scale farmers took the opportunity to sell their lots and move away. Farmland, especially in areas of scenic quality, was thus transformed into sites of villas often with designed gardens parkland or woodland.

The Historic Landscape Today

2.3.29 Today’s landscape of the Lake District includes remnants from each of the major historic periods outlined above. Some are archaeological or architectural vestiges while others are recognisable in the field patterns, patches of woodland, vegetation and quarries. The pattern of selected key archaeology features, designed landscapes and built heritage assets within the National Park is shown on Figure 2.5, and summarised below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Number/Extent11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled Monuments</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest</td>
<td>9 (10.8 sqkm – 0.47% of Park)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listed Buildings:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade I</td>
<td>1,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade II*</td>
<td>31 (inc. 10 churches)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade II</td>
<td>120 (inc. 25 churches)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Areas</td>
<td>1593 (inc. 43 churches)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Records in the Lake District Historic Environment Record</td>
<td>21 (3.16 sqkm – 0.13% of Park)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record (LDHER)</td>
<td>6412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3.30 The Lake District has always been and still is a living and working cultural landscape. The fell farming is and remains an exceptionally well-preserved and distinctive example of man’s ability to respond to a marginal physical landscape. In addition, the present day

11 Source: LDHER April 2005
landscape has largely retained much of the character of the 18th and 19th century landscapes that inspired the Romantic poets, painters and other thinkers.

2.3.31 The ongoing Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Programme for Cumbria seeks to provide an understanding of the historic origins and development of the current landscape through a desk based programme of mapping and analysis. This joint initiative between Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority has determined the "time-depth" of the landscape (i.e. the visible evidence in the landscape for change and continuity over periods of time). It also provides an interpretation of the composite historic character of the present day landscape (not merely those aspects depicted on historic maps from specific periods), and classifies previous episodes of landscape (i.e. relic landscapes), which helps to unravel how a landscape has formed.

2.3.32 The Cumbria HLC has classified the landscape within the National Park into different ‘Historic Landscape Character Types’ related to age, origin, land use such as woodland, designed parkland or field enclosure pattern. These are shown on Figure 2.6, and their character is described in Appendix I under the following broad categories:

- Anciently Enclosed Land
- Planned Enclosure
- Unenclosed Land
- Woodland and Water
- Settlement
- Ornamental Parks and Recreation
- Communications
- Industry

2.3.33 Within the Lake District, the Historic Landscape Character Types have been simplified to form more generalised ‘Historic Landscape Character Areas’. These 19 Areas are shown on Figure 2.7 and described in Appendix J.

National Park Parishes

2.3.34 Ecclesiastical parishes within the Lake District National Park are shown on Figure 2.4. The origins of the parish boundaries date from the 15th century, and these were adopted during the post medieval period for secular and judicial purposes. Parishes boundaries in the Lake District have generally not changed as much as others in England, and they still represent the original ecclesiastical system centred on churches and defined by topographical and natural features such as dales or fells.

Past and Current Perceptions of the Landscape

Descriptive and Literary Associations

2.3.35 The Lake District caught the attention of key poets, writers and thinkers. In particular, these include the Romantic poets William Wordsworth (1770-1850), Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), Robert Southey (1774-1843), and the thinker John Ruskin (1819-1900). Each was fundamentally influenced by the special qualities of the Lake District landscape. In the context of Britain undergoing an industrial revolution from the late 18th century to the early 20th century, Wordsworth and Ruskin thought deeply about the relationship of people and nature. Each in different ways nurtured a tradition of environmental understanding and

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12 Historic Parishes of England & Wales (Roger and Richard, 2001)
landscape conservation in the Lake District that, during the 20th and 21st centuries, has continued to be of great influence both nationally and internationally.

2.3.36 World-famous children’s book author Beatrix Potter (1866-1943) was inspired by the Lake District scenery and sketched the distinct landscape and vernacular architectural features as illustrating backdrop for her stories.

2.3.37 Other well-known writers inspired by the Lake District landscape include Harriet Martineau (1802-1876), Hugh Walpole (1819-1941), Arthur Ransome (1884-1967), Norman Nicholson (1914-1987), Alfred Wainwright (1907-1991), and Melvyn Bragg (1939-).

Artistic Associations

2.3.38 During the second half of the 18th century people began to be more responsive to nature as a new form of appreciation of mountains and scenery helped cause a quest for beautiful landscapes in ‘wild’ Britain. The Lake District became the epitome of picturesque landscape. The earliest explorers to promote the beauty of the Lake District by means of their guidebooks were Father Thomas West, Dr John Brown, Thomas Grey, and the Rev. William Gilpin. Visitors to the Lake District were in search of the picturesque – a formulaic and limited view of landscape based on what would look best in a picture. This ‘cult’ of the picturesque attracted relatively large numbers of professional connoisseurs and amateur enthusiasts. Appreciation emphasised form and composition of the Lakeland landscape, rather than its detail and meaning.

2.3.39 Among the masterpieces of Lake District depiction were works by JMW Turner (1775-1851), John Constable (1776-1837) and Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788). From the 1780s a proliferation of engravings, sketches and watercolours by local artists included William Green, JC Ibbetson and William Westall.

2.4 Ecological Character

Ecological Character Context

2.4.1 The Lake District National Park falls within two Natural Areas13. The vast majority falls within the Cumbria Fells and Dales Natural Area and a relatively small part of the Park lies within the West Cumbria Coastal Plain Natural Area.

The Cumbria Fells and Dales Natural Area

2.4.2 The northern part of the Cumbria Fells and Dales Natural Area is characterised by high, mountainous fells and steep sided, U-shaped valleys. The high mountain tops support montane heath and rocky habitats such as cliffs and screes. Other upland habitats include extensive areas of heather moorland, acid grassland, bracken and blanket bog. Woodland, including both ancient semi-natural woodland and more recent coniferous plantations are common on the valley sides and slopes. Grasslands on the valley floors are mostly species poor and agriculturally improved, although a few small areas of species rich hay meadow or pasture survive.

2.4.3 Immediately to the south of the high Lakeland mountains lies the South Lakes Low Fells, an area of gentler topography, including rounded hills and valleys, with some rocky ridges and basins. This is one of the most wooded areas in England, with high concentrations of semi-

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13 Natural Areas were defined by the former English Nature in conjunction with the Character of England Map. The Areas provide a framework for setting local objectives and priorities for nature conservation, and for translating national targets for species and habitats into actions at a local level.
natural woodland and extensive coniferous plantations. There are complex mosaics of grassland, heath, scrub and mire. The valley and basin mires and flushes are a particularly characteristic feature. The large lakes of Windermere and Coniston dominate this area and there are many smaller tarns and other water bodies.

2.4.4 In the south east of the National Park the Morecambe Bay limestones are characterised by upstanding blocks of limestone with scars, cliffs, screes and pavements, separated by valleys containing grassland and woodland. Species-rich calcareous grassland, limestone pavements, scrub and semi-natural woodland often form valuable habitat mosaics in this area. In addition, the heads of the estuaries of the rivers Kent and Leven support areas of lowland raised mire.

2.4.5 The Cumbria Fells and Dales Natural Area is rich in aquatic habitats. Gills span the area between the montane zone and the valley floor, and where inaccessible, support relatively natural and unmodified plant communities. Rivers and streams are numerous, and retain a high degree of naturalness and generally high water quality. Still open waters are synonymous with the Lake District and are very varied in character, ranging from the large valley lakes through high mountain tarns to small pools.

The West Cumbria Coastal Plain Natural Area

2.4.6 The south western part of the National Park lies within the West Cumbria Coastal Plain Natural Area. The area behind the coast is gently undulating and dominated by agriculturally improved grasslands of generally low nature conservation value. However, the coastal strip contains a range of habitats of high biodiversity value, including salt marsh and dunes.

Nature Conservation Designations

2.4.7 The distribution of nature conservation sites within the National Park is shown in Figure 2.8. The coverage of statutory and non-statutory nature conservation designations within the National Park is presented below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Designated sites within the National Park</th>
<th>% of National Park by Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hectares (ha.)</td>
<td>Number of Sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramsar Site</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Area of Conservation</td>
<td>36433</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Protection Area</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site of Special Scientific Interest</td>
<td>42039</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Nature Reserve</td>
<td>1379</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Nature Reserve</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Woodland</td>
<td>10791</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4.8 Overall, almost one fifth of the National Park is covered by sites of international or national importance.

Key Habitats of the Lake District

2.4.9 The Lake District supports a wide range of semi-natural habitat types, many of which are of high value for nature conservation. Key habitats include:
• Broadleaved woodland and scrub;
• Heath;
• Bog and mire;
• Unimproved grassland;
• Bracken:
• Rocky habitats;
• Aquatic habitats;
• Coastal habitats.

2.4.10 A description of the above key habitat types are set out in Appendix K, and summarised below.

2.4.11 The Lake District supports proportionally more ancient semi-natural woodland than most other areas of the UK. The upland oak woodland in the high fells is dominated by sessile oak, with birch and supports important assemblages of ferns, mosses and liverworts, as populations of red squirrels and birds such as redstart and wood warbler. The upland ash woods are characteristic of the limestone areas and is often associated with species-rich shrub and field layers and frequently contains yew. The Lake District also supports important stands of juniper scrub.

2.4.12 The fells represent a significant part of England’s upland dry heath, wet heath, blanket bog and mire. The upland heathland is dominated by heather, with smaller areas of bilberry and supports a range of bird species including red grouse, hen harrier and curlew. Montane heath occurs on the highest mountain tops and characteristically contains an abundance of mosses and lichens. Both these habitats are vulnerable to overgrazing in the recent past, with reports of their long term decline in quality and extent. The southern fells support some of the most extensive areas of lowland raised mire in England.

2.4.13 The rocky habitats within the National park include crags, screes and limestone scars and pavements. The most inaccessible crags support relic arctic and alpine communities.

2.4.14 The Lake District is uniquely identified with its freshwater habitats ranging from mountain tarns, rivers, streams and the large valley lakes which, depending on the underlying geology, range from acid and nutrient poor to the moderately base and nutrient rich. The aquatic environment supports some of the Lake District’s rarest species including the only British population of vendace, as well as important invertebrate and bird populations.

**Biodiversity Planning and Management**

2.4.15 The protection and maintenance of biodiversity throughout the Lake District National Park relies on sympathetic management regimes for land both within and outside designated areas. Historically, many of the habitats and their associated species in the Lake District have experienced decline through the intensification of agricultural practices, notably overgrazing driven by high stocking rates supported by agricultural subsidies. The past 15 years has, however, seen significant changes in national agricultural and forestry policies that have promoted sympathetic management of habitats and species and in some instances have started to redress past losses\(^{14}\).

**Biodiversity Action Plans**

2.4.16 UK Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) are the framework through which conservation objectives and actions for a range of key species and habitats are structured and prioritised.

Both habitat and species action plans have been produced for use at the national and local level. The Cumbria BAPs\(^\text{15}\) cover the Lake District National Park, which contains a large proportion of some BAP habitats and important populations of BAP species common to the county of Cumbria as a whole.

2.4.17 The Cumbria Habitat Action Plan targets for management, achievement of favourable condition and habitat creation related to habitats found in the National Park are set out in Appendix L.

2.4.18 Species Action Plans encompass the whole of Cumbria, but the species listed in Appendix L are also known to have ranges within the National Park. The Species Action Plans make recommendations regarding the protection of existing sites/populations, surveying and monitoring of populations, the management of relevant habitats, and also set targets for the expansion of populations, both in terms of size and number. The National Park supports nationally important, or in some cases the only British populations of red squirrel, natterjack toad, vendace, high brown fritillary, netted carpet moth, white faced darter, *Hydroporus rufifrons*, *Glossosoma intermedium*, and slender green feather moss. In addition, although not included in the Cumbria BAP, the Lake District also supports populations of dormouse, Atlantic salmon, sea lamprey and floating water plantain, all of which are considered to be species of European importance.

_Biodiversity Enhancement Initiatives within the National Park_

2.4.19 The ‘Wild Ennerdale Partnership’ is comprised of the National trust, the Forestry Commission and United Utilities, the major landowners in the valley. Reductions in the economic viability of the extractive industries of agriculture and forestry have led to a significant re-evaluation of the objectives of land management in the valley. This offers opportunities for the implementation of large-scale plans for low-input management, whereby natural processes are allowed to dominate, and where the aim is to maximise the valley’s potential in terms of landscape, recreation and nature conservation.

2.4.20 At present over 40% of the land covered by the partnership is designated as SSSI and SAC. However, much of this is in unfavourable condition, largely due to overgrazing. In addition the remaining areas of coniferous plantation are considered to have a negative effect on both the landscape and nature conservation attributes of the valley.

2.4.21 The Stewardship Plan for ‘Wild Ennerdale’\(^\text{16}\) outlines the approach and actions that will be taken with the aim of enhancing those features of the valley for which it is valued, and removing or reducing those features that are perceived to detract from its character. These include the removal of many of the remaining areas of coniferous plantation, and the development of native broadleaved woodland, including a more natural succession to upland heath. A system of low intensity cattle grazing is planned to facilitate the recovery of the areas of heath, as well as diversifying habitats within the wooded areas.

2.4.22 Similar combinations of key attributes, namely the reduced economic viability of existing land-uses, large areas of unenclosed land, and a small number of relatively large landowners, pertain to many other areas of the National Park. Therefore, although the particular local character, opportunities and obstacles will vary from place to place, the targeted re-evaluation of the aims of land management may well be appropriate in other parts of the National Park. Such a re-evaluation has the potential to allow the development...

\(^{15}\) Cumbria Biodiversity Partnership (2001). _Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan._

of landscape scale land management, with nature conservation as one of the primary objectives.

2.4.23 Other examples of major biodiversity enhancement initiatives within the National Park include:

- **Save our Squirrels** - the north of England is a stronghold for the red squirrel in England. This single-species conservation project is the largest in the UK, and covers Northumberland and Lancashire as well as Cumbria. One of the central aims of this project is the establishment of a network of red squirrel reserves in the area.

- **Cumbria Water Vole Project** - this is a partnership between the Cumbria Wildlife Trust and the Eden Rivers Trust, which aims to reverse the decline of this species in the county.

- **Completing Cumbria (County Wildlife Sites) Project** - County Wildlife Sites are a non-statutory designation that reflects the wildlife value of such sites at a county level. This project, funded by Natural England, and carried out by the Cumbria Wildlife Trust, aims to champion such sites through managing and disseminating data, to inform the planning process and future conservation efforts. In addition it aims to update and complete the surveying of all sites within the county.

- **Wealth of Wildlife** - this project is an initiative of the Cumbria Biodiversity Partnership and aims to promote Cumbria as a top wildlife destination within the country, and to involve people in practical conservation work. It also includes a number of spotlight projects for both species or species groups (initially natterjack toads and bats) and habitats (upland woodland and hay meadows), with targets for population enhancements and habitat restoration and expansion.

- **Flora of the Fells Project** - this project is a partnership between the Friends of the Lake District and Natural England, which aims to raise awareness of the value of the upland environment in Cumbria, including the Lake District National Park. In addition, it has aimed to create a vision of how the landscapes and biodiversity of the uplands might be changed or enhanced through targeted changes in land management.

2.5 Socio-Economic Character

**Broad Socio-Economic Features**

2.5.1 The report- ‘A Social and Economic Profile of the Lake District National Park’ was commissioned by the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), in preparation for the Examination in Public of the Cumbria and Lake District Joint Structure Plan in 2004. Since then it has been used as a technical report to inform the creation of the first ‘State of the Park Report 2005’. These two documents have been used alongside a number of other reports to analyse the features and trends of the National Parks socio-economic position. Some of the key findings were:

- The Lake District is experiencing profound changes in its social composition due to demographic change, driven by migration. It has a much older population than other areas of Cumbria

17 Lake District Economic Futures: The Way Forward, A Final Stage 2 Report, July 2004
The population of the Park is significantly better qualified than that in the rest of Cumbria, with the lakes having a high proportion of residents with degree level qualifications.\textsuperscript{18} There is also a concentration of those in less skilled occupations and lower paid jobs which demonstrates that the area has a clear cut two tier labour market\textsuperscript{1} (See Table 2.7.1);

The economic base of the National Park is currently very narrowly focused, with tourism in all its various guises forming 50% or more of all the economic activity in the Park;

Across the Park average incomes are virtually the same inside and outside the towns (with the average income standing at £31,425 p.a). The noticeable difference in incomes is in comparison with the rest of Cumbria where incomes are lower. (Average income for the rest of Cumbria stands at £27,650 p.a)\textsuperscript{2};

It is clear that overall the Park is less deprived according to The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) than the rest of Cumbria. This relationship holds also for the income and employment domains\textsuperscript{2};

The average house price in the Park is £164,921, which is 26% above the average for the rest of Cumbria. Geographically there is a clear concentration of higher house prices in the more accessible areas- the centre and east of the Park.

The enduring and increasing popularity of the area as a location for in-migrants especially retirees, confirms the 2001 census data, that nearly 30% of the National Parks population are over 60 years of age\textsuperscript{3}. A continued occurrence of migration will lead to increased pressures on social services, school rolls and access to care and other health services.

2.5.2 A continued fall in numbers of young local people living or having access to living arrangements in the national Park could have flow-on effects on the management of the landscape itself. Where the Park has once prospered from land management decisions and actions based on local knowledge, expertise and interest; this may not be the case in the future, as the next generation of land based employees are being squeezed out of the Park’s housing market, and are thus leaving the Park to source employment else where. In consequence the National Park Authority are having to source non-indigenous agricultural, hunting and forestry workers from outside of the Park, which in time will threaten the fabric of the Park.

2.5.3 Despite the generally positive employment statistics, parts of the National Park have relatively poor access to services as measured by the IMD ‘Geographical Access to Services’ domain, because of their rural nature. This is reflected in vehicle ownership; where many of the households within the Park, especially those outside of the four main towns are wholly reliant on the use of a vehicle. There is an average of 1.35 vehicles per household compared with 1.09 in the rest of Cumbria\textsuperscript{3}.

\textsuperscript{18} A Social and Economic Profile of the Lake District National Park, LUC, 2004
\textsuperscript{3} Lake District National Park- State of the Park 2005/06
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Sector</th>
<th>% of Resident Working Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LD National Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotels &amp; Restaurants</td>
<td>21.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale/ Retail, Trade Repair etc</td>
<td>15.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate, Renting &amp; Business Activities</td>
<td>8.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>8.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Social Work</td>
<td>7.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Hunting &amp; Forestry</td>
<td>7.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Economic Contribution of Recreation and Tourism

2.5.4 Various studies relating to the National Parks economic contribution of recreation and tourism have provided detailed information on current recreational use patterns and economic impacts. The National Park Profile 2004/05\(^2\) estimated there are 22 million day visits annually to the Lake District National Park, which create over £602 million in tourism revenue. Since 2000 this figure has increased year on year by 14.9%. The tourism related businesses in the National Park are estimated to sustain some 13,542 jobs with a significant number of the employees being drawn from outside the Park\(^3\).

2.5.5 The tourism economy in the Lake District National Park is driven by the broader tourism experience with specific trends such as:

- It remains as a predominately English visitor destination\(^1\), with a low contribution of overseas visitors compared to many other tourism destinations in the UK;
- Visits to the Lake Districts are increasingly taken as short breaks;
- The majority of visitors to the Lake District (92%) are from the UK, with 50% from the north of England. A further 15% live in the South East\(^4\);
- An estimated 55% of all wealth created in the National Parks tourism sector is generated by day and staying visitors from the three Northern regions of England\(^1\);
- The core market is wealthy (older) ABC1s\(^1\);
- 80% of all day visitors live within 2 hours drive time of their destination in the Lake District.

### The Value of Agricultural Production

2.5.6 The agricultural sector continues to make a small but important direct input to the Lake District’s economy. The total farmgate income generated by agricultural holdings in the Lake District National Park area was £59m (in 2002), of which:

- 57% (£33.6m) comes from the sale of agricultural products (livestock and milk),
- 16% (£9.3m) from commodity based production subsidies from the CAP,
- 27% (£16.1m) from area-based CAP payments\(^5\).

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2. A Social and Economic Profile of the Lake District National Park, LUC, 2004
3. Lake District National Park- State of the Park 2005/06
4. Lake District Economic Futures Study: A Final Stage 1 Report, June 2004
2.5.7 In the years since the major reforms of the CAP in 2000, farmers have found the receipts from the CAP’s second pillar (rural development) more important than those from production-related subsidies. As subsidy payments are increasingly decoupled from agricultural production, the incentive to produce specific commodities will decrease. This is considered likely to have two key effects. Firstly, land uses are likely to diversify, and secondly, production will be more strongly influenced by market demand and therefore the types of land use will fluctuate as the relative demand for various commodities changes.

2.5.7 The decoupling of support in the dairy sector is likely to accelerate the restructuring of the dairy sector, with production moving out of the Lake District to areas such as Cheshire. Within the Lake District, the dairy sector is likely to become concentrated on the larger specialist and more efficient holdings on the better land.

2.5.8 In the most recent reforms agri-environment schemes have been introduced to reward farmers for agricultural production methods compatible with the protection and enhancement of the environment. There are projected gains for bio-diversity, which can offer indirect benefits to the farming community. The schemes alone can rarely maintain viable businesses, but they can assist and encourage agriculture to face the competitive challenges of the growing and diversifying rural markets.

2.6 Rural Land Use and Management

2.6.1 The following section provides an overview of rural land use and management practices in the Lake District National Park and considers the effects that future changes may have on the character of the landscape.

2.6.2 The data used to make comparisons are based on Defra’s Agricultural Census data 1990, 1995, 2000, and the most recent data from 2003. The Joint Character Areas found within the Lake District have been used as a framework for analysing this data (see Figure 3.1).

Agricultural Land Use

2.6.3 Land use in the National Park is shown on Figure 2.9, which shows that agriculture is the dominant land use. A combination of traditional farming practices and recent agri-environmental land management has created and maintained some of the many distinctive features of the landscape. These include the distinctive high quality produce, the character of the cultural landscape and its biodiversity, farm woodlands and the open nature of the fells (Lake District National Park Authority, 2004).

2.6.4 Agriculture has a long history in this area and one that follows a hill farming system of hill sheep and some suckler herds on the fells. Dairy is also an important aspect, although one that is mainly carried out in the lowlands. There has been very little in the way of arable farming in the area due to the nature of landscape and environmental conditions.

2.6.5 Due to the intensification of agricultural since the Second World War, and in particular, since the 1970’s, there has been an increase in the stocking numbers, giving higher stocking levels and placing pressure upon the environment. Farming incomes have seen a decline since 1996. Animal health scares such as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in the 1990’s and Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) in 2001, saw a large decline in the amount of

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1 Lake District Economic Futures: The Way Forward, A Final Stage 2 Report, July 2004

11104201R_Draft Interim Report No2_DW_6-07.doc
livestock and many livestock farms in the area were lost. (Dyson E, 2001)\textsuperscript{20}. Other factors such as other better paid rural jobs, the rapid house price increase, increased regulations and tighter commodity markets (especially seen in the dairy sector), have seen many younger people leave the area and in many cases farms have been sold with the house and converted buildings going to second home owners (LDNPA, 2004)\textsuperscript{21}.

2.6.6 The Lake District has seen a steady decline in dairy cattle numbers from 1990. The number of dairy cattle in livestock units has fallen by 70\% over the last decade. The pressures in the market place, including a decline in commodity prices and increased imports of milk, has contributed to this decline.

2.6.7 Beef numbers saw a small increase in 1995, due to headage payments, but this declined sharply post mid 1990’s to 2003 by 7\%. The BSE scare, FMD and pressures within the market place has forced many small and medium farm businesses to cease trading.

2.6.8 Sheep numbers are traditionally (and still remain) the highest number of stock within the Lake District. Breeding ewe production however has also seen a sharp decline in since 2000 by 40\% from 131,025 Livestock Units (LSU) to 52,457 LSU. The mass slaughter of stock during FMD is the main contributing factor to this decline. Nationwide, stock numbers are only now recovering from this sharp decline (as this data is only up to 2003, it will not reflect this trend). The trend has been a steady decline in the number of dairy holdings from 2,310 in 1990 to 1,421 in 2003 - a 60\% drop\textsuperscript{22}.

2.6.9 However, despite the sharp decline in sheep LSU, there has been a shift from the majority of cattle and sheep holdings being in the Lakeland Fells Area (LFA), to an increase of these types of holdings in the lowland areas. Therefore market forces (particularly commodity prices), the type of system and practices in the upland areas, the environment and a shift to more conservation in these areas have caused many of the LFA holdings to remain as they were in 1990, but has enabled the lowland farms to increase in number.

2.6.10 The number of general cropping farms, horticulture and mixed farms still remains at an insignificant level within the Lake District.

2.6.11 There has been an expectation that with a small decline in farms in the LFA area and an increase in cattle and sheep businesses in the lowland, the number of farms <5ha would decline dramatically. However, the data shows that there has been a rapid increase in holdings sized <5ha from 454ha to 1,864ha (a 24\% increase). This might illustrate that farming is no longer the main contributor to many Lake District communities, with many farmers now having an off farm source of income (e.g. part time employment elsewhere) and thereby reducing farming activity and leading to more extensive holdings. The decline in holdings sized 20 – 100ha will have been the businesses that contributed to the increase in holdings <5ha through consolidation of farms. A more competitive market place and a decline in commodity prices will have contributed to these shifts in farm size. Achieving an income purely from farming has in some cases become unsustainable, and has forced many farmers to seek income elsewhere.

2.6.12 The majority of the land use in the six Joint Character Areas (JCA) in the Lake District is mainly permanent pasture with some rough pasture. Due the terrain of the land within the Lake District, the majority of the land used for cereals and temporary pasture can be found in the lower ground and in particularly in the Eden Valley. This trend has not altered much

\textsuperscript{20} Dyson E, (2001), Agricultural Policy in the Context of Foot and Mouth Disease in Cumbria: Issues Faced by Farmers and Policy Makers, University of Northumbria, Centre for Regional Economic Development

\textsuperscript{21} Lake District National Park Authority (2004), Lake District National Park Management Plan.

\textsuperscript{22} Defra Agricultural Census Data
from 1990, as the terrain and the environment does not lend itself to many different types of land use. However, the Lake District has seen a small increase in land used for cereals which is then reseeded with temporary grass as part of the rotation. Change in market demands and animal health scares such as BSE and FMD will have forced many farms to switch to mixed farming.

**Major Land Ownership**

2.6.13 *Figure 2.10* shows the pattern of major land ownership in the Lake District. The breakdown of the land ownership pattern is outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landowner</th>
<th>Ha</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Ownership</td>
<td>133.7</td>
<td>58.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Trust</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Utilities</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Enterprise</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake District National Park Authority</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Defence</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.6.14 Most of the land in the Park is privately owned, with the National Trust as the major single land owning organisation. The National Trust protects and manages around 25% of the Lake District National Park through a legacy of land purchase, donation, lease or covenant. Approximately one sixth of the countryside within the Trust’s total ownership in England, Wales and Northern Ireland lies within the Lake District. The Trust’s Lake District upland estate currently covers around 51,000 hectares and includes 91 separate farms and some 22,500 hectares of common land. Such a landholding makes the Trust the major landowner within several valleys such as the Langdales, Borrowdale, Wasdale and Patterdale. It includes England’s highest mountain – Scafell Pike – and deepest lake – Wastwater. Almost all the central upland area and major valley heads are owned or managed by the Trust, including fells such as Great Gable, Harrison Stickle and Crinkle Crags, together with 24 lakes and tarns, including Grasmere and Buttermere.

**Countryside Management Plans**

*National Park Management Plans*

2.6.15 The *Lake District National Park Management Plan (2004)* sets out the guiding principles, vision, long-term aims and policies for managing the National Park, based on the Park’s special qualities. A review of this Plan is currently underway co-ordinated by the Lake District National Park Partnership. A new Plan is expected to be in place by end 2009, providing a new agreed vision, action plan and management policies for the future.

2.6.16 The Lake District National Park Authority has also taken the lead in producing *Area Management Plans*. These Plans set out proposals for the future management of locations within the Park that are experiencing resource demand management and land use conflict issues. These include:

- Skiddaw Massif Management Plan (1997)
- Helvellyn Management Plan (1997)
- Windermere Lake Management Plan (in prep)
- Bassenthwaite Lake Management Plan (1999)

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Defra Agricultural Census Data

The Environment Act 1995 requires National Park Authorities to prepare and publish National Park Management Plans and to review them every five years.
• Coniston Water Management Plan (1992)
• Derwentwater Management Plan (1996)

*National Trust Management Plans*

2.6.17 *Property Management Plans* have been prepared by the National Trust for all of its countryside land holdings to provide a framework for land and resource management at a local level. The Plans contain ‘Statements of Significance’ that identify the key attributes of each property, and three-year action plans that articulate how these are to be conserved and enhanced within the context of the current National Trust Strategic Plan. The Trust’s countryside properties are shown on Figure 2.10 and include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NT Area</th>
<th>National Trust Countryside Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Borrowdale | Borrowdale, Newlands & Watendlath  
Solway Commons 
Watendlath Armboth |
| Buttermere/Ennerdale/Dunthwaite | Buttermere & Ennerdale  
Dunthwaite Plan 
Ennerdale 
West Cumbria |
| Coniston & Little Langdale | Coniston  
Little Langdale 
Tarn Hows & Monk Coniston 
Yewdale & Tilberthwaite |
| Grasmere & Great Langdale | Grasmere & Great Langdale  
Great Langdale & High Close |
| Hawkshead | Hawkshead & Claife |
| Ullswater | Acorn Bank  
Long Crag, North Stainmore 
Overwater Lake 
Ullswater 
Wetheral Woods |
| Western Valleys | Duddon  
Eskdale 
Nether Wasdale 
Wasdale |
| Windermere | Ambleside  
Fell Foot Country Park 
The Cross Keys 
Troutbeck 
Windermere & Crosthwaite |

2.6.18 The current review of these Property Management Plans is based on a character-based approach to integrating and evaluating differing resource management demands and resolving conflict. This approach will be informed by the new Lake District National Park Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines, and other character-based sources of information and guidance (such as outputs from the Historic Landscape Characterisation Programme for Cumbria for example).

2.6.19 Currently, 41 of the Trust’s 91 Lake District tenanted farms have in place completed *Whole Farm Plans*. These Plans provide a mechanism to negotiate a balance between providing solutions to issues of environmental compliance and improvement, with improvements to ensure sustained business viability. The National Trust has also identified a need for the preparation of *Whole Valley Plans* in catchment areas where the Trust has a significant estate, is a major land manager and where a number of farms have historically operated as a unit. These Plans seek to identify areas appropriate for farm amalgamation or creation,
extensification, managed retreat or new land uses, and those where the Trust will continue to invest in the status quo. This process is ongoing, and priority will be given to the preparation of Whole Valley Plans for catchments within the central fells area (especially where there are extensive areas of common grazing). Elsewhere, priorities will be towards valleys with specific restructuring or water quality issues that require addressing.

**Agri – Environment Schemes**

2.6.20 A review of the number of hectares in the National Park under Countryside Stewardship Agreements (CSS) and in the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) as of 2007 shows that CSS agreements in the National Park cover 2,328ha of land with 987ha covered in the ESA. The large area of land covered by CSS agreements illustrates the importance of environmental conservation to the Lake District National Park Authority.

2.6.21 In 2004, there were 3,867 applications for the CSS within the Lake District of which 2,232 were new entrants and 481 were renewals. The agreements mainly cover the repair and maintenance of stonewalls and hedgerows and the establishment of grass margins (University of Reading, 2007)\(^{25}\).

2.6.22 Since the reforms to the Common Agricultural Programme (CAP) and the implementation of the Single Payment and new agri – environment schemes, the CSS and ESA scheme have now ended and been replaced with the Entry Level Scheme (ELS) and the Higher Level Scheme (HLS).

**Woodland within the Lake District National Park**

2.6.23 The Forestry Commission’s Inventory of Woodland and Trees 2002 shows shows that the largest proportion of woodland in the Lake District can be found in the Cumbria High Fells within the National Park. The largest woodland type to be found within the National Park is the broadleaved type at 5,850ha\(^{26}\) indicating the significance of woodland to the Lake District's conservation and economy.

2.6.24 The forests within the 6 JCA of the Lake District cover an area of 46,816ha in 2002. However this did reduce slightly from 47,034 in 2001. The main woodland type are broadleaved and coniferous. The areas with the most significant forests within the Lake District are at Grizedale, in the Eden Valley, Cumbria High Fells, West Cumbria and the South Cumbria Low Fells.

2.6.25 The role of woodlands and forestry within the Lake District has become a significant positive economic driver for the area. The Forestry Commission estimates that the woodland within the Lake District provides an approximate income representing 12% of the overall income gain from tourism. Whilst the fall in the timber prices have had an impact on the felling industry, tourism from forest activities generates £1.2 million pa of income. The recreational use of the forests in the Lake District has seen an increase in the number of forest shops, cafés, bike hire, which has therefore lead to a significant increase in the number of jobs created in the area (Forestry Commission, 2005)\(^{27}\).

2.6.26 There are numerous projects and initiatives in the area that ensure that the woodlands remain a viable asset to the Lake District. The Wild Ennerdale project is funding the gradual change from predominantly coniferous woodland to more native woodland. This will follow a purely natural process and therefore making the forest more sustainable.

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25 University of Reading (2007), The England Rural Development Programme – An Overview

26 The Forestry Commission (2002), National Inventory of Woodland and Trees

2.6.27 The Lake District Osprey Project is in place in order to use the forest to improve rural development and support the local economy. More specialist conifer species are to be planted in areas of the Cumbria High Fells, which grow fast and yield high quality timber intended for the felling industry.

2.6.28 The Whinlatter Forest Park Project is to focus more on formal recreation provision as a way of attracting more people to the area via adventure and activity holidays. This will be achieved by managing natural regeneration of trees with planting used as a last resort.

2.6.29 The Grizedale project in the South Cumbria Fells will aim to support the diversification of the rural economy. This will be achieved via planting of species that produce a higher quality of timber for the felling industry, whilst maintaining the area for more recreational use by retaining coniferous areas (Forestry Commission, 2005)28.

The Future of Agriculture and Forestry

2.6.30 As noted above, agriculture has been an important part of the Lake District’s history and has formed some of the most distinctive and renowned features of the area that attracts large numbers of tourists each year. However, in recent years, UK agriculture has been adversely affected by the subsidy payments keeping commodity prices artificially high, encouraging overproduction and creating strong competition from the global market. This has had a significant impact on farms in the Lake District, especially the upland farms where many have left the industry.

2.6.31 Agri – environment schemes have become vital to the agricultural industry in the Lake District. They have enabled farms to continue to receive an income (through the CSS and ESA schemes) partly compensating for the loss of stock levels which were encouraged by the agri – environment schemes of the time and low prices. However, this cannot continue indefinitely and farms in the Lake District are already seeking alternative ways to provide an income. A large number of farms have diversified into B&Bs and recreation attractions in order to secure some of the income that tourists bring to the area. The issue of a large proportion of farms in the 6 JCA in the Lake District reducing in size to <5ha was noted above. Consequently, many farms have begun to reduce the actual farming activities upon the farms by reducing stocking numbers to a more manageable level, whilst seeking an income from off farm sources.

2.6.32 Diversification is not necessarily the answer for all farming businesses. The area will need other types of lucrative, low cost market opportunities that complement farm activities and that understand the local area needs. The Lake District National Park Authority have been encouraging this approach in their Management Plan, by stating that they will actively encourage organic production that will complement the area29.

2.6.33 The Lake District has already, and will continue to see an amalgamation of some farms to produce more economically viable larger businesses, and a reduction in the more medium to small family farms. A difficult market place and the new CAP reforms which dramatically removed support payments from an already sensitive industry, will have both contributed to the current situation. The increase in average farm size will have a significant impact on the distinct character of the Lake District landscape.

2.6.34 More and more farmers are leaving the industry and with an increase in the number of people visiting the area, there is an increasing number of farmhouses and associated

buildings being sold and converted into housing, often for second home owners. This continues to exacerbate the increased house prices forcing many local people and accompanying agricultural skills to leave the area. Organisations such as the Lake District National Park and the National Trust are also concerned that with the reduction in the number of smaller family farms, it will reduce the opportunity for younger people to enter the industry and live locally.

2.6.35 Local organisations also fear that whilst the CAP reforms will bring significant environmental benefits to the upland areas, with the introduction of the ELS and HLS, it may also contribute to a further reduction of stocking numbers. This will result in a reduced grazing and in turn will bring significant change to the upland landscape. The National Trust in particular are looking to the Government to have clearer strategy for the upland areas, seeking to include development of the Hill Farm Allowance (HFA) which is flexible and supports the businesses that already delivery environmental benefits.

2.6.36 Despite the slight reduction in the overall size of the woodland area within the Lake District, the forests still remain vitally important to the area for biodiversity, forest products and the increasing business they attract from tourism and recreation. The North West England Forest District Strategic Plan 2005 – 2009 aims to manage the North West Forests to maximise public benefit through social, environmental and the economic objectives. The plan states that it will aim to work with the National Park to delivery projects such as the Lake Districts Osprey Project to maximise recreation provision and forest planting and design. Again indicating the significant value the forest areas have within the National Park.

**Access, Recreation and Amenity Land Uses**

2.6.37 Tourism, recreation and amenity are already key economic factors within the Lake District National Park and the surrounding areas. This is set to increase as the Countryside and Rights Of Way (CROW) Act encourages open access use and people’s desire to visit the area further increases. The areas of the National Park that are open to access under the CROW Act are shown on Figure 2.11, which also shows the rights of way network and key recreation facilities in the Park. The National Park has 2,977 km of public footpaths and bridleways (State of the Park Report, 2005/06). These rights of way are a valuable recreational resource throughout the whole of the National Park.

2.6.38 Active pursuits such as walking, fell running, orienteering, rock climbing, horse riding, mountain biking, canoeing, fishing, inland boating, as well as other activities such as picnicking, camping and visiting cultural attractions are all vital to the Lake District. However, they also require different facilities and types of landscape as well as resources such as camping sites and shops. This therefore may have an effect upon the local landscape and put pressure on available resources. The Lake District Authority is aiming to overcome these issues by:

- Encouraging activities that harmonise with the Lake District’s qualities, whilst not affecting other recreational users or local people.
- Where recreational activities and conservation conflict, conservation will take priority.
- Designating areas of the National Park as ‘quieter areas’ where noise and disturbance associated with some forms of recreational activities/ larger events will be discouraged.

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30 The National Trust (2005), English Uplands Face Bleak Future
31 The Forestry Commission (2005), The North West Forest District Strategic Plan 2005 - 2009
32 The Lake District National Park (2006), State of the Park Report
2.6.39 Accessibility in the Lake District can cause problems for some people wanting to visit the area and use the facilities. The Lake District Authority is looking to improve many pathways, particularly around the larger lakes such as Coniston, Derwentwater and Ullswater. More outdoor facilities such as seats, picnic tables, recreation sites and information will be provided to help people to enjoy the area more whilst minimising the disturbance on the local area. Provision for improving roads, directions and car parking facilities will have to be made in order to ensure adequate facilities are available and do not impact on the environment, the landscape and the local communities. The Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan aims to integrate countryside access with health objectives, the local economy, sustainable tourism, social inclusion, education, sustainable transport, and the environment.

2.6.40 Many of the lakes and tarns in the National Park provide a range of recreational opportunities for local people and visitors such as sailing, canoeing, rowing, swimming, motor cruising. Waterbus and ferry services on the larger lakes (Windermere, Coniston Water, Ullswater, and Derwentwater) provide opportunities to enjoy the landscape from the water and connect one part of the shoreline to another. The recreation and transport opportunities that the lakes provide also support a number of businesses providing hire craft, ferry services, boat and equipment sales and maintenance. The attractiveness of lakeshore sites means that there is a lot of development pressure on available sites. Sailing, canoeing, boating, and ferry services require a network of shoreline access points, jetties, moorings, and slipways. There is increasing demand for such facilities along the shore of popular lakes like Windermere.

**Tranquillity**

2.6.41 Tranquillity is an important aspect of landscape character. It can be defined as freedom from the noise and visual intrusion, including light pollution, associated with developed areas, road corridors and areas with intensive recreational activities and other uses that contribute to disturbance. Some of the quietest areas in the National Park are those currently served by narrow minor roads where existing development is generally unobtrusive. These areas include:

- The valleys of the western fells from Newlands to the Lickle Valley;
- The eastern valleys from Martindale and the Lowther Valley to the Head of Troutbeck;
- The northern fringes of the National Park around the less frequented fells north of Skiddaw and Blencathra;
- Woodland, Rusland Valley and Dale Park;
- The Winster Valley and Whitbarrow in the South East.

2.6.42 The degree of tranquillity within the Lake District National Park has been mapped by CPRE using a methodology piloted for the Northumberland National Park. **Figure 2.12** will show this (data awaited from LDNPA).
3.0  THE LAKE DISTRICT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT – AN OVERVIEW

3.1  Introduction

3.1.1  Established in 1951, the Lake District is England’s biggest National Park covering 2,292 km². The Lake District’s landscapes are the direct product of the interaction of innumerable and often extremely complex physical and cultural influences over thousands of years. Geological and glacial processes have shaped the spectacular mountain scenery and created deep glaciated valleys that radiate out from the central fells like spokes of a wheel. The high open fells contain a mosaic of craggy peaks and screes, heaths, bogs, heather moorland and grassland, as well as remote valleys with fast flowing streams and tarns. In contrast, the valleys shelter lakes and woodland alongside enclosed farmland with traditional stone farm buildings.

3.1.2  These spectacular landscapes contain a wealth of habitats and wildlife, rich archaeology and distinctive settlements. The opportunities for quiet enjoyment and outdoor activities attracts visitors from all over the world, and the Lake District has rich literary and artistic associations with strong social and cultural roots. The character of the landscape varies across the National Park as a result of different patterns of physical, cultural, historical and ecological characteristics. The landscape is not static, and will continue to change in response to a range of social, economic and environmental factors.

3.1.3  This section describes the context provided by the hierarchical classification of Landscape Character Areas and Types defined at the national and county levels. Within this context, the classification of Landscape Character Types and Areas of Distinctive Character defined for the Lake District National Park is presented.

3.1.4  The descriptions of individual Landscape Character Types and Areas of Distinctive Character in Sections 4.0 and 5.0 should be read in conjunction with this information to ensure that the contextual relationship with the wider landscape is understood.

3.2  National and Regional Landscape Context

3.2.1  The national context for defining the boundaries of the different landscape character units within the Lake District is provided by the ‘Joint Character Areas’ (JCA) defined at 1:250,000 scale by the Character of England Map33.

3.2.2  As illustrated on Figure 3.1, the Lake District is covered by the following JCAs:

- Cumbria High Fells (8)
- South Cumbria Low Fells (19)
- West Cumbria Coastal Plain (7)
- Eden Valley (9)
- Morecambe Bay Limestone (20)

3.2.3  In the regional context, the central core of the Lake District National Park is defined as the Cumbria High Fells JCA. They are surrounded by a range of contrasting JCAs - including the Solway Basin to the north, the Eden Valley and Orton Fells to the east, West Cumbria Coastal Plain to the west, and the South Cumbria Low Fells and the Morecambe Bay

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3.2.4 These JCAs provide the contextual framework within which classifications of landscape character units at the more detailed scale can be defined.

3.3 County Landscape Context

3.3.1 Informed by the broad framework provided by JCAs, the Cumbria Landscape Classification\(^{35}\) classifies the landscape character of Cumbria outside the National Park into 13 separate ‘Landscape Types’, 10 of which are further divided into ‘Landscape Sub-Types’ making a total of 37 different units of land (see Figure 3.2). It appears that the landscape units were mapped and assessed at 1:50,000 scale, but this has not been verified.

3.3.2 Descriptive information on the geology/geomorphology, ecology, historic environment and cultural associations of each Landscape Sub-Type is provided in the Cumbria Landscape Classification report.

3.3.3 As shown on Figure 3.2, Landscape Types and Sub-Types defined by the Cumbria Landscape Classification that are close or adjacent to, and therefore may potentially be shared with, the National Park include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape Type</th>
<th>Landscape Sub Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Estuary and Marsh</td>
<td>1a. Intertidal Flats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1b. Coastal Marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2: Coastal Margins</td>
<td>2a. Dunes and Beaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2b. Coastal Mosses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2c. Coastal Plain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Coastal Limestone</td>
<td>3a. Open Farmland and Pavements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Coastal Sandstone</td>
<td>4a. Coastal Sandstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Lowland</td>
<td>5b. Low Farmland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5c. Rolling Lowland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Intermediate Land</td>
<td>6a. Intermediate Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Drumlins</td>
<td>7b. Drumlin Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Main Valleys</td>
<td>8b. Broad Valleys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8c. Valley Corridors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Intermediate Moorland and Plateau</td>
<td>9d. Ridges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Upland Fringes</td>
<td>11a. Foothills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Higher Limestone</td>
<td>12a. Limestone Farmland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12b. Rolling Fringe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12c. Limestone Foothills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12d. Moorland and Commons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Fells and Scarps</td>
<td>13c. Fells</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4 The Lake District Landscape Typology

Defining a Landscape Character Typology for the Lake District

3.4.1 Following consultation with Cumbria County Council and the client commissioning group partners, it was agreed that the classifications of landscape units and mapping of boundaries within and outside of the National Park should be as consistent as possible. Accordingly,
the Landscape Types and Sub-Types defined by the Cumbria Landscape Classification that are close or adjacent to the National Park were mapped and used to inform the definition of Landscape Character Types and Sub-Types within the Lake District where appropriate. In some instances, issues of mapping scale or terminology created some differences in boundary definition and naming of landscape character units.

3.4.2 The methodology used to define the landscape character typology for the Lake District is provided in Appendix C.

Landscape Character Types

3.4.3 Figure 3.3 shows the distribution of Landscape Character Types defined within the National Park. They have a distinct and relatively homogenous composition and pattern of physical and cultural attributes - including geology, landform, hydrology, land cover/ecological habitats and historical land use. Landscape Character Types are generic in form, and may occur in different areas of the National Park. Examples include:

- Rugged/Craggy High Fell
- Broad Upland Dale
- Low Fell

Landscape Sub-Types

3.4.4 Also generic in form, these represent localised variations in character within a Landscape Character Type due to specific physical or cultural land use attributes. Examples include:

- Upland Tarns
- Dale with River Floodplain
- Low Fell Parkland

3.4.5 The 13 Landscape Character Types that have been defined within the Lake District are listed below, along with their provisional Sub-Types where relevant:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape Type</th>
<th>Landscape Sub Type (to be confirmed)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A - Estuary and Marsh</td>
<td>A1 - Intertidal Flats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A2 - Coastal Marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B - Coastal Margins</td>
<td>B1 - Dunes and Beaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B2 - Coastal Mosses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B3 - Coastal Plain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C - Coastal Limestone</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D - Lowland</td>
<td>D1 - Low Farmland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D2 - Rolling Lowland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E - Coastal Sandstone</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F - Rugged/Craggy High Fell</td>
<td>F1 - Upland Tarns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F2 - Upland Forests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F3 - Industrial Landscapes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G - Rounded/Angular High Fell</td>
<td>G1 - Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>G2 - Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H - Broad Upland Dale</td>
<td>H1 - Dale with Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H2 - Dale with River Floodplain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H3 - Enclosed Dale Side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H4 - Open Dale Side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I - Rolling Upland Limestone Farmland</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J - High Fell Edge</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.5 Defining Areas of Distinctive Character in the Lake District

3.5.1 ‘Areas of Distinctive Character’ have been identified within the National Park. These are individual geographical areas with a unique composition, character and identity that are locally distinctive and have a strong sense of place.

3.5.2 The methodology used to define the Areas of Distinctive Character for the Lake District is provided in Appendix C.

3.5.3 Figure 3.4 shows the 73 Areas of Distinctive Character within the Lake District National Park, which are listed below:

Area 1 - High Ireby
Area 2 - Bassenthwaite & Uldale
Area 3 - Skiddaw & Blencathra
Area 4 - Mungrisdale & Caldbeck
Area 5 - Derwent Dale
Area 6 - Setmurthy Common & Embleton
Area 7 - Bassenthwaite Lake
Area 8 - Loweswater
Area 9 - Lorton Vale
Area 10 - Groom Fell & Kirk Fell
Area 11 - Bassenthwaite & Derwent Alluvial Plain
Area 12 - Glenderamackin Vale
Area 13 - Crummock Water
Area 14 - Grizedale Pike & Whinlatter
Area 15 - Newlands
Area 16 - Keswick & Derwent Water
Area 17 - St. John’s in the Vale
Area 18 - Threlkeld & Matterdale Commons
Area 19 - Great Mell & Little Mell Valleys
Area 20 - Eamont Valley
Area 21 - Ennerdale
Area 22 - Buttermere
Area 23 - Borrowdale
Area 24 - Thirlmere
Area 25 - Helvellyn Range
Area 26 - Ullswater
Area 27 - Bampton Common
Area 28 - Lowther Water
Area 29 - Kinniside Common
Area 30 - Wastwater & Wasdale
Area 31 - High Central Fells
Area 32 - Grasmere & Rydal
Area 33 - Brother’s Water & Hartsop
Area 34 - High Street and Martindale
Area 35 - Haweswater
Area 36 - Shap & Birkbeck Fells
Area 37 - Calder Valley
Area 38 - Bleng & Irt Valleys
Area 39 - Great & Little Langdale
Area 40 - Upper Windermere
Area 41 - Troutbeck Valley
Area 42 - Kentmere Fells
Area 43 - Kentmere Valley
Area 44 - Longsleddale
Area 45 - Eskdale
Area 46 - Ulpha & Corney Fell
Area 47 - Upper Dunnerdale
Area 48 - Low Furness Fells
Area 49 - Tarn Hows
Area 50 - Claife Heights & Latterbarrow
Area 51 - Lower Windermere
Area 52 - Crook
Area 53 - Cunswick
Area 54 - Ravenglass & Bootle
Area 55 - Lower Dunnerdale
Area 56 - Broughton West
Area 57 - Coniston Water
Area 58 - Grizedale Forest
Area 59 - Esthwaite
Area 60 - Dale Park
Area 61 - Whitbarrow
Area 62 - Black Coombe
Area 63 - Whicham Valley
Area 64 - Blawith Fells
Area 65 - Staveley
Area 66 - Haverthwaite
Area 67 - Bigland
Area 68 - Broughton East
Area 69 - Foulshaw & Meathop
Area 70 - Lyth Valley
Area 71 - Birkbeck Fell Common & Borrowdale Fell
Area 72 - Coniston Fells
Area 73 - Fairfield Horseshoe

3.5.4 As acknowledged by the former Countryside Agency’s guidelines, landscape is a continuum and character does not in general change abruptly on the ground. More commonly, the character of the landscape will change gradually rather than suddenly, and therefore the boundaries between landscape character units should be considered to reflect zones of transition in many cases. In addition, the boundaries have been defined and mapped at a scale of 1:25,000, and the assessment is therefore only suitable for use at this scale. This should be taken into consideration when the assessment is being used to inform decision-making in relation to development and land management proposals at the local level.
4.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES & SUB-TYPES

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section sets out the descriptions of the Landscape Character Types and Sub-types identified within the Lake District as shown on Figure 3.3.

4.2 Character Descriptions

4.2.1 For each Landscape Character Type, its boundaries are mapped and character described under the following headings:

- *Landscape Character Type Ref/Name*

- *Location and Boundaries* – a short paragraph detailing location in terms of overall National Park and major settlements

- *Definitive Attributes* – a bullet point list of the main landscape attributes that contribute to character

- *Physical Character* – a summary description of geology/soils, landform, hydrology and land cover elements that contribute to character

- *Ecological Character* – a summary description of ecological habitats and their relative nature conservation importance that contribute to character, by reference to designated sites citations and the distribution of designated sites

- *Cultural and Historical Character* – a summary description of the main cultural associations and historical features that contribute to character, by reference to the historic landscape characterisation data and distribution of designated assets

- *Settlement and Building Character* – a summary description of the settlement forms/origins and patterns, building styles and vernacular materials that contribute to character, by reference to fieldwork, research and existing assessments

- *Landscape Character Sub-Types* – where identified, a bullet point list of the main landscape attributes that contribute to the character of the Sub-Type that reflects a local variation in the character of the overall Landscape Character Type.

4.2.2 Photographs illustrating the typical characteristics of each Landscape Character Type are provided as a separate report, and these should be referred to gain a full understanding of the type.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE A: ESTUARY AND MARSH

Location and Boundaries

The Estuary and Marsh Landscape Character Type (LCT) is situated at the western and southwestern edges of the Lake District, running along the western coastline and fringing the Ravenglass (a combination of the Irt, Mite and Esk rivers) and Leven Estuaries and Morecambe Bay to the south. At its inland boundaries, this Landscape Character Type borders Coastal Margins (LCT B) and Coastal Sandstone (LCT E).

Definitive Attributes

- Predominantly flat topography;
- Land cover consisting of large expanses of mudflats, shingle and pebble beaches and saltmarsh;
- Surface deposits (sand, mud and pebbles) are predominantly underlain by a combination of Permian and Triassic mudstones;
- Tidal landscapes;
- Predominantly open landscape, with very few buildings or built forms visible, other than distant industrial structures (within adjacent Landscape Character Types);
- Patchwork of intertidal ecological habitats, consisting of saltmarshes, mudflats and dunes;
- Habitats support a rich variety of invertebrates, which provide a source of food for migrating waders and wildfowl.

Physical Character

The Estuary and Marsh Landscape Character Type consists of bands of mudflats, sandy/pebble beaches and saltmarshes lining the western coast and southern estuaries of the Lake District National Park. Permian and Triassic mudstones and sandstones predominantly underlie most of the beaches and marshes throughout the Type.

Topography is predominantly flat, with the most noticeable gradient visible where beaches slope upwards from the seashore (quite steeply in places) to meet adjacent Lowland and Coastal Farmland.

The large expanses of mudflats, which are generally visible within estuaries, are often exposed at low tide, whilst saltmarshes exhibit a dynamic pattern of interlinked, meandering river channels, which change with the rise and fall of the tide. There is a strong sense of openness throughout the Landscape Character Type, with very little woodland cover to contribute to sense of enclosure.

The physical character of the surface of this Landscape Character Type is constantly changing as a result of the processes of coastal erosion and deposition (interlinked with the processes of Long Shore Drift).

Ecological Character

This landscape is of significant ecological interest, consisting of a diverse patchwork of intertidal habitats, including saltmarshes, mudflats and dunes, which support a rich variety of invertebrates (including ragworm, lugworm, bivalves and snails) providing food for wading birds and wildfowl (such as oystercatchers, dunlin, knot, curlew, redshank, turnstone, bar-tailed godwit, grey plover, ringed plover, shelduck, pintail, eider, red breasted merganser and goldeneye).

Ecological importance is signified through designation of several habitats within this Landscape Character Type. Morecambe Bay is a designated Special Protection Area (SPA), for its wide range of bird species throughout the year. In summer, areas of shingle and sand hold breeding populations of terns, whilst very large numbers of geese, ducks and waders overwinter and use the site in spring and
autumn migration periods. Morecambe Bay is also a designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar site for its combination of mudflats and sandflats (not covered by seawater at high tide); large shallows inlets and bays; perennial vegetation of stony banks; annuals colonising the mud and sand; Atlantic Sea Meadows, Shifting and Fixed Dunes; and Humid Dune Slacks. In addition to this, the bay is also a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its diverse saltmarsh vegetation (including common saltmarsh grass and glasswort) intertidal flats, wintering wading birds and wildfowl.

In addition to this, Drigg Coast (to the west of Ravenglass) is designated as a SAC for its fixed dunes, mudflats and sandflats and also as a SSSI for its broad range of maritime habitats, supporting a particularly rich and varied flora of sea kale and Isle of Man cabbage.

Annaside SSSI (between the sea to the west and River Annas to the east) provides a nationally important site for Natterjack toads, whilst Annaside and Gutterby Banks SSSI encompasses a sequence of interbedded tills, sands, gravels and silts (related to the glacial history of the Cumbrian Coast). Further to this, Eskmeals Dunes Cumbrian Wildlife Trust Reserve demonstrates an example of a sand dune system with fossilised shingle ridges (however, much of this area is within the adjacent Coastal Margins LCT).

Cultural and Historical Character

The Estuary and Marsh Landscape Character Type is characterised by a predominant pattern of unenclosed waste or common land. There is a lack of recorded archaeological evidence is this area, but this is mainly due to a lack of investigation rather than limited previous activity as the estuary and marshes would have been prime food gathering locations, which indeed may have attracted temporary settlement.

Settlement and Building Character

• There is an overall lack of built structures or buildings within this Landscape Character Type as a result of the constantly changing inter-tidal nature of the landscape;
• Visible buildings are usually located on adjacent, slightly higher, Farmland Landscape Character Types.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

Two Sub-types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these Sub-Types are generally typical of the Estuary and Marsh Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

Sub-Type A1: Intertidal Flats
• Wide beaches and expanses of mudflats within the estuaries and along the coastline, which are exposed at low tide;
• Dissected by dynamic, meandering river channels;
• Beaches comprising mud, sand, shingle and pebbles (which often form the upper foreshore, associated with increased gradient).

Sub-Type A2: Coastal Marsh
• Extensive areas of salt marsh occurring around the sheltered waters of the estuaries;
• Often marked by low erosion cliffs to around 5m OD where they are usually enclosed by man-made sea dykes;
• On the seaward edges, saltmarshes are characterised by a closely grazed fine sward, etched by an intricate maze of creeks and channels in a dendritic pattern;
• Higher, older saltmarshes meander towards the sea, which are frequently colonised by gorse scrub;
• Essentially open, other than patches of scrub and remnant field hedges on the higher marshes;
• Series of terraces within the marshes, which can be, related to isostatic uplift and creek migrations;
• Sections of creeks can be cut off, leaving isolated sections of water known as pans or flosses.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE B: COASTAL MARGINS

Location and Boundaries

The Coastal Margins LCT is situated at the western and southwestern edges of the Lake District, running along the western coastline and fringing Estuary and Marsh (A) within the Ravenglass (a combination of the Irt, Mite and Esk rivers) and Leven Estuaries and Morecambe Bay to the south. At its inland boundaries, this Landscape Character Type borders a range of different Landscape Character Types including High Fell Edge (J), Low Fell (K), Lowland (D) and Coastal Limestone (C).

Definitive Attributes

- Low-lying landscape with flat to undulating topography;
- Predominantly underlain by marine alluvium or undulating boulder clay;
- Land-use consists of a combination of hummocky dunes, raised beaches and coastal mosses;
- Ecological habitats comprising shingle bank and dune communities; raised bogs and sphagnum filled pools in wetter areas and occasional remnant mosses;
- Settlement pattern is mixed, with dispersed farms spread throughout the Type.

Physical Character

The Coastal Margins Landscape Character Type encompasses a combination of dunes, raised beaches, coastal mosses and Coastal Plain, which is based on marine alluvium or reclaimed mosses and undulating boulder clay areas.

The landscape is low lying and topography is flat to undulating, with occasional low mounds. There is stark topographical contrast between the Coastal Margins Landscape Character Type and adjacent Low Fell, which provide a higher enclosing backdrop within views northwards.

Dunes and Beaches vary from hummocky dunes to flat raised beaches, which have occasionally been regraded. The coastal mosses, which have been formed by peat accumulation in alluvial or boulder clay basins, rise up to three metres above surrounding levels.

Ecological Character

The landscape is of ecological interest, encompassing shingle bank and dune communities; raised bogs and sphagnum filled pools in wetter areas and occasional remnant mosses. The shingle bank, dune and maritime heath communities support great crested newt, Natterjack toad and adders, whilst the Coastal Mosses (Sub-Type B2) support bog rosemary and cotton grass; and in drier areas: cranberry, cross-leaved heath, heather and purple moor grass. They are also rich in wildlife, with Roe deer, badgers, stoats, rabbits, hedgehogs, adders, frogs, lizards, butterflies and a variety of birds and insects present. On the margins of the Sub-Type, Willow Carr and wet birch scrub give way to wet meadow. The Coastal Plain Sub-Type (B3) has been subject to agricultural improvement through drainage, fertilising and reseeding, limiting ecological interest mainly to hedges, copses, ditches, small woodlands and scrub.

Parts of this type along the western (Drigg) Coast are situated within the SAC (designated for its fixed dunes, mudflats and sandflats) and SSSI (designated for its broad range of maritime habitats, supporting a particularly rich and varied flora of sea kale and Isle of Man cabbage). The Coastal Margins lining Morecambe Bay fall within the SPA, SAC/ Ramsar Site and SSSI (designated for its wide range of birds species throughout the year, including terns, geese and ducks).

Other areas fall within the Duddon Estuary SPA, SAC/ Ramsar and SSSI. The Duddon Estuary houses internationally important populations of breeding birds (including a breeding colony of
sandwich terns); migratory bird populations of pintail knot and redshank and a regular assemblage of over 20,000 wintering waterfowl (including shelduck, red-breasted merganser, oystercatcher, ringer plover, dunlin and curlew).

In addition to this, Duddon Mosses SSSI encompasses an extensive system of raised mires, supporting areas with typical bog communities as well as areas of wet heath, scrub, broad-leaved and mixed woodland and acid grasslands. The mosses also display a rich fauna, including Roe deer, nightjar, woodcock, heron, curlew, cuckoo, tawny and barn owls and buzzard. Foulshaw Moss, Meathop Moss and Roundsea Wood and Mosses are similarly designated SSSIs within the Type. Foulshaw Moss and Meathop mosses encompass large areas of open peat bog surrounded by woodland. The open bog is dominated by heather and cotton grass, in hummock and hollow topography with shallow bog pools, formed by several species of Sphagnum moss. Roundsea Wood consists of exceptionally diverse woodland, lying almost at sea level and dominated by ash and pendunculate oak. At the eastern side of the site, several estuarine raised bogs/mosses form an extensive area of lowland raised mire, with waterlogged peat-filled hollows scattered amongst them and the adjacent woodland.

Cultural and Historical Character

To the west, the Coastal Margins are predominately unenclosed waste or common land, whereas towards the southern boundary they have a more mixed history with planned private enclosure and parliamentary enclosure surrounded by single ancient farms, wastes and commons and ancient woodland. The single ancient farms form the basis for the dispersed settlement pattern, which is evident today

The historic core of Broughton-in-Furness has been designated as a Conservation Area to protect its special architectural and historic interest.

Settlement and Building Character

- Settlement pattern is mixed, with dispersed farms spread throughout the Type;
- The landscape is accessed via minor tracks and paths and bounded by minor roads which serve a string of linear villages and isolated farms;
- Buildings tend to be substantial stone construction, closely spaced for shelter;
- Cobble stone banks and walls form the boundaries of farms and roads, though there is a tendency for these to be replaced by fences;
- Vernacular farm buildings lie on the fringes of the Coastal Mosses;
- Coastal plain settlements tend to be small villages or isolated farms connected by a network of minor roads and tracks, with a notable rectilinear pattern in the very flat areas;
- Vernacular buildings in stone, slate, cobbles, brick and clay are interesting features in this landscape;
- On exposed coasts, villages tend to be closely knit with stone walls for shelter;
- Inland, buildings are more spread out and softened by hedges; some are lower lying where they are sited on the fringes of former mossland.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

Three Sub-types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these Sub-Types are generally typical of the Coastal Margins Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

Sub-Type B1: Dunes and Beaches
- Hummocky dunes and flat raised beaches;
- Beaches comprising mud, sand, shingle and pebbles (which often form the upper foreshore, associated with increased gradient).
Sub-Type B2: Coastal Mosses

- Flat to undulating mosses (peat bogs or raised mires) have been formed by peat accumulation in alluvial or boulder clay basins, they rise up to three metres above surrounding levels. Formerly much more extensive, they have been reclaimed since the 12th century;
- Mosaic of moss, heath and willow carr or birch scrub woodland and pasture;
- Field shapes range from the small and irregular to undulating areas to large rectangular fields on flat mosses;
- Remnant patches of moss provide a rich note of interest in the rich agricultural landscapes which surround them;
- Variety of moss plants is colourful and rough textured, contrasting with the monochrome smooth pasture fields.

Sub-Type B3: Coastal Plain

- Improved pasture predominates, which is mainly used for dairy cattle, but beef cattle and sheep are also found;
- In drier areas, particularly on boulder clay, arable crops are grown, whilst rougher pasture with rushes or gorse scrub occur around the moss and saltmarsh fringes;
- Tree cover is scarce on the outer exposed edges, whilst further inland small copses or shelterbelts associated with farms or churches are prominent features;
- Birch woodland occurs on the edges of the mosses.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE C: COASTAL LIMESTONE

Location and Boundaries

The Coastal Limestone Landscape Character Type is situated at the southern edge of the Lake District National, to the west of Kendal and north of Grange-Over-Sands. At the northerly edges, the Type is situated adjacent to Low Fell (K) and Low Fell Edge (L), which provide a sense of enclosure.

Definitive Attributes

- Rolling farmland is underlain by Carboniferous Limestone geology, which has a rough texture where limestone outcrops occur;
- Limestone hills (examples include Whitbarrow and Scout and Cunswick Scars), with cliffs and scree slopes, rise above the low-lying pastures and wetlands;
- Limestone features include steep scarp slopes, rocky outcrops and limestone pavements, set within a grazed landscape, with patches of woodland;
- A combination of semi-improved pasture, species-rich calcareous grassland (often with pockets of limestone heath and juniper scrub) and semi-natural woodland dominate land cover and provide ecological interest.

Physical Character

The Coastal Limestone Landscape Character Type is underlain by Carboniferous Limestone geology, which denotes a rough texture in places where limestone outcrops occur. The predominantly rolling topography rises to 230m OD near to Grange-over-Sands.

The landscape exhibits features, which are typical of limestone geology, including areas of steep scarp slopes, rocky outcrops and limestone pavement. These are set within an overall grazed land cover, with a tendency for scrub and woodland on the steep scarp slopes and pavements.

In addition to limestone outcrops, underlying geology is visible within the stone walls as field boundaries. Whitbarrow Scar (to the northeast of Witherslack) provides an example of a rugged, scarred, limestone outcrop, with its the grey/beige colour, which is a dominant landscape feature in views from adjacent lower farmland and Coastal Mosses.

Ecological Character

Semi-improved pasture on the dip slopes, species-rich calcareous grassland (often with pockets of limestone heath and juniper scrub) and semi-natural woodland associated with the limestone; provide ecological interest throughout this Landscape Character Type.

The ecological importance of the limestone landscape of this Landscape Character Type is recognised by the designation of Morecambe Bay Pavements as a SAC and Whitbarrow and Scout and Cunswick Scars as SSSIs.

Morecambe Bay Pavements represents a diverse combination of limestone pavement flora, including Yew, Juniper, Hazel, Buckthorn and Ash. Yew woodland here represents the development of long-established stands on unstable scree and rocky slopes.

Whitbarrow and Yewbarrow (consisting of two north-south ridges of Carboniferous Limestone) comprise a diverse and complex association of limestone and acidic grasslands, heath, scree, cliff, pavement and woodland habitats. At Whitbarrow, the woodland and pavement habitat are more extensive and diverse whereas the dwarf shrub, heath and wetland components are better represented at Scout and Cunswick Scars.
Scout and Cunswick Scars, located 2km west of Kendal form a Carboniferous Limestone ridge. The Scars are made up of a complex of limestone habitats, which support a very rich flora of unimproved calcareous grassland, areas of dry dwarf shrub heath with scattered trees and shrubs, woodland, open water and fen. Many areas of limestone scree within the grassland and heath communities support a distinctive flora of fern species.

**Cultural and Historical Character**

The Coastal Limestone Landscape Character Type is characterised by a network of historic land uses but is dominated by open fields, with ancient woodland, parliamentary enclosure and single ancient farms. These farms form the basis of the dispersed settlement pattern, which is evident today. No archaeological remains of national significance have been recorded within this area although Cartmel Augustinian Priory Medieval Gatehouse and Parts of the Priory Precinct are situated just to south of the National Park Boundary.

**Settlement and Building Character**

- Settlement pattern consists of a series of scattered farmsteads and houses, alongside the small linear village of Witherslack and the larger nucleated settlement of Lindale;
- The use of limestone as a building material gives visual coherence to the older parts of farmsteads and small settlements.

**Landscape Character Sub-Types**

There are no Sub-Types within the Coastal Limestone Landscape Character Type.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE D: LOWLAND

Location and Boundaries

The Lowland Landscape Character Type is situated at the western edges of the Lake District National Park, to the north of Ravenglass southwest of Cockermouth. Adjacent Landscape Character Types include High Fell Edge (J) to the northeast of Egremont and the Broad Upland Dales (H) of Eskdale and Wasdale.

Definitive Attributes

- Gently rolling or undulating low-lying topography, dissected by meandering river valleys;
- Underlain by a combination of Sandstone and Skiddaw Slates;
- Pasture fields dominate land cover, with pockets of woodland, arable fields, scrub and more marginal land dominated by hedgerow field boundaries;
- Ecological character comprises a combination of semi-natural ancient woodland and wetland habitats, along river corridors and within botanically rich exposures of sand;
- Settlement pattern consists of a combination of dispersed and nucleated settlements and scattered farmsteads.

Physical Character

This Landscape Character Type is underlain by a combination of Sandstone (along the western coast) and Skiddaw Slates (to the South-west of Cockermouth). Occasional meandering valleys dissect an otherwise generally rolling or undulating topography. The landscape is low-lying in nature (generally below 100m OD).

The predominant land cover is pasture, with pockets of woodland, arable fields, scrub and more marginal land. This combination exhibits a muted and relatively harmonious colour across the landscape. Hedges, fences and hedgerow trees dominate field boundaries, denoting a recognisable landscape pattern.

Ecological Character

Within this Landscape Character Type, ecological interest is particularly notable within areas of semi-natural woodland, wetland habitats along river corridors and botanically rich exposures of sand. Hedgerows also provide key wildlife habitats.

The ecological importance of part of the Lowland Landscape Character Type is recognised by the designation of Drigg Holme (on the floodplain of the River Irt) as a SSSI. The site comprises a suite of neutral and acidic grasslands within a rich and varied hay meadow flora, with over 150 different flowering plants visible. Species-rich hedgerows with guelder rose and willow, hawthorn, blackthorn and sycamore present also divide up the area.

Cultural and Historical Character

A mixture of Historic landscape types is visible within the current landscape, consisting of former common fields, ancient enclosures, small patches of intakes and blocks of planned enclosures. There are also large blocks of plantation woodland, with fragments of ancient woodland. The pattern of distribution of these landscape types relates to topography, with the former common fields situated on the low-lying western side of the area, and the planned enclosure plus much of the plantation woodland, on the higher ground. Between are zones of ancient enclosure interspersed with blocks of planned enclosure, some intakes and scattered ancient woodland. Hedgerows are the dominant type of field boundary with stone walls restricted largely to the planned enclosures of the fell edges.
Muncaster Castle, on the southern edge of the area, is a mixture of ornamental parkland, plantations and open fells.

The historic core of Ravenglass village has been designated as a Conservation Area to protect its special architectural and historic interest and character.

**Settlement and Building Character**

- Settlement pattern consists of a combination of dispersed and nucleated settlements and scattered farmsteads;
- Ravenglass, a Conservation Area and one of the largest villages within this LCT, has a nucleated form, with clearly defined associated former open fields at the edge of the settlement;
- Traditional, local building materials are visible in several small hamlets and farmsteads throughout the LCT.

**Landscape Character Sub-Types**

Two Sub-types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these Sub-Types are generally typical of the Lowland Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

**Type D1: Low Farmland**
- Intensively farmed agricultural land below 100m OD;
- Predominantly pasture land cover, with occasional patchy woodland and arable farmland;
- Generally large fields bounded by hedges or fences and/or hedgerow trees, however, tree clumps, riverside and hedgerow trees are notable features as well as hedgebanks.

**Type D2: Rolling Lowland**
- This Sub-type is located adjacent to the western edges of the National Park and lies predominantly outside the Park boundary;
- Lowland agricultural landscape, dominated by undulating topography, with dissecting valleys;
- Land cover is dominated by pasture and some woodland, scrub and other marginal land;
- Hedgerow trees and hedgerows are dominant on lower ground, with variable field patterns relating to topography.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE E: COASTAL SANDSTONE

Location and Boundaries

The Coastal Sandstone Landscape Character Type is located along the West Coast (adjacent to the Estuary and Marsh (A) and Coastal Margins (B) Landscape Character Types). Outside the National Park, this Landscape Character Type extends northwards along the coastline to encompass the sandstone cliff scenery of St. Bees Head, with its lighthouse and rolling coastal hills.

Definitive Attributes

- Landscape underlain by a relatively broad band of Triassic sandstone (and mudstones), producing low-lying ground that is suitable for agriculture;
- Gently rolling topography slopes gradually upwards in a west to easterly direction, from the sea towards the dramatic rising High Fells to the east;
- Strong sense of openness prevails in several locations, with extensive views westwards across the sea and eastwards towards the imposing High Fell backdrop;
- Hedgerow network, pockets of semi-natural woodland and a number of small river or stream corridors running through the landscape, provide ecological interest;
- Settlement pattern consists of a combination of small hamlets or villages and dispersed farmsteads.

Physical Character

The landscape is underlain by a relatively broad band of Triassic sandstone (and mudstones), which line the western coast from Silecroft in the South, to Drigg and further northwards, outside the National Park at St. Bees. Most of the underlying rocks are fairly soft, producing low-lying ground that is suitable for agriculture. For a long time, this sandstone has provided a key resource as a local building material (as is evident at the 12th century Furness Abbey to the south of the National Park).

Gently rolling topography slopes gradually upwards in a west to easterly direction, from wide expanses of sea towards the dramatic rising High Fells to the east. Sandstone cliffs do not dominate the western edge of this Landscape Character Type (as is the case further north at St. Bees) however to the north of Bootle, the subtle gradient of a steeper coastal profile begins to develop.

As a result of the predominantly flat to rolling topography, a strong sense of openness prevails in several locations, with extensive views westwards across the sea and eastwards towards the imposing High Fell backdrop.

Ecological Character

Land cover is dominated by rolling pasture fields, divided by a combination of hedgerow and hedgebank field boundaries. Woodland cover is generally absent, however occasional small patches and copses of trees punctuate the landscape.

Within this Landscape Character Type, the hedgerow network, pockets of semi-natural woodland and a number of Small River or stream corridors running through the landscape, provide ecological interest. Where this Type extends to the north outside the National Park, the dramatic cliffs at St. Bees provide an important breeding site for a variety of seabirds.

Cultural and Historical Character

The coastal sandstone is markedly different to most of the other Landscape Character Types. The area contains very little woodland, and is characterised by large former common fields, surrounded by ancient enclosures and blocks of planned enclosure. Field boundaries are mainly hedgerows, with
fencing where hedges have not been maintained. The settlement pattern is mixed, with dispersed farms across the whole character type, and small settlements such as Silecroft, Bootle and Hycemoor sites next to their associated former common fields. Two further common fields appear to relate to Anaside and Corney, which can be considered agglomerated settlements (a loose nucleated settlement) where dwellings may be widely spread, but clearly grouped. Single ancient farms form the basis of the dispersed settlement pattern.

Settlement and Building Character

- Settlement pattern consists of a combination of small hamlets or villages and dispersed farmsteads spread across the Landscape Character Type;
- The settlements of Silecroft, Bootle and Hycemoor, sited next to their associated former common fields contribute to the pattern;
- The distinctive red colour of the local sandstone is visible as a building material within the buildings of several of these settlements, such as Bootle.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

There are no Sub-Types within the Coastal Sandstone Landscape Character Type.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE F: RUGGED/CRAGGY HIGH FELL

Location and Boundaries

This is the largest Landscape Character Type and covers land above the fell wall, encompassing a broad band running east west across the central part of the Lake District. To the north, Rounded, Angular High Fells (G) and Broad Upland Dales (H) dominate, whilst to the south, Low Fell (K), Broad Lowland Valleys (M) and Coastal Margins (B) border this Landscape Character Type.

Definitive Attributes

- The underlying geology is the Borrowdale Volcanic Group of igneous rocks;
- At the largest scale, the LCT has a dome-shaped topography, with the highest point being Scafell Pike;
- From the highest point, ridges radiate out, with the landform gradually lowering towards the edges of the Lake District;
- Superimposed on this are complex topographical patterns caused by glacial and fluvial erosion;
- Land cover is generally either bare rock or low-growing vegetation, with low-density grazing occurring over much of the area;
- There are scattered tarns and a complex network of becks;
- Little woodland cover, although some small areas of juniper and native oak woodland remain, with small areas of commercial conifers (particularly in the west);
- Fell wall marks the edge of the open land, with archaeological for earlier enclosures and field systems within upland areas;
- Settlement above the moorland line is limited to occasional Youth Hostels or isolated farms, with very few occupied buildings;
- Archaeological record reflects several thousand years of settlement and industrial activity in the Upland Fells.

Physical Character

The Borrowdale Volcanic Group of rocks underlies this Landscape Character Type. These rocks are igneous, and formed as volcanic lavas and ash flows, which erupted approximately 450 million years ago. The Borrowdale Volcanics Group forms the highest and craggiest part of the Lake District. The highest peaks are Scafell Pike (978m), Scafell (964m), Helvellyn (950m), the Old Man of Coniston (803m) and the Langdale Pikes (736m). At the simplest level, the LCT has a dome-shaped topography, with the ridges radiating out from the highest point of Scafell Pike. Between the ridges lie the lakes and valleys of the Lake District. The landform gradually lowers towards the edges of the National Park.

Tens of thousands of years of erosion by ice, water and weather have created a far more complex topography within this Landscape Character Type. There are classic examples of glacial features such as arêtes, corries, and corrie lakes, pyramidal peaks, hanging valleys, drumlins, moraines and U-shaped valleys. There are also examples of V-shaped valleys, which have been eroded by streams, and of frost shattering of rocks to produce scree slopes.

Soils are thin and generally acidic, although base minerals in cliffs have weathered to produce small pockets of fertile soils, particularly alongside watercourses. Where underlying rocks are sufficiently impermeable, peat has developed on the surface. The poorness of the soils means that vegetation growth is generally limited to low-growing vegetation, although there is a wide diversity of species present. The majority of the Landscape Character Type is grazed at a low density by sheep, resulting in a ground cover of grass, bracken and heather, with occasional patches of bilberry. There are small areas of native oak woodland and juniper, particularly on valley sides. There are also occasional small trees such as rowan or birch, particularly alongside watercourses.
Ecological Character

The Upland Fells of the Lake District contain a number of habitats, which are rare in the UK. Certain species thrive here on the relatively poor soils and in the harsh environment. Consequently, extensive tracts of fell around the Landscape Character Type (totalling 26999 ha) are designated Special Areas of Conservation for the species and habitats they support. Additional areas are designated SSSIs.

Many of the upland tarns contain rare aquatic plant and animal species, some of which are confined to individual tarns, such as the powan fish (locally known as “schelly” in Red Tarn, Helvellyn). Areas of exposed rock, including screes and rocky slopes support a variety of ferns, grasses, mosses, and occasional scattered trees including aspen and rock whitebeam.

The ground cover vegetation contains important wet and dry heathland habitats, blanket bogs, and also the most southerly examples of alpine and boreal heaths found in Britain. Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands are widely distributed among the High Fells (above 700m). On some of the highest summits (particularly Helvellyn), there are areas of disturbed ground due to frost-heave and solifluction, which provides a rare, changing habitat for colonising species. There is a rich variety of flora within the LCT, including tall herb ledge communities. These species grow alongside ghylls and on cliff ledges (e.g. on Helvellyn and Fairfield, Honister Crag, Scafell Pikes, Pillar, and Wasdale Screes), particularly where base-rich rocks have weathered to form relatively fertile basic soils.

The small areas of taller vegetation are also within designated sites. There are some stands of juniper on valley sides (Birk Fell supporting the most extensive), and juniper bushes are also scattered on inaccessible cliffs and slopes around the area. Associated with them are open silver birch woods, with scattered rowan, ash, bird cherry, holly, hawthorn and dog rose. Old sessile oak woodlands (e.g. Birkkrigg and Keskadale) are found on steep south-facing slopes, and contain rich bryophyte and lichen communities. The cliffs of Helvellyn contain the only known population of downy willow in England.

Cultural and Historical Character

Although today the Upland Fells are sparsely populated, the archaeological record reveals a rich history of settlement and industry across the area spanning several thousand years. Indeed, many of the areas, which appear the most “empty” today (such as the area around Devoke Water); contain the most extensive archaeological remains of earlier settlement and activity. Prehistoric sites include the Stone Axe factory at Langdale, Castlerigg Stone Circle (technically outside this Landscape Character Type, but visible from many points within it), and prehistoric hut circles and cairnfields scattered around the area. The routes of Roman Roads are still used along High Street and Wrynose/Hardknott Pass, and there is also evidence of Romano-British settlement in the High Street area. There are many examples of medieval shielings, field systems and settlements in areas higher than those enclosed and settled today, such as Mickleden above Langdale. This settlement pattern may have been due to a milder climate, or to increased population pressure on the land. From medieval times onwards, much of the archaeology is industrial, and includes the remains of thousands of mines and mineral workings. As well as slate and building stone, the Upland Fells also produced lead, copper and silver ores, gold, and other minerals. In many areas, the shafts and entrances of these mines are still visible, along with their spoil tips, hushes, and occasionally abandoned buildings, trackways and pieces of machinery.

Extensive areas of post medieval enclosure define the field patterns within the eastern fells, both intakes and 19th century planned enclosures, which extend up onto the high moorland. The enclosures are large, and irregular in shape, defined mainly be topography, and in places enclosure boundaries have not been maintained and the character is reverting back to open moor.
The enclosure is slightly different in the central fells. From the late medieval period, enclosed areas were extended up the lower fell sides through intaking, and in the post medieval period the intakes became extensive where topography allowed, providing cow pastures. Open fields were usually small in these valleys, and were enclosed at an early date, apart from a small area in Great Langdale where part of the open field survived as a common until the 19th century.

**Settlement and Building Character**

- Few occupied buildings, as the landscape has so little shelter, and is often a long way from farmed land;
- Occasional isolated farms in high valleys such as Boredale (to the east of Ullswater) but these are relatively rare;
- Several of the highest occupied buildings (a former shepherd’s bothy in the Black Sail valley above Ennerdale and former mine buildings in Coniston, Glenridding and Honister) are now Youth Hostels;
- The majority of the industrial buildings in the LCT (mostly now abandoned) were constructed in the 19th century, when the scale of mining and quarrying in the area increased to supply the needs of the industrial revolution and its associated building. The difficulty of transporting building materials in the Upland Fells meant that any construction used locally available stone.

**Landscape Character Sub-Types**

Three sub-types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these sub-types are generally typical of the Rugged/Craggy High Fells Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these sub-types are:

**Type F1: Upland Tarns**
- Tarns are scattered throughout the Landscape Character Type;
- Each has a very different character and sense of place;
- Some tarns such as Easedale Tarn and Red Tarn are deep corrie lakes;
- Other tarns (such as Angle Tarn) are shallower and have formed in upland basins.

**Type F2: Upland Forests**
- Relates to scattered patches of 20th coniferous plantations;
- Examples include the western edge of Copeland forest.

**Type F3: Industrial Landscapes**
- The summit of Honister Pass has a large and active slate quarry - the presence of large-scale moving machinery, and its visual impact within the landscape give it a distinct character within this Landscape Character Type.
- The grey, craggy rocks with little vegetation in the area to the west of Coniston, including the Old Man of Coniston and Wetherlam has a long history of slate and mineral extraction, which is clearly visible in today’s landscape - this visible industrial archaeology makes the area a distinct cultural sub-type.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE G: ROUNDED/ANGULAR HIGH FELL

Location and Boundaries

This Landscape Character Type is predominantly situated to the north of the National Park, with an outlier of Black Combe located further to the south-west. The High Fells of Skiddaw Slates are highly visible, and form prominent landmarks within most of the northern Lake District, with the rounded peak of Skiddaw summit, the saddle-shape of Blencathra, and the pointed top of Grizedale Pike being particularly distinctive features visible from a very wide area. To the south, this Landscape Character Type borders Rugged, Craggy High Fells (F).

Definitive Attributes

- Geology of Skiddaw Slates, containing various mineral and metal deposits;
- Skiddaw slates are easily weathered, and this has resulted in the smooth profile of much of the Landscape Character Type;
- Elevated land within the type includes the summits of Skiddaw, Blencathra, Grisedale Pike, Causey Pike, Grassmoor and Black Combe;
- Predominantly covered by heather moorland with some blocks of forestry, including Whinlatter and Lamplugh Fell and generally little deciduous woodland;
- Enclosed fields are rare and restricted to lower ground and occasional settled valleys, with the majority of the Landscape Character Type as open moorland above the fell wall;
- Settlement is limited to occasional isolated buildings such as the Skiddaw House YHA Bunkhouse and a farm in Mosedale;
- Archaeology includes a pre-Iron-Age hillfort on Carrock fell, and evidence of prehistoric settlement and stone axe production. The majority of the archaeology is industrial, and relates to the extensive mining, which has taken place in the area for several thousand years.

Physical Character

The fells' distinctive smooth outlines are formed by their geology of easily-weathered Skiddaw slates. Within the general Skiddaw Slates area, the geology is extremely complex and contains numerous mineral veins and extrusions of relatively rare rocks such as gabbro. The area is therefore of great geological importance and has been extensively mined in the past. Evidence of mining activity is clearly visible in the form of tips, entrances and hushes on the hillsides.

The topography is complex. The overall structure of the Skiddaw massif is dome-shaped, but it has been incised into by several narrow stream-cut valleys, including those of Glenderaterra Beck, Dash Beck and Mosedale. There are also glaciated valleys, which are more rounded in profile. Blencathra and Bowscale Fell exhibit classic glacial features, including corries with craggy headwalls, corrie lakes and arrêtes. Of these, Sharp Edge on the eastern side of Blencathra is particularly well known as a challenging route.

The range of hills between Derwentwater and Crummock Water still retain a smooth profile, but their topography is much more pronounced, with steeper valleys and more pointed peaks. Further west, around Loweswater, the hills are much lower, with a smoother, gentler topography.

Soils are generally thin and acidic, though peat formation has occurred in less well-drained areas. There are some areas of scree, particularly on steeper slopes in the western part of the LCT, and on the western side of Skiddaw, but the vast majority of the area is covered by surface vegetation. Vegetation is low growing, predominantly rough grass and heather, with some areas of bracken. The lower slopes support some higher vegetation, including gorse and juniper. In areas of lower grazing pressure, bilberry is beginning to appear.
Ecological Character

Since the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001, which saw a dramatic reduction in sheep numbers, the grazing pressure on the area has been reduced and this has already had a marked effect on the vegetation of the area.

The majority of the area is designated as a Special Area of Conservation, and contains a number of habitats, which are rare within the UK, and have developed on the thin, acidic soils, and in the relatively harsh environment of this Landscape Character Type. Such habitats include wet and dry heathland, alpine and boreal heaths and extensive areas of blanket bog. Skiddaw has the largest extent of heather and bilberry heath in the Lake District (approximately 3000ha). On the summit of Skiddaw, frost heave and solifluction create patches of disturbed ground, which provide suitable environments for moss-lichen species. Scree slopes also provide a suitable micro-climate for siliceous scree communities, and there are several rare species of fern and moss. The lower slopes of Blencathra also support extensive stands of juniper, with associated species of ash, sessile oak, birch and rowan.

There is a diverse and large bird population, including merlin, buzzards and a pair of peregrine falcons (nesting on the eastern edge of Blencathra). Twelve species of mammal (including roe deer) and five species of amphibian and reptile have been recorded on the Skiddaw massif.

Much of the Skiddaw and Blencathra area is within the Caldbeck and Uldale Commons, which are owned and managed by the National Park for its ecological and habitat value. There are currently several schemes in place aiming to diversify the vegetation in the area, including ghyllside planting schemes, stock reduction on moorland, and a project to increase the juniper cover by germinating seedlings off-site then re-planting them.

Cultural and Historical Character

The archaeology of this Landscape Character Type reflects its past importance as a place for defence, settlement and industry. There is a concentration of archaeology around Carrock Fell spanning several thousand years, including prehistoric cairnfields, field systems and axe factory, a large Iron Age Hillfort, and a medieval sheiling. There is also a significant concentration of industrial archaeology, including the Carrock End Copper Mine, and the Carrock Fell mines, which were used until the late 20th century and produced lead, tungsten, copper and arsenic. The remains of a 16th century wooden railway have recently been discovered at Carrock Fell mine, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The richness of the minerals in the Carrock fells is summed up in the 16th century quote Carrock Fell is worth all England else.

Settlement and Building Character

- Unusual lack of built structures;
- Very few walls, with buildings are limited to isolated stone-built properties including the YHA bunkhouse at Back-o’-Skiddaw and a farm in Mosedale;
- Some Forestry Commission buildings, including a modern visitors centre, offices, and mid 19th century foresters’ cottages within Whinlatter Forest.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

Two sub-types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these sub-types are generally typical of the Rounded/Angular High Fell Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these sub-types are:

Type G1: Valley
• A narrow settled valley on the eastern side of Blencathra;
• The valley contains improved fields, a farmstead and block of woodland;
• There is a surfaced road running up the valley which provides access to the higher fells;
• Old mineral workings at the head of the valley containing a 16th century trackway have recently been designated a Scheduled Monument.

**Type G2: Forest**

• Whinlatter forest is an extensive upland areas of Forestry Commission planted forest (acquired by the Forestry Commission in 1919);
• It is managed for commercial timber production and for recreation;
• Whinlatter Pass runs through the forest.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE H: BROAD UPLAND DALE

Location and Boundaries

The Broad Upland Dale Landscape Character Type reoccurs throughout the High Fells within the National Park, creating a distinctive pattern like the spokes of a wheel.

Definitive Attributes

- Broad U-shaped valleys, formed by glaciers cutting through underlying rock, during the last Ice Age;
- Underlying geology varies, largely depending upon the geology of surrounding Landscape Character Types;
- Topography differs greatly, ranging from dramatic and steep valley sides with scree, sloping down towards a deep lake (in the case of Wasdale) to valleys with gently rolling sides with a slow-moving river on the broad valley floor;
- Valley floors are either dominated by a lake or river; and pastoral farmland;
- Valley sides are generally covered by a mixture of predominantly pastoral farmland (in-bye land) and woodland (deciduous, coniferous and mixed), with some of the steeper valley sides characterised by scree;
- Settlement pattern consists of isolated farms on the valley sides, small nucleated and linear settlements and large towns on the valley floor, at the edge of a lake or adjacent to a river;
- Many archaeological features can be found in the Broad Upland Dale landscape; the cairnfields in the Ennerdale valley, the ancient stone art near Buttermere and evidence of Bronze Age settlements near Crummock, are all evidence of the rich cultural history of the landscape;
- Communications (from winding single-track paths to busy dual carriage ways) generally run along the valley sides or follow the edge of the valley floor.

Physical Character

The U-shaped valleys of the Broad Upland Dale landscape were shaped by glacial activity in the last Ice Age, when glaciers cut through the underlying geology (predominantly Borrowdale Volcanic Group). This has created a dramatic landscape where some of the deepest lakes are flanked by the highest mountains. Some of the other valleys are less dramatic with shallower valley sides and slow-moving rivers.

The soils of the lower valley slopes and valley bottoms often include stony, river-washed gravels. Lakeshores may be silty, shingled or rocky and sometimes abut scree slopes rising steeply to adjacent fells. Fallen boulders and rock outcrops occur on the lower valley sides with occasional rocky promontories protruding from the valley floor.

Land cover is dominated by rough pasture, many of the steeper slopes being covered with bracken and scrub. Many of the lower fields form the inbye for hill sheep farms. Fields predominantly consist of semi-improved and improved grassland, whilst irregular tracts of unimproved grassland and wetland are associated with lower-lying and wetter land. Mires, reed swamps and carr woodland are also present at lake-heads and in places along lakeshore.

Ecological Character

Ecological character consists of a diverse patchwork of lakes, mires, and rivers, woodland and bogs, which support a rich variety of invertebrates and wildfowl. Linear broadleaved woodlands often edge streams and watercourses draining the valley bottom. Small patches of birch, willow and alder carr are typical in lowland mires, around deltas and at the lake edges. Copses and individual broadleaved
trees, usually ash and sycamore, are found by hamlets and farmsteads. Single mature trees are also a feature, as are clusters following walls or in close proximity to buildings.

Within the Broad Upland Dale Landscape Character Type, Nadale Forest, Birk Fell, Low Wood, Lodore – Troutdale Woods, Wast Water, Wasdale Screes, and Pillar and Ennerdale Fells are all designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

Esthwaite Water a natural lake set in a glacial valley, providing one of the best examples in England and Wales of a mesotrophic system. This is a designated Ramsar site for its plant community succession. Bassenthwaite Lake and Blelham Bog are designated as National Nature Reserves (NNR). Bassenthwaite Lake reserve is a shallow, balanced nutrient lake in the north-west of the Lake District. The lake supports a population of vendace, a fish that is only found in one other location. There is also an extremely rich aquatic flora, including the nationally scarce floating water-plantain, six-stamened waterwort and thread rush. The reserve has a range of habitats from open water to wet woodland and supports important collections of breeding and wintering birds. Dodd Wood, on the south east shore of the lake is a nesting site for osprey.

Blelham Bog was thought to be an example of a natural 'hydroseral' succession from wet willow woodland to sphagnum bog, however, recent research has suggested that the character of the site might be largely man-made, the result of peat cutting and the diversion of local streams in the 19th century. Although a small reserve, the site has diverse habitats including two bog types, wet woodland, dry acidic woodland and acid grassland and is notable for its invertebrate population.

In addition to the above Tarn Hows, Little Langdale Tarn, Blea Tarn, Nadale Forest, River Eden and Tributaries, Thirlmere, River Derwent and Tributaries, Greendale Mires, Ennerdale, Bowness Knott, Milkingstead Wood, Cropple Howe Mire, Beckfoot Quarry, Duddon Valley Woodland, Claife Tarns and Mires and Belham Tarn and Bog are all nationally designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) of their diverse patchworks of habitats.

Cultural and Historical Character

The pattern of field boundaries (fieldscape) is dominated by formal and informal boundaries that are representative of historic enclosure. A small to medium scale, predominantly rectilinear, intricate pattern of fields crosses the valley bottoms, where fields are enclosed by a mixture of well-maintained hedgerows and dry-stone walls with occasional, traditional, vertical slate walls and iron railings. At the valley heads and floor edges an irregular, smaller scale, more ancient pattern of walled enclosures reflects the undulating landform. In places, walls and hedges have been removed, become derelict, or modern fencing materials have been introduced and new boundaries created. This weakens the traditional, ordered pattern of fields.

Many archaeological features can be found in the Broad Upland Dale landscape. The cairnfields in the Ennerdale valley, the ancient stone art near Buttermere and evidence of Bronze Age settlements near Crummock, are all evidence of the rich cultural history of the landscape.

Settlement and Building Character

- Settlement pattern generally consists of hamlets and tight-knit small settlements huddled by the lakeshores, with farmsteads and barns scattered on the rising ground of the lower valley sides and valley heads;
- Nucleated settlement – from small villages, to large towns like Keswick – exist on the valley floors, at the edge of lakes or along rivers and streams;
- Traditional stone and slate buildings, built in the vernacular style, are a distinctive part of the landscape fabric. Together with the pattern of field boundaries they represent a continuity of traditional agricultural land use for inbye land, linked to the hill sheep farming system;
• Other features include isolated barns, dotted within fields and stone Packhorse Bridges crossing rivers.

**Landscape Character Sub-Types**

Four Sub-Types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these Sub-Types are generally typical of the Broad Upland Dale Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

**Sub-Type H1. Dale with Lake**

- Predominantly flat landscape, dominated by lakes of varying sizes and shapes;
- Combination of habitats along the immediate lakeshore, including reeds, pasture and woodland giving a soft appearance;
- Footpaths often follow lakeshore.

**Sub-Type H2: Dale with River Floodplain**

- Predominantly flat landscape;
- Valley floor dominated by river floodplain which may include a broad or relatively narrow river corridor;
- Pasture fields generally run alongside the river, with occasional meadows and clumps of woodland adjacent to the river course;
- Scattered farmsteads within the valley bottom and pattern of stone walls at field boundaries.

**Sub-Type H3: Enclosed Dale Side**

- Sloping landform, forming the lower slopes of the dale;
- Patchwork of predominantly pastoral fields, delineated by a series of stone walls, or in some cases, hedgerows (‘in-takes’);
- Often lined with clumps of trees or woodland.

**Sub-Type H4: Open Dale Side**

- Sloping landscape, forming the higher slopes of the dale, which form a transition zone with adjacent High Fells on both sides of the dale;
- Generally open landscape, with few divisionary walls or boundaries;
- Often grazed.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE I: ROLLING UPLAND LIMESTONE FARMLAND

Location and Boundaries

The Rolling Upland Limestone Farmland Landscape Character Type extends along the northern and eastern edge of the Lake District, flanked by the High Fell Edge Landscape Character Type. It is part of a broader band of Limestone, which stretches north and eastwards outside the National Park.

Definitive Attributes

- Dominated by Carboniferous Limestone geology, which gives rise to a typical upland limestone farmland landscape;
- Topography is gently rolling, forming a stark contrast with the ruggedness of the neighbouring volcanic rocks of Borrowdale and Skiddaw;
- The openness of the landscape facilitates panoramic views in places;
- Typical limestone landscape features such as pavements and scars are generally absent;
- Improved and semi-improved pastoral farmland (the fields lined with hedgerows) dominates this landscape in the north, with occasional tree clumps adding variety. To the east, parkland with (mainly coniferous) plantations, associated with the Lowther Estate, form the dominant land cover;
- Lacking in large expanses of ancient woodland and woodland plantations and ancient woodland, with occasional small copses (both deciduous and coniferous) more of a feature towards the east;
- Settlement pattern consists of several small villages (for example, the historic villages of Caldbeck and Askham) and dispersed farmsteads. Several Halls and Estates are also dotted across the landscape;
- Archaeological features such as limekilns (for example at Aughertree Fell near Caldbeck) and old quarries are evidence of the industrial activities, which helped to shape this landscape. Other archaeological elements include stone circles, tumuli and Roman forts;
- A network of secondary roads connects the scattering of villages and farms.

Physical Character

Typical limestone surface features such as scars and gorges are absent in this predominantly open farmland landscape. The underlying geology of the area is reflected, however, in the building materials used for dispersed farms and village buildings. This is a gentle and rolling, topography of which offers extensive views towards the central High Fells.

The improved and semi-improved pastoral farmland is divided in small, generally regular fields, which are typically lined with hedgerows. Tree cover is generally sparse or absent, apart from some occasional extensive coniferous plantations and occasional woodland clumps.

Ecological Character

Herb-rich calcareous grassland and woodland habitats provide considerable ecological interest throughout this Character Type, as do the becks, rivers and mires.

Clints and Moots disused quarries contain several pools that support large great crested newt populations. In addition, habitats associated with the quarry spoil, early successional vegetation and surrounding pasture, culminate in designation of these sites as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Butterwick Meadows SSSI comprises four meadows, all of which support a diverse and abundant herb and grass flora characteristic of a rare northern hay meadow vegetation type. All fields are dominated by a mixture of crested dog’s-tail, bents, fescues and cuckoo flower, with a good representation of other grass species including sweet vernal-grass, golden oat-grass, rough stalked...
meadow-grass and Yorkshire fog. Rye grass is at low frequency over much of the area but is locally dominant. Hairy oat-grass also occurs in one of the fields.

Eycott Hill SSSI comprises three separate parts; the largest centred on Naddles Crags with smaller areas alongside the road to the north and adjacent to Greenah Crag Farm to the south. The interest of the site is both geological and biological though the latter is restricted to the mire-swamp system around Naddles Crags and the unimproved grasslands of the roadside verge to the north.

The mire-swamp system at Eycott Hill covers approximately 12ha and has a topographical situation, which is unique in West Cumbria, combined with an unusual drainage pattern. It occupies several parallel troughs in the underlying Eycott Volcanic Rock, which is important in providing a source of bases to the mire. The troughs are partially blind-ended and peculiar in that they largely drain through clefts in the intervening ridges towards the lower lying Skiddaw Slate landscape to the west. These physical attributes, together with the relatively unimproved and closed nature of the catchment, have given rise to an interesting combination and variety of mire communities supporting several nationally uncommon plant species.

Gill Beck SSSI provides good stream exposures through a c.60m thick sequence of the Cockermouth Lavas. The suite is in general not well exposed and this fact makes the Gill Beck sequence especially valuable. At least four lava flows were present here, including both basalts and tholeiitic andesites. Further geological importance is recognised in this location, as Ordovician Skiddaw Slates lie uncomfortably beneath the lavas. Sediments overlying the lavas have yielded a sequence of rocks ranging from Courceyan Basement Beds to the Holkerian 7th Limestone.

**Cultural and Historical Character**

The landscape is dominated by the former common field systems of the three villages of Caldbeck, Uldale and Ireby, though the latter lies just outside the National Park boundary. These former common fields are larger than average for the National Park. Around these are ancient enclosures, and beyond these, to the north are some intakes and then open commons, which extend beyond the Park boundary. There are only a few small patches of planned enclosures, on the edges of the former common fields around Calbeck and Ireby. In addition to the villages of Calbeck, Uldale and Ireby there are a number of dispersed farms, which tend to be scattered across the ancient enclosures, and in Calbeck follow the fell edge. This area has limited woodland and some ancient clough woodland along Stock Ghyll and the River Caldew. The field boundaries are almost all hedgerows and contain large numbers of standard trees.

**Settlement and Building Character**

- Settlements are generally dispersed or nucleated in form stretching evenly across the Rolling Upland Limestone Farmland. Building styles reflect the local vernacular, using locally available stone and roofing materials;
- The unique built heritage of the villages of Askham, Calbeck and Hesket Newmarket is recognised through designation as Conservation Areas.

**Landscape Character Sub-Types**

There are no Sub-Types within the Rolling Upland Limestone Farmland Landscape Character Type.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE J: HIGH FELL EDGE

Location and Boundaries

The High Fell Edge Landscape Character Type occupies an area to the north and west of the National Park, with an isolated area to the southeast. It is bordered almost entirely to the north and west by the Rolling Upland Limestone Farmland (I) and to the south by High Fells (F & G) or Broad Upland Dale (H) Landscape Character Types.

Definitive Attributes

- As would be expected within this fringe environment the underlying geology is transitional, with six different types of underlying geology represented;
- To the north, the transition from Carboniferous Limestone through the Borrowdale Volcanic Group and into the Skiddaw Group is represented, whilst to the west, the transition from Sandstone to Borrowdale Volcanic Group and south east, the transition from Silurian Flags and Slates to Coniston Limestone is visible;
- Topographically, landscapes within this type vary from 100m to 300m OD;
- A transitional landscape, between more open moorland or Fell and lower, more open landscapes;
- Hills are dissected by numerous streams and minor river valleys;
- Predominantly improved pasture and meadows with a pattern of stone walls giving way to hedges at lower levels;
- Small patches of woodland on steeper slopes and alongside streams and rivers, with numerous field boundary trees and tree clumps occurring around farms;
- Scattered farms and hamlets, served by minor roads and specifically located at the base of the slopes;
- Archaeological remains are prolific throughout this Type, with many scheduled monuments including prehistoric funerary cairns, field systems, hut circles, stone circles and Roman Forts.

Physical Character

The transitional geology imparts a generally non-coherent character within this Landscape Character Type. The landscape varies between an intimate pastoral pattern of small fields to rolling higher topography with long distance views.

To the southeast, the landscape comprises rolling hills with occasional rocky outcrops, which are dissected by numerous streams and minor river valleys. Here, landcover is predominantly improved pasture and meadows with a strong pattern of stone walls giving way to hedges at lower levels.

The rich and varied geology of this Landscape Character Type, has led to designation of several sites as Sites of Special Scientific interest for their geological interest. The quarry at Little Mell Fell provides an example of an outcrop of Cockermouth Lavas, whilst Thornsgill Beck, Mosedale Beck & Wolf Craggs show strongly weathered sections of pre-Devensian till overlain by Late Devensian till. These deposits, together with a Loch Lomond Stadial moraine at Wolf Craggs and meltwater deposits in Mosedale, provide an exceptional geomorphological and sedimentary record in this part of the country. The weathered tills are particularly significant in providing the clearest evidence available of pre-Devensian glaciation in north west England.

Clints Craggs SSSI provides one of the best examples of limestone pavement in West Cumbria with additional interest provided by an area of calcareous grassland to the south. The pavement at Clints Craggs comprises one major block with a steep scar to the south and moderate terracing to the north. The clints are massive and uniform in size with very few solution features, whilst a high proportion of the grikes are deep and narrow. The pavement supports open ash woodland with wych elm, rowan,
hawthorn and hazel. In addition, the Waberthwaite Quarry faces and outcrops within this site provide exposures of a rock-type known as granodiorite.

**Ecological Character**

Ecological interest is mainly confined to small sites designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or National Nature Reserves (NNR). Many of these are wetlands or woodlands. Ecological interest in other areas has been depleted by agricultural improvement. Although there are a number of small ancient semi-natural woodlands scattered within the landscape.

Tarn Moss mire, which has developed in a shallow hollow in acidic glacial drift, and is fed by nutrient-poor ground water provides an example of sedges and bog mosses, alongside round-leaved sundew, heather, cross-leaved heath, marsh violet, marsh cinquefoil and lesser bladderwort. This site is a designated National Nature Reserve.

**Cultural and Historical Character**

Fells within this Landscape Character Type are dominated by intakes and ancient enclosures, which probably represent late medieval assarts. Field boundaries are mainly hedgerows, with stone walls restricted to the intakes, and around the edges of ‘thwaite’ farms. The vast number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) within this Landscape Character Type, including prehistoric cairnfields, monuments and earthworks, Coppermines, Hillforts, Roman Forts and Medieval moated sites, represents further historical character.

**Settlement and Building Character**

- Predominantly dispersed settlement pattern;
- Settlement names include a number of ‘thwaites’, such as Farthwaite and Sillathwaite, indicating that these settlements were established from clearings;
- The dispersed farms may have older origins, especially those spread along the sides of rivers, and it is likely that many are of pre-1770;
- Buildings are generally vernacular in style, constructed and roofed from locally available buildings material.

**Landscape Character Sub-Types**

There are no Landscape Character Sub-Types within the Hill Fell Edge Landscape Character Type.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE K: LOW FELL

Location and Boundaries

The Low Fell Landscape Character Type occupies a large proportion of the southeastern corner of the National Park and is dissected by a number of Broad Lowland Valleys (Type M). To the south, the Low Fell slopes downwards to meet the Low Fell Edge (L), Coastal Limestone (C) and Coastal Margins (B) Landscape Character Types. To the north, the dramatic backdrop of the Rugged/Craggy High Fells provides the setting to the Low Fell Landscape Character Type.

Definitive Attributes

- A landscape of low undulating fells and ridges, which are dissected by Lake Windermere and Coniston Water;
- Rugged Fells which rise to approximately 300m in height and are dissected by streams and minor river valleys;
- Underlying geology of Siltstones and Sandstones of the Silurian Age;
- Large areas of semi-natural and coniferous woodland;
- Land cover consists of a diverse patchwork of rough grassland, semi-improved pasture, small broadleaved and coniferous copses, rock outcrops, heathland, tarns and beck, small wetlands, mires and bracken;
- Dispersed settlement pattern, served by a network of minor roads and tracks;
- Strong landscape pattern of dry stone walls, villages, hamlets, isolated farms and barns, built from local limestone and slate;

Physical Character

The Low Fell Landscape Character Type is predominantly underlain by a combination of Siltstones and Sandstones of the Silurian Age (from the Windermere Group). The rocks dip gently to the south, leaving generally steeper north facing hillsides. Despite their relative low height in comparison with adjacent High Fells, the elevated open land on tops of ridges within this Landscape Character Type provides striking long distance views northwards towards the Higher Fells and to Morecambe Bay to the south.

The folded and fractured shales have produced a smooth and more rounded landscape of rolling wooded hills (semi-natural and coniferous woodland) and valleys with rocky ridges and basins of improved grassland. Large ‘allotments’ also exhibit complex mosaics of grassland, heath, mire and juniper scrub, with a diverse and luxuriant ground flora.

Landscape to the west of Lake Windermere is one of the most densely wooded areas in England, with extensive stands of oak and birch interspersed with stretches of ash and alder. These woodlands are often associated with the numerous stream valleys that cut through them. Woodland is thinner on some of the western slopes, leaving yew, oak, birch and hazel, juniper and holly.

At lower levels, open grassland predominates, with notable contrast between rich green improved pasture enclosed by stonewalls and open moorland of rough grass, bracken and remnant heather. In places, however, the contrast is weakened by intervening semi-improved grassland.

Intricate patterns of undulating and twisting minor roads which serve the scattered hamlets and farmsteads are sporadically lined with hedges or shrubby vegetations and mature individual trees including ash, oak and hazel, the lanes appear to be an integral part of the landscape.

Ecological Character
The Low Fell Landscape Character Type supports a diverse range of habitats, including yew woods, lower fell mixed woodland, quarries, basin mires, estuarine raised mires, man-made tarns, unimproved pastures and flushes, swamps and peat lands.

Ecological interest is signified through designation of several habitats within this Landscape Character Type. Yewbarrow Woods, containing old sessile trees, lies within the well-wooded foothills of the Low Fell and is designated as a SAC for its extensive stands of yew. Dodgson Wood-designated for its rich and diverse composition of woodland types and Brathay Quarries, noted for its lithostratigraphic units are designated SSSI’s. Whilst Claife Tarns and Mires, noted for its rich wetland flora and its ability to support an outstanding assemblage of dragonflies and High Lickbarrow Mires and Pastures - a mosaic of wetlands untouched by agricultural intensification, supporting a wide and interesting range of plant species, are also designated SSSI’s.

In addition to this, Jenny Dam, a small artificially dammed tarn supports one of only two populations of medicinal leech; whilst Ludderburn and Candles tick Mires is designated for its 15 species of bog moss. Similarly Rusland Valley Mosses SSSI is designated as its name suggest for its collection of mosses, which display a rich fauna. Winster Wetlands- a series of small mires supports a diverse range of plants communities which are not known to occur outside South Cumbria, whilst Subberthwaite, Blawith and Torver Low Commons SSSI offers another wetland habitat of transition mires and quaking bogs, located on a broad hilly plateau with mires dominated by tall sedges and rushes with mixed herbs over a ground layer of bog-mosses and feather mosses.

Cultural and Historical Character

This Landscape Character Type is characterised by a patchwork of enclosure types with a largely dispersed settlement pattern. Single ancient farms form the basis of the dispersed settlement pattern, which is evident in the landscape today. The field systems comprise blocks of ancient enclosures, amongst extensive former common waste, which were enclosed systematically in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

The LCT also contains Grizedale Forest, woodland which was planted from the late 18th century onwards within intakes and planned enclosure, and much of which is still coniferous. In other areas small patches of plantation woodland are scattered amongst the ancient and planned enclosures, whilst there are a number of small tarns in the former common waste. Parkland dominates along the western shore of Windermere.

Settlement and Building Character

- Predominantly dispersed settlement pattern outside the main towns and villages, consisting of farmsteads and Large Halls;
- This Landscape Character Type encompasses some of the largest towns and villages within the Central area of the Lake District National Park (including Windermere, Bowness-on-Windermere, Ambleside, Hawkeshead and Coniston);
- Several of these settlements are designated as Conservation Areas;
- In the larger towns, built fabric is dominated by Victorian architecture with generally strong consistency in local vernacular building materials and architectural styles;
- In most cases, settlements have a close relationship with either lakes or rivers that they overlook.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

Two Sub-types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these Sub-Types are generally typical of the Low Fell Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:
Type K1: Forest
- Expanses of dense semi-natural broadleaf; and coniferous woodland;
- Generally strong sense of enclosure;
- Rough grassland clearings.

Sub-Type K2: Parkland
- Well-managed landscape with a parkland character of single mature native and ornamental trees amongst areas of managed grassland;
- Large country houses or halls and associated estate cottages form the main (often central) built elements;
- Generally manicured appearance, which contrasts with surrounding more types of landscape.

Type K3: Farmland
- Open, semi-improved pasture on shallow relief, which often consists of ridges or hollows;
- Dry stone walls, built from local limestone and slate;
- Landscape peppered with farmsteads and small vernacular hamlets;
- Strong recognisable pattern of enclosure.

Type K4: Moorland Ridge
- Series of prominent knolls and ridges;
- Predominant land cover is grassland or moorland (generally open grazing common);
- Strong pattern of stone walls forming field boundaries.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE L: LOW FELL EDGE

Location and Boundaries

The Low Fell Edge Landscape Character Type is situated at the southeastern edge of the National Park (to the north of Grange-over-Sands and Ulverston) and extends outside the Park to the south. It forms the lower edges of the adjacent Low Fell Landscape Character Type (K) and is bordered to the south by a combination of Coastal Limestone (C) and Coastal Margins (B) Landscape Character Types.

Definitive Attributes

- Forms the sloping topographical transition between High Fells to the north and lower coastal landscapes to the south;
- Underlain by a range of different geology types including siltstones and sandstones;
- Dissected by a series of small valleys;
- Combination of rolling, undulating or plateau farmland;
- Recognisable landscape pattern of stone walls at field boundaries.

Physical Character

The Low Fell Edge Landscape Character Type forms transitional landscape between the higher land of the Low Fell to the north and lower Coastal Landscape Character Types to the south. The landscape is underlain by a varying geology and exhibits a combination of rolling, undulating or plateau, predominantly pastoral farmland.

The Low Fell Edge is characterised by rolling, hilly or plateau farmland and moorland. Most farmland has a pattern of large fields, with a strong presence of field boundary trees or clumps of trees. On the higher grounds stone walls are the dominant field boundary with hedges featuring at the lower levels.

Small valleys with semi-natural woodland are a feature in some parts with numerous streams and minor rivers dissecting the valleys evident from a distance by the growth of trees along their banks. Minor roads serve scattered farms and hamlets.

Ecological Character

The ecological character of this Landscape Character Type is dominated by improved or semi-improved pastoral farmland. Where large areas of scrub encroach, these provide cover, refuge and feeding grounds for many species of fauna.

Cultural and Historical Character

The character of this area is distinguished by extensive ancient woodland, most of which was coppiced to serve various woodland industries, such as iron processing, gunpowder manufacture and bobbin making. Ancient woodland occurs across the area, but the greatest concentration is in the eastern half, between the Rusland Valley and Lake Windermere. The field boundaries are a mix of stone walls, generally in the more upland and anciently enclosed land, and hedgerows, in the low-lying planned and ancient enclosures. Settlement comprises a number of small nucleations, particularly around Haverthwaite and Backbarrow, where iron and gunpowder industries developed, followed by the construction of the railway and the growth of this area as a key tourist route into the Lake District. Dispersed settlement within the landscape is based on the pattern of former single ancient farms.
Settlement and Building Character

- Settlement pattern is dominated by a series of scattered farmsteads;
- Buildings and walls exhibit a range of local vernacular materials (reflecting underlying geology);
- Farmsteads and houses are served by a series of minor roads.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

There are no Landscape Character Sub-Types within the Low Fell Edge Landscape Character Type.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE M: BROAD LOWLAND VALLEY

Location and Boundaries

The Broad Lowland Valley Landscape Character Type encompasses a series of river valleys (including the Lyth, Winster, Windermere, Rusland and Crake), which cut through the Low Fell (Type K) in the south-eastern corner of the Lake District National Park.

Definitive Attributes

- Broad U-shaped valleys, containing either a river or lake on the valley floor;
- Valleys cut through adjacent Low Fell Landscape Character Type;
- Underlying geology varies, but predominantly consists of Siltstones and Sandstones from the Silurian Age;
- Mixed landcover of pastoral grazing land and woodland (predominantly broadleaved) adjacent to the rivers or lakes;
- Patches of parkland (exhibiting mature landscape structure) along dale sides;
- Pattern of stone walls and hedgerows delineating field boundaries.

Physical Character

The Broad Lowland Valleys cut through surrounding Low Fell and contain either a main river or lake within their floodplains or valley bottoms. Similarly to the adjacent Low Fell Landscape Character Type (K), the underlying geology of these valleys predominantly consists of Siltstones and Sandstones from the Silurian Age.

The topography varies from flat shallow valley bottoms to classic U-shaped sloping valley sides, which provide a relatively strong sense of enclosure.

Land cover is mixed, but predominantly pastoral with plantations, scrub and other woodland often present. Woodland tends to be broadleaved with some coppice and mixed plantations. Fences and hedges form most boundaries with frequent hedgerow trees and occasional stone walls delineating field boundaries. Parkland is also a feature within several of the Broad Lowland Valleys.

Ecological Character

The ecological character of this Landscape Character Type is dominated by the habitats associated with the numerous rivers, streams and lakes. Situated in a glacial alley between Lake Windermere and Coniston Water, Esthwaite Lake, a nutrient-rich (mesotrophic) lake is one of the best examples of its kind in England and Wales. The complex of associated open water, fen and grassland communities support a characteristically rich flora. The lake supports a rich assemblage of pondweed species and is the only known locality in England and Wales for the slender naiad and elongated sedge. The site is a designated SSSI.

In addition to its botanical interest Esthwaite Water is of local importance for breeding birds. Great crested grebe, teal, tufted duck, red breasted merganser, pochard and sedge warbler all regularly breed at the site, and for this reason the site is designated as a Ramsar.

Cultural and Historical Character

This Landscape Character Type includes the relatively formal lakeshore landscapes of managed grassland, broadleaf woodland and parkland, as well as some farmland and sheltered valley landscapes.
The Rusland Valley down to the Leven Estuary consists of planned enclosure land, with some intakes. There are also a number of large 19th century villas and country houses within the valleys, many with extensive landscaped gardens. The area is well wooded, and many of the trees are exotic species, introduced for their landscape value. An ancient open field system is however still present at the southern end of Coniston Lake.

There are a number of single ancient farms within the area, which form the basis of the dispersed settlement pattern, which is evident in the landscape today.

**Settlement and Building Character**

- Built character is dominated by local vernacular materials including stone and slate;
- Settlement pattern is predominantly dispersed, consisting of isolated farmsteads and houses, with occasional small hamlets;
- Other features include isolated barns, dotted within fields and stone Packhorse Bridges crossing rivers.

**Landscape Character Sub-Types**

Four Sub-types have been identified within the overall Landscape Character Type. The attributes that define the character of these Sub-Types are generally typical of the Broad Lowland Valley Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

**M1. Valley Floor with Lake**
- Wide, predominantly flat valley floor and floodplain;
- Landscape is dominated by lake.

**M2. Valley Floor with River Floodplain**
- Wide, predominantly flat valley floor and floodplain;
- Broad or Narrow River dominates landscape.

**M3. Enclosed Valley Side**
- Sloping landscape forming the lower valley sides;
- Visible network of walls of hedgerows delineate field boundaries.

**M4. Open Valley Side**
- Sloping to higher plateau-shaped topography, where lower valley sides meet adjacent Low Fell Landscape Character Types;
- General absence of boundaries dividing fields.
5.0 AREAS OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section presents the descriptions of the geographically unique Areas of Distinctive Character defined within the National Park as shown on Figure 3.4.

5.2 Character Descriptions

5.2.1 For each Area of Distinctive Character, its boundaries are mapped and character described under the following headings:

- **Location and Boundaries** – a short paragraph detailing location in terms of National Park boundaries, and in relation to the underlying Landscape Character Types/Sub-Types

- **Distinctive Characteristics** – a bullet point list of the main distinctive visible and non-visible experiential characteristics of the landscape that contribute to the area’s distinctive character

- **Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place** - a summary description of the main locally distinctive characteristics and features that give the area its unique sense of place

5.2.2 In addition to the visual appearance of the landscape (i.e. aesthetic aspects such as scale, enclosure, diversity, unity, texture, form, line, colour, balance/proportion, movement, pattern), the descriptions identify the perceptual aspects that contribute to the character of the landscape. These include experiential aspects such as sense of wildness, sense of remoteness and quality of light.

5.2.3 Perceptions of beauty or scenic attractiveness by reference to artists, poets and writers will be included in the descriptions as quotes.

5.2.4 Photographs illustrating the typical characteristics of each Area of Distinctive Character are provided as a separate report, and these should be referred to gain a full understanding of the area.

5.2.5 The following descriptions of the Areas of Distinctive Character should be read in conjunction with the descriptions for the underlying Landscape Character Types set out in Section 4.0.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 1 HIGH IREBY

Location and Boundaries

High Ireby Area of Distinctive Character is situated at the northwestern edge of the Lake District, to the northeast of Cockermouth and extends outside the northern boundary of the National Park. The southern half of the area sits within the High Fell Edge Landscape Character Type (J), whilst the northern half is within the Rolling Upland Limestone Farmland Type (I).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Gently rolling pastoral farmland, divided by a network of low hedgerows and well maintained stone walls which follow the rising and falling topography;
- Distinct topographical unit (rounded fell) of Binsey to the east, rising to a height of 447m and providing a sense of enclosure;
- Network of narrow road corridors, which are often lined with hedgerows or stone walls; and the straight corridor of the main (A595) Roman Road running across the centre of the area;
- Small rural settlement of Blindcrake at the centre of the area, consisting of a small-scale, intimate arrangement of traditional white, lime-washed buildings, nestled within a green and sometimes wooded setting;
- A uniform collection of long, thin, narrow strip fields to the north of Blindcrake (lining both sides of the road corridor);
- Intermediate backdrop of rising land of Setmurthy Common to the south and more distant backdrop of High Fells further to the South.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The predominant characteristic of this area is patchworks of muted and harmonious pasture fields, which are divided by a series of traditional vernacular stone walls and mature hedgerows. The rolling nature of the underlying topography creates a varied sense of enclosure and influences the nature and extent of views to adjacent areas of distinctive character.

The landscape is cut by a number of straight, minor roads, which are often lined with hedgerows and have a generally rural and quiet character, in contrast with the main A595 road corridor, which introduces a source of noise and movement.

At the heart of the area, the small settlement of Blindcrake, with its intimate, small-scale combination of traditional buildings, St. Michael’s and All Angels church and the adjacent long, thin strip fields create focus for the surrounding pastoral landscape. The varying brightly coloured painted gables of many of the white lime-washed houses and other small buildings create a strong sense of local identity and recognisable sense of place. In places, dramatic views southwards towards the imposing Higher Fells further contribute to this.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 2: BASSENBTHWAITE AND ULDALE

Location and Boundaries

Bassenthwaite and Uldale Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the north–western corner of the Lake District National Park, and nestles at the foot of Skiddaw and Blencathra, to the northeast of Bassenthwaite Lake. The area comprises a combination of Rolling Upland Limestone Farmland (I), High Fell Edge (J) and Broad Upland Dale (H) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

• Deep blue colour of Over Water (which shimmers in the sunshine), nestled comfortably against a colourful backdrop of surrounding grass covered hills;
• Dominated to the south by the dramatic rising High Fell backdrop of the Skiddaw massif and Uldale Fells (forming part of this) to the east, which provide strong recognisable sense of place and sense of enclosure;
• Relatively soft, rolling, pastoral landscape, with deciduous vegetation in woodland blocks, hedgerows and hedgerow trees;
• Strongly textured landscape, due to the pattern of small fields and hedgerows;
• Combination of small farmsteads and hamlets; plus the two small, nucleated villages of Uldale and Bassenthwaite which fit comfortably into the landscape;
• Strongly rural character with a noticeable sense of tranquillity and little traffic or tourist influence;
• Strong cultural associations with Sir Hugh Walpole’s ‘Herries Chronicle’.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This landscape comprises a relatively uniform mixture of smooth pasture fields, with regular blocks of woodland and mature hedgerows at field boundaries. In the northeastern corner of the area, Over Water, with its narrow fringe of surrounding shoreline wet grassland and woodland, sits comfortably within the surrounding overlooking Uldale, Binsey and Aughertree Fells.

The dramatic rising High Fell backdrop of Skiddaw and Blencathra to the south and east of the area provides a strong sense of enclosure and dominates both immediate and longer views. From within the area, this backdrop provides instantly recognisable sense of place and orientation.

Bassenthwaite village to the west of the impressive Great Calva Fell, and on the northeast shore of Bassenthwaite Lake, contains a mixture of traditional vernacular white lime-washed buildings and more modern additions. To the south of the village, Bassenthwaite Church is an interesting landscape feature (providing an example of a medieval building dating to the 12th and 13th centuries).

The village of Uldale (another small nucleated settlement) overlooking the narrow corridor of the River Ellen to the west has a traditional rural feel, with a sense of isolation from the busier tourist areas associated with Bassenthwaite Lake to the southwest. This historic village encompasses several traditional white, lime-washed buildings, with brightly coloured painted window frames, and has strong cultural associations with the writer Sir Hugh Walpole, who based several of his novels on Uldale.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 3: SKIDDAW AND BLENCATHRA

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the north of the National Park, to the northeast of Keswick. It is relatively large and covers the eastern part of the Landscape Character Type G (Rounded, Angular High Fells) and also encompasses the sub-types G1 (Mosedale) and G2 (Coniferous Forest).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Distinctive profiles of the hills are landmarks from a large area;
- The smooth texture of moorland, with a seasonally-changing kaleidoscope of colours;
- Sharp Edge on Blencathra is one of the Lake District’s most challenging and exposed walking routes;
- A lack of built development makes the area feel extraordinarily remote and tranquil;
- A large-scale and open landscape, generally very simple in its form and appearance;
- Within plateau areas, rolling topography encloses views;
- From higher areas there are views out across the northern Lake District and beyond to the Solway Firth.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

With the exception of the summit crags, the texture of the landscape in this area is exceptionally smooth. The weathering of the slate, the lack of stone walls or other structures and the low-growing nature of the vegetation give a distinctive smooth, rounded profile to the landform, which is in contrast to the more craggy appearance of the landscape in other parts of the Lake District. This sense of smoothness is enhanced by the uniform texture of the heather and scree. The colour of the heather and other ground-cover vegetation varies throughout the year, giving a continually changing backdrop of greens, browns, goldens and purples.

The summit crags of Blencathra have very different qualities, being rocky and angular in appearance. Sharp edge is one of the Lake District’s most challenging walking/scrambling routes, being a narrow ridge with steep drops down on either side. Walking it gives a sense of vulnerability and exposure, combined with exhilaration and a strong sense of being detached from the softer landscape below.

The area is unusual for its lack of built structures. There are few walls, and buildings are limited to the isolated YHA bunkhouse at Back-o’-Skiddaw and a farm in Mosedale. The only surfaced road is in Mosedale. This lack of development, combined with the enclosing effect of the rolling topography, which covers most of the area, makes this LCA feel extraordinarily remote and tranquil.

The lack of enclosure by walls or vegetation gives the landscape a simple form, with a large scale and an open feel. From the higher points, there are magnificent views over long distances in all directions. To the north there are views across the Solway Firth to Scotland and to the south, views over the Lake District. These views are particularly stunning when there is a temperature inversion over the surrounding lakes and lower valleys, and the distant mountains appear to float above the mist.

The distinctive profile of Skiddaw, with its rounded pointed summits, and the saddle-shape of Blencathra are important local landmarks and contribute to the sense of place for much of the northern Lake District.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 4: MUNGRISDALE AND CALDBECK

Location and Boundaries

Mungrisdale and Caldbeck Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the northeast of the Lake District National Park, curving around the northeastern flanks of Skiddaw. It encompasses High Fell Edge (J) and Rolling Upland Limestone Farmland (I) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

• Patchwork of predominantly pastoral fields, within the shadow of the dramatic bulk of Skiddaw;
• Dramatic views of the surrounding sweeping fells and the saddleback shape of Blencathra, which provide a strong sense of distant enclosure;
• Range of intricate mineral mines scattered within the landscape;
• Craggy outcrops such as Naddles Crag with Eycott Hill, offering extensive views over the surrounding landscape;
• Unique collection of hamlets, including the idyllic Caldbeck and Heskett Newmarket, and traditional vernacular farmsteads.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Mungrisdale and Caldbeck’s distinctiveness lies within its unique, stark contrast of the rich patchwork of rolling pastoral farmland (delineated by hedges, dry stone walls or fences), small clumps of woodland, wildflower meadows (near Heskett Newmarket) heather moorland to the north, and vernacular hamlets and buildings scattered throughout. The towering bulk of Skiddaw, forming the western edge of the area, provides a strong and dramatic sense of enclosure, whilst patches of woodland frame short distance views. The only elements disturbing the overall harmony of the landscape are relatively discordant patches of coniferous woodland.

The constant presence of the Skiddaw Range, towering over the area, contributes to a strongly recognisable sense of place and provides orientation. The vernacular character of the hamlets of Caldbeck (the name of which means cold water) and Heskett Newmarket, combined with scattered vernacular farmsteads, fit comfortably within the gently rolling farmland landscape.

Other than the sense of enclosure provided by Skiddaw and Blencathra to the west, there is a generally strong sense of openness within the area, facilitating extensive views to adjacent sweeping fells. From higher points (such as Priest’s Brow), towards the north of the area, the intrinsic landscape mosaic of fields area can be admired, with views dramatic northwards towards the Solway Estuary, Carlisle and Scotland.

Eycott Hill, to the south of the area, offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape, including the magnificent Skiddaw massif in the west, framing Glenderamackin Vale; the distinctive round shapes of Great Mell Fell and Little Mell Fell to the south, Threlkeld and Matterdale Commons to the southwest and the more treed, rolling landscape to the east which is reminiscent of the Pennines. An absence of main roads contributes to the overall sense of tranquillity within this area.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 5 DERWENT DALE

Location and Boundaries

The Derwent Dale is situated at the northern edge of the Lake District National Park and flows from the northern end of Bassenthwaite Lake in the east towards the northern edges of Cockermouth in the west. The area is predominantly underlain by the Broad Upland Dale Landscape Character Type (H), with edges of High Fell along the northern and southern Dale sides.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Strong recognisable sense of place provided by the imposing rising backdrop of the high horizons of Whinlatter and Grizedale Pike to the south (with Groom Fell and Kirk Fell in the foreground) and the Skiddaw massif to the east;
- Sinuous, meandering path of the River Derwent, within its adjacent relatively wide floodplain, running from the northern end of Bassenthwaite towards Cockermouth in the west;
- Medium-scale patchwork of relatively regular, lush green pasture fields, divided by a combination of low trimmed hedges and mature hedgerows often with hedgerow trees (which are sometimes veteran);
- Mature parkland landscape with a distinctive combination of single parkland trees within fields and mature Oak avenues lining road corridors to create a green canopy in spring and summer;
- Large grand buildings (such as Isel Hall), neatly presented estate cottages and a harmonious combination of mature parkland trees set within lush organised parkland contributes to an organised character,
- Sense of enclosure provided regular-sided patches and belts of mixed woodland, interspersed within the pasture fields.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The wide and meandering River Derwent flows through the landscape set within a predominantly flat floodplain of pasture fields and a patchwork of other wetland habitats. At the eastern end of the area, the river joins Bassenthwaite Lake and is crossed by the main B5291 road, marking the point at which the river becomes a corridor feature.

Adjacent to the river, a network of relatively regular-shaped medium-scale pasture fields lines the corridor, which are divided by a combination of mature hedgerows and stone walls. Longer distance views to imposing rising backdrop of the high horizons of Whinlatter and Grizedale Pike to the south (with Groom Fell and Kirk Fell in the foreground) and the Skiddaw massif to the east, provide strong recognisable sense of place and distant sense of enclosure. From several locations, views are more restricted to the immediate river corridor. The snaking network of minor roads tends to follow the course of the river, with a main crossing at Kirk Hill on a humpbacked stone bridge. In places the road corridors are lined with mature oak avenues, the canopies of which, extend to form a green umbrella cover.

One of the key distinguishing characteristics of this landscape is the presence of relatively large-scale estates. The designed nature of the landscapes associated with large grand buildings (such as Isel Hall), neatly presented estate cottages and a harmonious combination of mature parkland trees set within lush organised parkland contributes to an organised character, which contrasts with adjacent High Fell Edge landscapes. Overall, there is strong visual coherence and unity in terms of colour and texture, combined with a sense of tranquillity away from minor road corridors.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 6: SETMURTHY COMMON AND EMBLETON

Location and Boundaries

Setmurthy Common and Embleton Area of Distinctive Character is situated at the north-eastern edge of the Lake District National Park, directly to the east of Cockermouth (and extends outside the National Park boundary). The area is almost entirely underlain by the High Fell Edge (J) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Contained, broad, dome-shaped hill, accommodating Setmurthy Common (also known as Watch Hill), punctuated with angular plantation woodlands;
- Linear, traditional small settlement of Embleton, situated on a side road which runs adjacent to the main A66 road corridor;
- Framed views into and across the meandering Derwent Valley to the north and southwards towards the dramatic High Fell backdrop of Grizedale Pike and Whinlatter (which provides a distant sense of enclosure);
- Predominantly pastoral landscape, encompassing a series of regular pastoral fields, with a combination of hedges and stone walls at field boundaries.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The combination of the underlying dome-shaped topography of Setmurthy Common (also known as Watch Hill) with several angular blocks of plantation, coniferous woodland, imparts a sense of regularity and dominance over adjacent pastoral farmland.

The higher nature of this land facilitates long-distance framed views northwards across the meandering course of the Derwent corridor, and southwards towards an imposing High Fell backdrop.

Towards the centre of the area, the traditional small linear settlement of Embleton follows a minor road corridor, to the north of the busier A66, introducing a source of noise and movement. Features such as the remains of a stone circle to the west of Big Wood and in contrast, Cockermouth golf course to the northwest of Embleton, provide variety and interest. The somewhat discordant character of this area is a result of the combination of coniferous and mixed woodland and rough pasture fields.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 7: BASSENTHWAITE LAKE

Location and Boundaries

Bassenthwaite Lake is situated to the north-west of Keswick and east of Cockermouth, towards the north-eastern corner of the Lake District National Park. The area is almost entirely situated within the Broad Upland Dale (H) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

• The long, Bassenthwaite Lake, with its sinuous eastern edges, and western woodland-clad sides, is overlooked by the dramatic towering dome-shaped profile of Ullock Pike and Skiddaw to the east;
• Bassenthwaite Lake, with its well-preserved patchwork of shoreline habitats, is set within a wider, broad upland dale with steeply sloping dale sides;
• Vast expanse of blue/grey water contrasts with the relatively opposing, dark greens of coniferous woodland within Wythop Wood and Thornwaite Forest;
• Strong visual contrasts, with weather affecting the feel and appearance of the lake resulting in the sun casting shadows; with the surrounding High Fells, reflecting in the lake on clear days.
• Shore path along the western edge, provides a number of access points to the Lake, in contrast to the western edge which is inaccessible other than to cars on the A66;

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Bassenthwaite Lake (one of the largest waterbodies in the Lake District) sits within a Broad Upland, glacially-eroded Dale context, with steep High Fell Sides of Ullock Pike and Skiddaw to the east and Grizedale Pike and Lord’s Seat to the west. These landforms create a strong sense of containment within close proximity to the Lake, and also contribute to strong recognisable sense of place.

The dramatic, yet simple contrasts, both in colour (between the dark greens and browns of woodland clad dale sides and the blue-grey lake) and shape (the broad flat dale floor and steep, angular dale sides) contribute to the distinctive appearance of this area. Sunlight can have a dramatic affect on this landscape, casting shadows over the lake from the adjacent higher fells, and making the relatively shallow water of the lake glisten and sparkle. On clear, calm days, the reflection of Skiddaw in the background, with Ullock Pike in the foreground is striking (particularly in Winter, when the peaks are often snow-capped). Dramatic views across the Lake towards Whinlatter Forest and coniferous woodland-clad slopes to the west, further contribute to recognisable sense of place and distinctive character.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 8: LOWESWATER

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the northwestern edge of the National Park. It includes Loweswater Lake and the fells to the north and south. The highest land within this area, forms part of Landscape Character Type G: ( Rounded, Angular High Fells). The lower fells in the north of the area are Landscape Character Type J (High Fell Edge).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Relatively low, smooth profile open fells in the north and south of the area contrasting with the more enclosed, verdant and intricately-patterned Loweswater valley in the centre;
- In contrast to other parts of the Lake District, the area feels very quiet, with relatively few visitors;
- Small areas of commercial forestry around Lamplugh Fell and Cogra Moss in the south-west;
- Field boundaries are marked by a combination of hedges and dry stone walls;
- Area of Distinctive Character 14 (Grizedale Pike and Whinlatter) forms the backdrop of views across Crummock water to the east;
- There is a sense of being on the edge of the Lake District, looking in;
- Raven Crag, at the north end of Mellbreak, is a prominent feature in the central part of the area;
- Cultural associations with Beatrix Potter.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The Loweswater Fells are distinctive for the smoothness of their form and texture. They are relatively low compared to the hills of the central Lake District, and contain very few areas of bare rock. Maps show the northern fells within the area to be covered with a regular network of straight dry-stone walls, but these are not particularly noticeable on the ground, and the fells retain their open quality. The texture of the fells is also very simple. The upland vegetation is almost entirely low growing. The majority of the hills are covered with grassy vegetation, with occasional patches of heather and bracken, which give seasonal variations in colour on the hillsides. Even on areas of uniform vegetation, the effects of changing light can create dramatic patterns on the fells.

There are small patches of commercial forestry on Lamplugh Fell and around the tarn of Cogra Moss. The darker colour and tall, coniferous vegetation in these areas contrast with the surrounding open fells.

The Loweswater valley is settled and enclosed. It is well vegetated, including woods and hedgerows, and consequently feels much softer. Patches of gorse create splashes of bright yellow on the hillsides and around the lake. The scale of the valley landscape is much smaller, with views enclosed by the surrounding hills, and a much smaller pattern of fields. The steep rounded form of Mellbreak is a prominent feature within the valley.

Whilst there is a scattering of hotels, guesthouses and teashops, tourism here is much more discrete than in other parts of the Lake District. The lake, valley and fells of Loweswater all feel particularly tranquil, and there is a sense of “getting away from it all”.

Views east towards Grassmoor and the higher upland fells towards Keswick provide a dramatic backdrop to the area and also give a sense of place and orientation. Views west are over the coastal plains landscape outside the National Park. From much of the area there is a sense of being on the edge of the Lake District, looking in towards the higher mountains of the centre.

The author Beatrix Potter was fond of Loweswater, and some of the scenes from the recent film “Miss Potter” were filmed here.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 9: LORTON VALE

Location and Boundaries

Lorton Vale is situated in the northeast of the Lake District National Park, to the north of Crummock Water and South of Cockermouth. The area falls within the Broad Upland Dale Landscape Character Type (H)

Distinctive Characteristics

• Broad vale, encompassing the gently meandering course of the River Cocker, flowing from Crummock Water in the south to Cockermouth in the north;
• Intricate patchwork of pasture fields following the river channel, divided by a combination of mature hedgerows and distinctive traditional stone walls;
• Strong, yet distant sense of enclosure provided by High Fells to the west (Loweswater Fell) and east (Whiteside and Kirk Fell);
• Sinuous belts of soft woodland following the river corridor, interspersed with a network of minor roads which mainly follow, rather than cross the river corridor;
• Series of dispersed farmsteads scattered across the flat to gently undulating valley floor, with the small-nucleated hamlet of Thackthwaite consisting of several traditional white, lime-washed houses.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The broad corridor of Lorton Vale, which is enclosed to the east and west by adjacent moor, heath and grassland-covered High Fells, has a strongly rural character. The recognisable pattern of pasture fields which are delineated by a combination of stone walls and mature hedgerows, flow along the Vale floor, adjacent to the course of the River Cocker.

This mature landscape of hedgerows and sinuous belts of woodland contributes to a green and lush character, providing contrast to some of the harsher and more angular landscapes associated with Crummock Water and Buttermere to the south. Wordsworth recognised this characteristic in his poem about a mature Yew Tree standing in Lorton Vale.

Access through the landscape is via a series of minor rural roads, which meander through the vale and provide a gentler access route to Buttermere and Crummock than via Newlands valley to the west. Traditional vernacular (predominantly stone) farmsteads punctuate the surrounding green pasture fields, and the overall feel of the area is one of tranquillity, stillness and relaxation.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 10: GROOM FELL AND KIRK FELL

Location and Boundaries

This is a relatively small Area of Distinctive Character, situated close to the north-western boundary of the National Park, to the north of Whinlatter and the west of Bassenthwaite. The area falls entirely within Landscape Character Type G (Rounded, Angular High Fell).

Distinctive Characteristics

• The three open, rounded peaks of Ling Fell, Broom Fell and Kirk Fell, set in a triangular formation, with the lower ground of Wythop Moss between them;
• An extremely remote-feeling and isolated area, with no settlement or public rights of way;
• Straight dry-stone walls, with regular-shaped pattern of enclosures on Wythop Moss contrasts with the sinuous pattern of stream channels;
• Forms a relatively dramatic backdrop to valleys to the north and west.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This is one of the most remote-feeling areas of the Lake District, and contains no settlements or rights of way. Wythop Moss, in the centre of the area, feels very enclosed, as the hills of Ling Fell, Kirk Fell and Broom Fell surround it and restrict views out.

The heather moorland on the fellsides appears open and expansive, and the smoothness of the texture is enhanced by the gentle profile of the hills. The stream channels draining Wythop Moss into Tom Rudd beck are deeply incised, and create sinuous patterns on the valley floor, which contrast with the straight, regular patterns of the stone walls.

Differences in vegetation, particularly between heather and marshy vegetation, create a mosaic pattern of colours and textures, with strong seasonal variations.

The hills within this Area of Distinctive Character are most frequently seen from outside it. Ling Fell is the southern backdrop to the Setmurthy Common and Embleton Area of Distinctive Character, whilst the western slopes of Kirk Fell form the eastern side of the Lorton Vale.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 11: BASSENTHWAITE AND DERWENT ALLUVIAL PLAIN

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the North-west of the Lake District National Park, between Bassenthwaite Lake to the north and Derwent Water to the south. The entirety of the area is situated within the Broad Upland Dale Landscape Character Type (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Wide, flat alluvial plain between Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite Lake;
- Spectacular open views to Bassenthwaite Lake and Derwent Water from certain locations within the area.
- Land cover dominated by wet, swampy ground at the immediate lakeshore, low shrubby vegetation, rough grassland and network of pasture fields which are delineated by a series of low hedgerows;
- Situated within the same Broad Upland Dale as Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite Lake and overlooked by High Fells, with mature coniferous woodland on the lower slopes of Skiddaw (Thornthwaite Forest) to the east and Grizedale Forest to the west, providing a strong sense of enclosure;
- Noticeable absence of farmsteads, houses or settlement pattern.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The flat, low-lying Bassenthwaite and Derwent Delta Alluvial Plain, provides dramatic views north and south across Bassenthwaite Lake and Derwent Water. In places, these views are restricted by vegetation on the floodplain.

The wooded lower slopes of Skiddaw to the east and Grizedale Forest to the west, provide an overall strong sense of enclosure and containment to the alluvial plain beneath. The muted colours of these slopes, match the generally harmonious and balanced character of the landscape, which they enclose.

The gently meandering course of the River Derwent passes through the area, connecting Bassenthwaite Lake to the north to Derwent Water to the south (it is claimed that Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite Lake were once one large). The river corridor is less dominant as a landscape feature here than within its upper course (as it meanders through Borrowdale).
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 12: GLENDERAMACKIN VALE

Location and Boundaries

Glenderamackin Vale Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the north of the Lake District National Park, to the south of the Skiddaw Range. It stretches from Troutbeck village in the east to Keswick in the west, following the course of the lower Glenderamackin River, with the A66 main road running parallel.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Intricate patchwork of small pastoral fields and small traditional vernacular hamlets, criss crossed by minor roads and the sinuous corridor of the Glenderamackin River;
- Strong sense of harmony and coherence within this landscape;
- Skiddaw High Fell (with the distinctive saddle shape of Blencathra forming a prominent backdrop) in views to the north;
- Smooth rounded bulges of Threlkeld and Matterdale Commons dominate views southwards;
- Overall sense of tranquillity disturbed by proximity to A66 main road corridor;
- Archaeological features scattered within the area, including site of a Roman Fort, camp and road.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This area of gently rolling pastoral farmland is dominated by the sinuous course of the lower Glenderamackin River, which curves its way from east to west through the landscape, becoming the River Greta west of Threlkeld. Several quarries, the dismantled railway and the striking form of the Mosedale viaduct are prominent features within the landscape.

The patchwork of green pastoral fields, delineated by a combination of dry stone walls and hawthorn hedge, small clumps of deciduous trees and patches of coniferous woodland, provide a strongly recognisable landscape pattern. The ever moving, trickling and rushing water within Glenderamackin River, nestled between lush, green fields is also a striking feature.

The smooth and majestic grandeur of the Skiddaw Range (with the distinctive saddle shape of Blencathra) forms a backdrop for views northwards. The historic villages of Threlkeld (Norse for ‘well of the thrall’) sitting snugly at the foot of Blencathra; and Troutbeck, with a combination of vernacular whitewashed houses, contribute to overall recognisable sense of place within the area.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 13: CRUMMOCK WATER

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the Northeast of the Lake District National Park, to the north of Buttermere and south of Loweswater. It falls within the Broad Upland Dale (H), Rounded, Angular High Fell (G) Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Crisp, clear appearance of Crummock Water (part of a unique twin lake system together with Buttermere), flanked by an amphitheatre of Skiddaw Slate High Fells, which are generally devoid of dense vegetation cover;
- A generally smooth texture, despite the presence of crags and rocky outcrops of underlying geology;
- The smooth rounded Mellbreak Fell, which runs along the entire western side of the lake is a constant focus point in the area, whilst the dominant peak of Grassmoor provides an instantly recognisable landscape feature, contributing to strong recognisable sense of place;
- Lake is fed by the dramatic, gushing Scale Force (the highest waterfall in the Lake District);
- The almost-hidden hanging valley of Rannerdale, to the east of Crummock Water - renowned for its spectacular blue-purple carpet of bluebells in spring.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Crummock Water is set against a backdrop of smooth rounded Skiddaw slate Fells, the most prominent of which are Mellbreak, which runs along the entire western side of the lake, and the bulk of Grasmoor (the name of which is derived from the old Norse Grise, which means wild boar). The imposing Skiddaw fell sides facilitate extensive views across the lake and contribute to a strong sense of place and enclosure within the valley. Rannerdale valley (a hanging valley on the eastern shore of Drummock Water) is famous for its inspiring display of Bluebells, which, for a couple of weeks every spring, transforms the entire valley into a vast sea of blue. From Rannerdale, the perfect pyramid shape of Whiteless Pike dominates views eastwards towards the Skiddaw Fells.

A general absence of built elements (other than the occasional farmstead) and main roads, contributes to the overall strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness within the area. There is striking colour contrast within the area. The rich blue-purple of the Rannerdale Bluebells (in Spring) contrasts with the seasonally changing spectrum of different greens, browns, purples and yellows offered by the large expanses of coniferous woodland, whilst the clear blue of the lake and the grey blue of the dry stone walls all contribute to the landscape colour palette. Clumps of deciduous woodland hugging the valley sides (mainly to the east), and heathland and remnant gorse higher up the fell side, combine with a network of hedges, lone trees, bracken and pastoral farmland on the valley floor to create an intricate and recognisable landscape pattern. Wainwright (the ashes of whom have been scattered on Haystacks, to the south of Crummock Water) was just one of the many artists whom have been inspired by the rich colourful landscape of Crummock Water.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 14: GRIZEDALE PIKE AND WHINLATTER

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the north of the Lake District National Park, between Keswick and Crummock Water, and to the north of Newlands Valley. It falls entirely within the Rounded, Angular High Fell Landscape Character Type (G): although the northern part of the area is within Sub-type G2: Coniferous Forest.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Framed views out of the area towards Derwentwater to the east and Red Pike (above Buttermere) to the west;
- Angular, pointed peaks with straight sides separated by V-shaped valleys create a strong sense of place within this area, and also form an important backdrop to views from adjacent Areas of Distinctive Character;
- A relatively smooth texture of heather and scree, rather than grass and crags. The predominant colours are brown/purple and grey;
- There are well-used footpaths along most of the peaks, ridges and valleys. Climbing the highest peaks gives a tremendous sense of achievement and exhilaration;
- Whilst this is a wild landscape, the presence of footpaths and walkers contribute a human aspect to its character.
- The extensive coniferous plantation of Whinlatter forest, in the north of the area has similar underlying topography, but has a very different feel due to the enclosing qualities of the trees, their dark colour, the movement of vehicles over Whinlatter Pass, and the commercial and recreational functions of the forest.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This ridge separates the northern and western valleys of the Lake District. Walking through it, particularly through the valleys, there is a sense of leaving one world and entering another. From the valleys (which are V-shaped, with steep scree sides) there are framed views out towards Skiddaw, Newlands, Crummock Water and Buttermere, but they appear as glimpses of places far removed. From the hill tops, the views are less restricted, and there are magnificent panoramas encompassing many lakes and valleys, which give a great sense of achievement and exhilaration.

The topography is a very distinctive feature of this Area of Distinctive Character, with pointed peaks separated by steep V-shaped valleys. The straight sides of the hills emphasise their angular form, and can make them appear quite overwhelming when viewed straight up or down. There are large patches of scree on valley sides, and the majority of vegetation is heather. Together they give a relatively simple texture to the landscape, and grey, brown and purple colours predominate.

The distinctive angular profile of this area forms the backdrop and setting to the surrounding Areas of Distinctive Character. Perhaps the most famous view is Grizedale and Causey Pikes as seen across Derwentwater from Crow Park in Keswick.

The area contains several popular walking routes, and the ridge-top paths are often reasonably busy. The movement and sound of people and the visibility of their bright clothes is part of the character of the area. The valleys attract far fewer walkers, and consequently feel far more secluded, isolated and peaceful.

The part of the area planted as Whinlatter forest has a very different character. The dark-coloured coniferous vegetation gives it a much greater sense of enclosure, bordering on the oppressive in places. There is also a stronger sense of development - and of connection with the outside world - in
this area due to the presence of vehicles on Whilatter Pass, and the many visitors to the forest visitor centre and recreational trails.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 15: NEWLANDS

Location and Boundaries

The Newlands valley is on the western side of the central Lake District National Park, between Derwentwater and Buttermere. The higher land is within the Rugged, Craggy High Fells Landscape Character Type (F); whilst lower land is within the Broad Upland Dale Landscape Character Type (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- The distinctive profile of Cat Bells separates Newlands valley and Dewentwater.
- The three-branched form of the valley, with each branch containing its own stream, joining midway down the valley.
- A settled upland valley, with deciduous vegetation, giving a sense of shelter and respite from the surrounding fells. Settlements of distinctive hamlets and farms on the edges of the valley floor.
- The twisting Newlands Pass, taking a continuous stream of cars to and from Buttermere.
- A long history of mining and mineral extraction.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

There are many features, which give the Newlands valley its distinct identity and sense of place. Some are physical features, such as the famous stepped profile of the Cat Bells ridge, which separates the valley from Derwentwater, and the higher hills of Robinson, Hindscarth and Dale Head, which frame the southern end of the valley. The valley itself has three branches, containing the Newlands, Keskadale and Scope becks, each with a unique character. The becks converge at Little Town to flow north into Bassenthwaite.

The scales, textures, colours and patterns of the valley vary between the higher and lower ground, and even between the three branches of the valley. Keskadale beck valley contains the Newlands Pass, and is the most developed, whilst the Newlands beck valley feels very wild, surrounded by the high, steep scree slopes and crags of Dale Head, High Spy and Hindscarth.

Much of Newlands valley is surprisingly lush and verdant, and provides a sense of shelter and relief from the higher fells, particularly when the weather is poor. There are several scattered farms, and the hamlets of Little Town (with its distinctive whitewashed church) and Stair. The most noticeable human influence in the valley is the almost constant procession of cars over the Newlands Pass to and from Buttermere. Their movement, colours, and the light catching their windows are a distinctive feature of the valley.

The Newlands valley was settled in the 14th century, following the draining of Uzzicar tarn. There has been mineral extraction here since Elizabethan times until the beginning of the 19th century. Minerals mined here included lead, gold and silver, and were processed at Keswick. Given the peaceful, lush nature of the valley today, it is difficult to imagine it as a busy industrial landscape.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 16: KESWICK AND DERWENT WATER

Location and Boundaries

Keswick and Derwent Water Area of Distinctive Character is situated to the southeast of Bassenthwaite Lake, south of Skiddaw and Blencathra and at the northern end of Borrowdale. The town of Keswick nestles at the northern end of Derwent Water. The area is situated entirely within the Broad Upland Dale (H) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

• Dynamic, wide and vast expanse of Derwent Water, with its small islands and strongly wooded western shores;
• The nucleated town of Keswick, nestling at the northern end of Derwent Water, of medieval origin, with burgage plots and Victorian and later expansions;
• Strong and imposing sense of enclosure provided by surrounding craggy High Fells (including Castlerigg, Catbells and Skelgill Bank);
• Castlerigg Stone Circle (to the east of the lake), a strong and powerful landscape feature, set within a dramatic and evocative setting;
• Easily accessible and popular landscape destination for visitors and tourists since the Victorian period;
• Strong cultural and literary associations with Coleridge, Southey, Wordsworth and Ruskin – who were all influential in attracting the first visitors to the area.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The expanse of Derwent Water with its four small islands, in a dramatic setting of High Fells to the west, south and east, forms the heart of this Area of Distinctive Character. The highly accessible soft lakeshore, with distinctive wooded jetties protruding into the lake, often tethered with wooded rowing boats, contributes to a sense of arrival at the northern end of the lake (closest to Keswick).

Keswick, set comfortably within the surrounding soft and generally treed landscape, has its origin as a medieval planned town, which was granted a market charter in 1276. Several of the original burgage plots laid out on either side of the main street and market place can still be seen within the town today. In 1866, the railway reached Keswick, which led to Victorian expansion of the town, as it became one of the first tourist destinations of the Lake District. Grand Victorian terraced villa houses, with their intricate detailing and uniform architectural style, form a key component of the current urban fabric of the town. At the centre of the town, a bustling pedestrianised High Street, overlooked by a range of shops and hotels, contributes to recognisable identity and further south, Derwent Water, provides a spectacular setting to the town.

The High Fell setting that surrounds Derwent Water and Keswick, provides a dramatic sense of enclosure to the lake and settlement. Adjacent to the northern end of the lake, patches of woodland climb up the steep, craggy lower fell sides. Further south, the looming and well-known mass of Catbells (which features in Beatrix Potter’s paintings) and Friar’s Crag provide dramatic viewpoints across the landscape. Whilst to the east, the muted mass of Castlerigg (containing the stone circle providing an intangible link with the past use of this landscape), looms above, with the dramatic outline of the Skiddaw massif providing yet further enclosure to the north. Overall, there is a sense of balance in the composition and form of water, fells and sky throughout this landscape.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 17: ST. JOHN’S IN THE VALE

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the north of the Lake District National Park, to the south of the Skiddaw massif and north of Thirlmere. The area falls within Broad Upland Dale (H) and Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A landscape which slowly unfolds as you move through the valley;
- Stark contrast between the lush green grazed pasture fields, which are punctuated with single trees and soft clumps of woodland and line the meandering course of St. John’s Beck; and the adjacent, rugged-craggy texture and muted colours of the adjacent High Fells.
- Approaching from the south the vast bulk of Blencathra (forming part of the Skiddaw massif) is a prominent landmark and somewhat foreboding landmark;
- Old mills and abandoned quarries scattered within the valley and on the fell sides hint at strong cultural associations;
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by towering adjacent High Fells.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The experience of this Area of Distinctive Character unfolds, moving through the valley landscape. The small-scale and intricate nature of lush green pasture fields and mature deciduous trees within the valley bottom, contrasts with the large-scale, rough texture and muted colours of adjacent High Fells (with jagged Borrowdale Volcanic geology).

Approaching from the south, the mighty bulk of the Skiddaw range, and Blencathra in particular, comes into view, framed by the valley. This striking view conveys a strong feeling of enclosure and dominates the horizontal and vertical composition of elements within the valley.

The rugged nature of rocks flanking the valley sides contributes to a sense of wildness above the valley floor. Throughout the area, a powerful sense of tranquillity is apparent throughout the area, augmented by the general absence main roads and large settlements.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 18: THRELKELD & MATTERDALE COMMONS

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the northeast of the Lake District National Park, to the southeast of the Skiddaw Range, flanked by Helvellyn in the south and overlooking Thirlmere Reservoir to the west. The area encompasses a combination of Rugged, Craggy High Fell and High Fell Edge (J) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A relatively simple, fell landscape, which is draped by large expanses of heather moorland;
- A strong sense of isolation, remoteness and exposure to the elements is apparent throughout this, large-scale landscape;
- Far reaching views from higher points, to the Skiddaw massif to the north and Helvellyn in the south;
- Though craggy in places, the texture of the landscape is generally smooth, aided by the uniformity of the moorland vegetation;
- A predominant sense of tranquillity throughout the area, due to the absence of main roads and almost complete lack of settlement.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character is characterised by uniformity in colour and texture offered by the heather moorland, which is draped over the fells. The landscape is almost completely devoid of settlement and man-made elements, including roads, giving a sense of isolation. This is augmented by the nature of the surrounding topography and vegetation, the monochrome colour of the latter broken in places by the vibrant yellows of occasional patches of gorse. The only vertical elements, bringing some variety of colour and form to the landscape, are the young coniferous plantations, predominantly in the east of the area.

Throughout the area, fell-walkers and soaring birds of prey are often the only sources of movement. The nature of the topography of the area facilitates far-reaching views towards the Skiddaw Massif, and Blencathra, in the north and Helvellyn in the south. Towards the west the landscape slopes down towards the wooded slopes of Thirlmere.

Footpaths are the only way to access the area, strongly contributing to the sense of tranquillity that is present throughout the area.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 19: GREAT MELL & LITTLE MELL VALLEYS

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated at the northern edge of the Lake District National Park, to the north of Ullswater. The area encompasses a combination of Rugged, Craggy High Fell and High Fell Edge (J) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A gentle rolling landscape, with the bulging domes of Great Mell Fell (with its distinctive wooded eastern side) & Little Mell Fell as distinct landmarks;
- These two landforms form the focus of many views throughout the area and contribute to strong recognisable sense of place and orientation;
- The rolling hills predominantly covered by pastoral farmland, interspersed with many clumps of coniferous and deciduous woodland, which often frame views.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The prominent, isolated rounded hills of Great Mell Fell and Little Mell Fell, towering over the surrounding lower farmland, are distinctive landscape features within this area. The landmark hills, together with the lower surrounding hills, create a landscape consisting of several small valleys, with many narrow becks cutting through the landscape.

The vast round shapes of Great Mell Fell, with its large expanse of pine trees covering the eastern side, and Little Mell Fell, are visible throughout the area, giving a sense of security and contributing strongly to the sense of place. The Mell Fells themselves facilitate extensive views across the character area in all directions, including, from Little Mell Fell, views to the lower reaches of Ullswater. Views, in most directions throughout the area, are framed by clumps of pine trees.

Pastoral fields, the main land use within the area, are predominantly lined by mature hedgerows, with dry stone walls almost absent. Disused quarries and a vast array of historic features littered across the rolling hills landscape highlight the long history of settlement within the area.

The Great Mell & Little Mell Fell Valleys are served by a network of secondary roads, which generally do not detract from the sense of tranquillity apparent throughout the area, away from the A66 main road corridor.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 20: EAMONT VALLEY

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated within the northeast of the National Park, north of Ullswater, and encompasses a combination of Broad Upland Dale (H), Rolling Upland Limestone Farmland (I) and High Fell Edge (J) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A very shallow and broad valley, with the underlying topography of carboniferous limestone giving rise to a gently rolling landscape exhibiting a mixture of lowland farmland and estate land;
- Large pastoral fields (generally demarcated by hedgerows), grazed by sheep and set back from the River Eamont, dominate this character area;
- In places, the specific topography allows far reaching views across the surrounding landscape to the craggy Borrowdale Fells in the south, whilst in others the rolling hills block long distance views;
- Despite the presence of the A592, running parallel to the River Eamont (which meanders lazily from Ullswater to Penrith), a strong sense of tranquillity is present throughout the area.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The gentle rolling hills within this Area of Distinctive Character are underlain by carboniferous limestone, which is evident as building materials within farmsteads and settlements. Apart from the mass of the Borrowdale Fell to the south, which can be seen from higher points within the area, no obvious landmarks serve as focus points. This results in a mysterious landscape, a sensation that is heightened when there is heavy cloud cover, giving the green hills an eerie and timeless appearance. Estate land, which is punctuated with mature trees, surrounds Dacre Castle and some of the other Halls dotted among the landscape.

The River Eamont, which starts at Pooley Bridge and flows its way towards Penrith and the Dacre Beck, which joins the Eamont from the west, fit comfortably within the landscape, contributing to recognisable sense of place.

The relatively intricate patchwork of different habitats, including pastoral farmland (the mainly regular fields of which are generally lined by hedgerows), clumps of deciduous and coniferous woodland, riverside vegetation and traditional buildings draped over the rolling topography of the area contributes to a recognisable landscape pattern. In close proximity to the A592 and the B5320, sense of tranquillity is disturbed by sound and movement associated with these main roads.

Settlement is sparse and concentrated in the village of Pooley Bridge, and the hamlets of Dacre and Barton; all of which, with their vernacular stone character, fit comfortably within the rolling hills. Dacre Castle and Church, and Barton Church also provide focal points within the landscape.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 21: ENNERDALE

Location and Boundaries

Ennerdale is the most westerly of the Broad Upland Dales (Landscape Character Type H) within the Lake District National Park. The Dale Sides encompass areas of Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) and Rounded, Angular High Fell (G) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Craggy ridges of Borrowdale Rock form a dramatic backdrop and evoke a sense of enclosure;
- Traditional village of Ennerdale Bridge the only settlement, to the northwest of the lake;
- Incredibly strong sense of isolation from surrounding settlements, roads and the general hustle and bustle of everyday life;
- The hidden eastern half of the lake, which only appears as you travel through the Dale, from west to east;
- Interface between the strong, rugged natural profile of the High Fells which stroke the lake sides and the rigid and structured layout and form of coniferous plantations that cloak the valley sides;
- Strong sense of arrival at the western end of the lakeshore, once visitors have navigated the winding network of quiet rural roads, when approaching from the west;
- Strong sense of mystery associated with not knowing what lies at the eastern end of the valley;
- Almost uninterrupted sense of tranquillity at the lakeshore, allowing moments for contemplation and imagination;
- Changing state of the nature of Commercial Forestry Plantations within the area;
- A landscape of stark contrasts, between ordered nature of commercial forestry plantations and the soft nature of the lakeshore;
- Surrounded by the peaks of Great Gable, Steeple and Pillar;
- Gushing and tumbling water within the snaking corridor of the River Liza, with its smooth gravel beds, at the heart of the valley.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

With Ennerdale Youth Hostel, on the northern shore of the lake and the small village of Ennerdale Bridge, to the north, providing some of the only built elements within this area, there is a very strong sense of tranquillity within this area. Coupled with very few roads and a strong sense of enclosure provided by the dramatic backdrop of surrounding High Fells, this landscape has a sense of isolation and wildness, particularly towards the eastern end of the valley, where the eye is drawn towards the juncture of High Fells.

This is a landscape of stark contrasts between vast expanses of pine plantations on the valley sides, rising up from the lake, wet heath; and montaine heath (on the higher open fells), semi-natural deciduous woodlands and the pastoral farmland in the valley bottom. These contrasts are framed by some of the Lake District’s highest summits, including Green Gable, Great Gable, Pillar, Kirk Fell and Steeple, all of which contribute to a very strong recognisable sense of place within the dale and also provide orientation.

Contrasts in terms of scale are also evident, with a sense of intimacy and enclosure within, the forests and a strong sense of openness within the immediate environs of the lake. From the higher land of Bowness Knott, to the north and the surrounding High Fells, dramatic long distance views across the dale and adjacent landscapes can be gained.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 22: BUTTERMERE

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is located in the north west of the Lake District National park and includes the village of Buttermere. The area encompasses and cuts through the Rounded, Angular High Fell (G) and the Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Valley enclosed by a unique range (amphitheatre) of stiles and pikes;
- Buttermere forms part of a twin lake system with Crummock to the north, however views of Buttermere from Crummock Water are restricted by the enclosing High Fell topography;
- Valley sides support large expanses of coniferous pine plantations, with heathland habitats on higher land;
- Intricate patchwork of dairy fields at the southern end of the lake, delineated by hedgerows, stone walls and single mature trees;
- Strong sense of tranquillity within the valley due to the absence of main roads and built elements (other than the traditional village of Buttermere, which nestles on the valley floor);
- Strong contrast between an intimate and enclosed feel on the valley bottom and the strong sense of remoteness and exposure on top of the surrounding High Fell;
- Recognisable sense of place provided by the dominant rising forms of Fleetwith Pike and Haystacks at the northern end of the lake.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Buttermere Lake has a strong sense of enclosure as a result of the surrounding High Fells, and steep valley sides, with Fleetwith Pike and Haystacks providing instantly recognisable landscape features at the northern end. This contributes to a sense of inaccessibility (with access via the steep, snaking pass at the northern end of the lake) and tranquillity (particularly in locations at distance from Buttermere village and the southern lakeshore).

Large expanses of natural ancient oak woodland with very little understorey, cover the lower western valley sides, whilst large coniferous plantations dominate the eastern lower slopes. At higher levels on the valley sides and fells, a patchwork of more open heathland habitat is apparent.

The traditional, historic village of Buttermere, nestled to the northwest of Buttermere Lake and adjacent to Mill Beck, has an unusual number of working farms within its immediate setting. Built up around the church, this popular tourist village comprises a few hotels, shops and a youth hostel and associated car parks. The village has strong vernacular character, with building materials exhibiting the underlying geology of the surrounding area.

Dairy, and sheep (predominantly herdwicks) farming is the main land use on the valley bottom, with the long and thin pastoral fields – which gave Buttermere its name – generally demarcated by a combination of high, intact (mainly hawthorn) hedges, and dry stone walls.

Despite the popularity with tourists, the valley remains tranquil, largely due to the absence of main roads on the unforgiving surrounding High Fell. The village can be accessed via the B5289 from Cockermouth, Newlands Pass and Honister pass from Borrowdale.

The towering smooth shapes of the Skiddaw Group and the more craggy, rugged Borrowdale rocks enclosing the valley, reflect in the lake; which, together with Buttermere’s hanging woods and famous fringe of pine trees, has inspired many artists throughout the years. A path that runs around the lake offers clear views on the dramatic pikes of the High Stile range to the southwest, Robinson to the
northeast, Fleetwith Pike and Haystacks (which has a strong association with Wainwright) to the southeast and Grasmoor to the northwest.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 23: BORROWDALE

Location and Boundaries

Borrowdale is situated to the south of Keswick and Derwent Water in the northeastern part of the Lake District National Park. The Valley or Dale is contained to the west, south and east by large expanses of surrounding High Fells (Landscape Character Types F and G). At the southwestern corner of Borrowdale, the steep and winding Honister Pass provides access to Buttermere to the west.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Extremely diverse and intricate patchwork of fell, farmland, rivers, woodland and settlements, contained within the dramatic valley, which sits between the smooth Skiddaw Slates and Rugged, Craggy Borrowdale Volcanic underlying geology;
- Overlooked by a series of imposing, large-scale High Fells (including the northern end of Scafell, the western part of the Central Fells and Glaramara Ridge), which provide a strong sense of dramatic enclosure;
- Valley narrows moving southwards from Derwent Water at the confluence of the narrow, imposing, wooded ‘Jaws of Borrowdale’, before unexpectedly opening up again further to the south to show an instantly recognisable pattern of farmsteads and pastures within the valley bottom;
- Series of U-shaped valleys (including Seathwaite, Stonethwaite and the timeless hanging valley of Watendlath) feed Borrowdale;
- A number of traditional, small-scale farmsteads hamlets are nestled within the valley bottoms, where pasture and occasional arable fields are divided by a network of stone walls which rise onto the lower sides of the surrounding fells;
- Water has a huge influence on the character of this landscape, in terms of the seasonally changing amounts of rainfall, which at times can lead to immense cascading discharges of water down waterfalls, along the valleys, and into the gushing main river Derwent;
- The valley has a strong historic and perpetual nature, with strong cultural associations with mountaineering and mining and has inspired writers such as Wordsworth, Beatrix Potter, Ruskin and Wainwright;
- The ancient nature of the sinuous woodland that clothes the valley sides, is another key landscape feature of this extremely popular landscape.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This relatively narrow and contained valley encompasses an incredibly diverse patchwork of different elements, including dramatic, smooth and craggy Fells, pastoral farmland, which is divided by an interlocking network of traditional stone walls with occasional hedgerows and, mature woodland.

The strong sense of containment, which contributes to the intimate scale of the valley-bottom landscape, is a result of the imposing, rugged and smooth High Fells, which form the backdrop to the valley. The instantly recognisable, convergence of Grange Fell and Castle Crag clothed in woodland, (known as the ‘Jaws of Borrowdale’) creates a narrow access route, following the River Derwent through the valley and giving visitors little clue to what lies beyond to the south.

Once through the narrow gap, the valley opens up again to reveal a patchwork of pastoral fields, scattered farmsteads and houses. The overriding green colour of the valley as a result of the almost continuous swathe of soft mature woodland, set against the muted greys and browns of the surrounding High Fells, exhibits strong contrast.

A series of narrow U-shaped valleys feed the main dale, each with their intricate pattern of stone-bridge crossed streams on the valley floor, small hamlets and pasture fields, overlooked by imposing
craggs and peaks of the High Fells. There is a strong sense of intimacy and tranquillity within both Stonethwaite and Seathwaite Valleys, especially within the small-scale vernacular stone hamlets. To the northeast of the Jaws of Borrowdale, the spectacular hanging valley of Watendlath, with its timeless and remote combination of Tarn, farmhouse and stone bridge at the valley head, creates an intimate and almost hidden landscape. This valley is accessed by a winding narrow road (often covered by tree canopies), which provides spectacular viewpoints down into Borrowdale and further north across Derwent Water, towards Bassenthwaite Lake.

When it rains in Borrowdale, the landscape comes alive both visually and sensually as water gushes down waterfalls (such as Sour Milk Ghyll), cascading over boulders along the narrow stream corridors towards the River Derwent and Derwent Water to the north. At all times of the year however, regardless of rain, water has a presence within the landscape, as it trickles along the boulder and pebble strewn Derwent River corridor.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 24: THIRLMERE

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated to the north of the centre of the Lake District National Park and to the west of Helvellyn Range, providing a connecting feature between the valleys of St. John’s and Grasmere. The area encompasses Broad Upland Dale (H) and Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A large-scale valley, predominantly occupied by a large lake, framed by craggy Borrowdale fells, which are lent a certain softness by the thick coat of coniferous woodland draped over their surface;
- Dramatic views over the lake from Armboth Fell and Raven Crag in the west, and the Helvellyn Ridge in the east;
- The presence of the main road corridor of the A591 bordering the eastern shore of the reservoir provides a constant source of movement and noise, whilst the western valley side with its minor and less busy road, exhibits a more tranquil character;
- Strong contrast between the open, craggy character of the High Fells and the vast expanses of woodland (mainly coniferous which is being converted to deciduous) habitat covering the lower slopes.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The vast expanse of water, framed by the predominantly wooded valley slopes, combined with the less dramatic topography of the western slopes, form a large-scale landscape that is much more gentle – but no less imposing – than many of the other Broad Upland Dales, evoking a sense of calm.

Within the coniferous woodland (which houses red deer) on the fell sides framing the lake, a strong feeling of enclosure is apparent; providing a strong contrast with adjacent exposed open fell which facilitates wide views over the valley and the fell beyond.

Thirlmere Reservoir, like Haweswater, was artificially created (the dam to the northern end of the Reservoir was built in 1893), and has a flooded hamlet, Wythburn, on the bottom of the lake (which was once, before the human interaction, two lakes), at the southern end. Wythburn church is all that remains of the hamlet and is occasionally visible at times of extremely low water level.

The slightly curved shape of the lake means that it cannot be seen when standing at either end, adding an element of surprise when travelling through the landscape. From the quieter western lakeshore, spectacular vies of the Helvellyn Range to the east can be gained.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 25: HELVELLYN RANGE

Location and Boundaries

The Helvellyn Range forms a ridge running north-south between Thirlmere and Ullswater, to the east of the Central Lake District. It is entirely contained within Landscape Character Types F: (Rugged, Craggy High Fells).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Dramatic, distinctive glaciated scenery, including Striding Edge, Swirral Edge and Red Tarn. Walking Striding Edge creates a considerable adrenaline rush;
- A forbidding atmosphere, particularly when the sun is not shining;
- Contrast between the irregular and jagged eastern side of the ridge, with its valleys and crags, and the relatively smooth, sheer western side. The profile of the landform also becomes smoother towards the northern end of the LCA;
- Helvellyn visually dominates the Thirlmere valley and St Johns in the Vale to the west, as well as Glenridding to the east;
- Many walkers on the summit and paths, attracted by the challenge of the ascent and the magnificent views;
- Former mine workings in Glenridding, including huge spoil tips of Greenside mine.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The Helvellyn range contains some of the most distinctive and dramatic landforms in the Lake District. The deep dark waters of Red Tarn, with Striding Edge and Swirral Edge high above are classic examples of glaciated scenery. However, the distinctive qualities of Helvellyn do not relate only to its impressive topography. They also relate to something more ephemeral, a sense of the forbidding dominance of the mountain, and a feeling of edginess and discomfort in its presence, particularly on overcast or misty days.

The eastern side of the Helvellyn ridge is very dramatic in its appearance, and in the roughness of its texture. A series of valleys run eastwards towards Ullswater, and above them are jagged rocks including St Sunday Crag, Nethermost Pike and Catstye Cam. Striding Edge and Swirral Edge arc around above Red Tarn, with sheer drops into the dark water below.

The western side of the Helvellyn ridge is extremely steep, but is sheer and relatively smooth. This side of Helvellyn dominates views from Thirlmere valley and St John’s in the Vale. The eastern side of the mountain dominates Glenridding, and the valleys towards Ullswater.

Helvellyn is a popular walking route, and there are usually many people on the paths and summit. The most popular routes are the relatively easy path from Thirlmere, and the considerably more challenging (but also hugely satisfying and adrenaline-inducing) approach along Striding or Swirral edge from the east. From the top of the ridge - including the summits of Stybarrow Dodd, Raise, Helvellyn, Nethermost Pike and Dollywagon Pike - there are panoramic views in all directions, and much of the Lake District can be seen from here. To the west are the Central Fells, to the north Skiddaw and Blencathra and to the east the ridges of fells leading up to High Street on the horizon. To the south are Fairfield and Seat Sandal, with the lakes of Windermere and Coniston visible in the distance.

The Glenridding valley to the east is dominated by the presence of Helvellyn, and also by the workings of the Greenside Mine. Some of the buildings are still in use, as a Youth Hostel, climbing hut, etc, but the most impressive feature of the mine is the scale of its old tips.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 26: ULLSWATER

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the northeast of the Lake District National Park. The area encompasses High Fell Edge (J), Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) and Broad Upland Dale (H) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Unique ribbon shape of Ullswater evokes stimulating views and an element of surprise throughout the area;
- Intricate patchwork of different habitats gives a strong sense of place;
- The lake surface, the valley sides, the lakeshore and the more open fell higher up, all provide very different experiences when exploring the area;
- Great Mell Fell and Little Mell Fell are prominent landmarks to the south whereas the saddleback shape of Blencathra focuses views from the lake and the eastern fell sides;
- Aira Force is an important tourist hotspot and a very popular base to explore the neighbouring low fells and Gowbarrow Deer Park;
- Strong sense of tranquillity away from the A592.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The unique ribbon shape of Ullswater contributes heavily to the distinctive character of this area, facilitating a range of different, stimulating views (dependent on location) and adding to the element of surprise as the landscape unfolds, when moving through it. The area has strong associations with Wordsworth and has inspired many artists throughout the years.

Striking, far reaching views on the craggy valley sides at the southern half of the lake, give the area a rugged feel and provide a strong contrast to the open but less dramatic views on more gentle rolling farmland to the north (where the summits of Great Mell Fell and Little Mell Fell form prominent landmarks).

Ullswater Valley is a rich and diverse landscape. A colourful mosaic of different habitats, including the vast expanses of coniferous plantations and deciduous ancient woodland, interspersed with clumps of Victorian exotic imports on the fell side and the smooth, reflective surface of the lake, with its pebbly lakeshore, all contribute to a strong landscape pattern. In addition to this, small patches of wildflower pasture on the valley floor, heathland, bracken and native juniper high up the open fell to the south and the large green pastoral fields – lined by a network of hawthorn hedgerows and dry stone walls and set back from the lake, add further diversity. The several small settlements (including Pooley Bridge, Glenridding, Eusemere and Patterdale) with their vernacular stone buildings, further contribute to strongly recognisable sense of place within the area.

Due to this mosaic of habitats, this area – of which the perceived scale largely depends on location and views – has a great deal to offer in terms of different experiences. Aira Force in the northwest is a popular tourist attraction and is often used as a base from which to explore the surrounding fells, attractions of which include Gowbarrow Deer Park and High Force. The steamers on the lake, which contribute to a sense of timelessness) take passengers from Glenridding to How Town and from there to Pooley Bridge.

The vast expanse of water, the continuity of which is occasionally broken by yachts or steamers, and is framed by the rugged craggy fells of the surrounding Borrowdale Rocks on either side, gives the area a sense of enclosure and wildness. On top of the fells, the experience is different yet again. The whole
of Ullswater can be seen from the higher points, which, combined with the general openness and sparse vegetation of the open fells, gives a very exposed and humbling feel.

The slow-moving yachts and steamers, and soaring birds of prey are often the only signs of movement, contributing to the strong sense of tranquillity, which is generally apparent throughout the area (at distance from the A592).
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 27: BAMPTON COMMON

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is located at the eastern side of the Lake District National Park, between Ullswater and the Lowther valley. It forms the eastern slope of the northern part of the High Street ridge. The higher, western part is within Landscape Character Type F: (Rugged, Craggy High Fells) and the lower, eastern part is within LCT J: High Fell Edge.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Open expanses of rough heather moorland form a plateau with a feeling of emptiness and isolation;
- The smooth ridge of High Street on the western horizon sets the mood of the landscape, depending on weather and qualities of light;
- Views east across the settled and lush Lowther Valley give a strong contrast to the desolate moorland;
- Upland farms, surrounded by improved pasture, appear as pockets of bright green in the moorland landscape;
- On lower ground, a patchwork of walled fields containing moorland, marshy ground, grazed fields and gorse give a mosaic of colours and textures in the landscape;
- Villages (such as Helton) and occasional farms exhibit cheerful vernacular architecture, with houses rendered in different colours, with contrasting window surrounds;
- The presence of farms, combined with the lack of visitors or tourist facilities gives this area a sense of a working landscape rather than a recreational one.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

There are two main parts to this Area of Distinctive Character. The western part comprises a heather moorland plateau, which slopes gradually up towards High Street on the western edge of the area. This moorland can feel quite desolate and exposed, particularly in poor visibility. It is visually dominated by the northern end of the High Street ridge, which has a strong influence on the feel of the landscape. On cloudy days, High Street appears to brood as a dark mass on the horizon, but on clearer days it forms a gentle backdrop.

The empty feel of the moorland is enhanced by the contrast with the settled areas viewed from within it. To the east there are long views across the villages, woodlands and fields of the Lowther valley. Within the moorland area, the improved fields around the upland farms stand out as bright green pockets of land.

On lower ground, towards the east of the area, the landscape appears as a patchwork of colours and textures, depending on the land cover and whether or not the land has been improved. In this area, there are small walled fields of grass, marsh, heather moorland and gorse, giving a mosaic of greens, browns, purples and yellow.

The relative sense of wildness of this landscape contrasts with the colourful vernacular architecture. Houses are rendered in a variety of colours, with their contrasting window surrounds.

There are very few (if any) tourist facilities in this Area of Distinctive Character and the area is not frequently visited. It has the feel of a working landscape, not a recreational one. In some parts of the area, active management of land and the repair of buildings, walls and gates appear to have reduced in recent years, suggesting that farming is marginal within some parts of the area.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 28: LOWTHER VALLEY

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character encompasses a distinctive limestone valley situated within the east of the Lake District National Park. The area falls predominantly within the Rolling Upland Limestone Farmland (I) Landscape Character Type, with its western edges falling within the High Fell Edge (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Broad gentle valley with the River Lowther meandering through the landscape;
- Variety of habitats, including parkland (associated with Lowther Estate and the ruins of Lowther Castle), pastoral farmland, moorland and meadows;
- Strong pattern of sinuous mixed woodlands following the River Lowther and in contrast, regular, geometric coniferous woodlands to the southeast of Whale;
- The historic linear village of Askham, with its patchwork of whitewashed cottages and mature trees;
- Intricate pattern of ancient strip fields surrounding the linear village of Helton, containing whitewashed buildings, with colourful window frames;
- Rugged and rough limestone outcrops of Knipe Scar and Burtree Scar, which contrast with adjacent green grassland;
- Strong sense of distant enclosure provided by High Fells to the west;
- Strongly rural and somewhat isolated character, despite proximity to M6 corridor to the east.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Lowther Valley is a broad, gentle, upland limestone valley characterised by the course of the River Lowther, which runs through extensive areas of parkland and pastoral farmland, interspersed with moorland and large patches of woodland. More gentle than dramatic, this area has a strongly rural and somewhat isolate character. Large coniferous and deciduous plantations punctuate the mature parkland landscape, which is associated with the Lowther Estate, and the ruins of Lowther Castle (which is a striking landscape feature). Gently rolling pastoral farmland dominates this landscape, consisting of a patchwork of generally geometric fields (predominantly delineated by hedgerows).

There is a sense of timelessness within this landscape, as a result of the traditional historic character of the villages of Askham and Helton (with their distinctive linear arrangements of rustic white cottages, with colourful window frames). The remains of Lowther Castle, the mature landscapes associated with the Lowther Estate and an array of archaeological features, also hint at the historic significance of this landscape. Woodland plantations frame views throughout the rolling landscape. Pastoral fields become smaller in the south, and moorland plays a more dominant role, facilitating more open views of the surrounding landscape.

A strong sense of tranquillity is apparent throughout the area, aided by the general absence of main roads and sparse settlement pattern (which includes the villages of Askham, Helton and Bampton Bridge, and several farms scattered across the area).
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 29: KINNISIDE COMMON

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is located in the west of the Lake District National Park, and extends across the National Park boundary. It covers a large upland area between Ennerdale and Wasdale. The area encompasses three Landscape Character Types. The eastern section is within the Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) Landscape Character Type. The central section is within the Rounded, Angular High Fell (G) Landscape Character Type, whilst the far western end is within the High Fells Edge (J) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A gradual transition in the form of the landscape from high crags in the east to a smoother profile in the west.
- An expansive, wild landscape with few rights of way, but with straight lines of walls and fences, even on the highest ground.
- Strong visual and management connections with the surrounding valleys.
- Archaeological evidence of previous settlement contrasts with the lack of development in the area today.
- Blocks of forestry in the western part of the area fit awkwardly with the surrounding landscape.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The gradual transition in the form of this landscape is important to its character and to the responses it evokes. The eastern end is high and rocky, containing the cliffs and crags of Red Pike, Haycock and Steeple. These are exhilarating mountaineering climbs. Further west, the changing geology creates a “big and broad” landscape, with fewer crags and a more rounded form to the hills.

There are relatively few rights of way, particularly in the western part of the area, and there is a strong sense of wildness. Yet even on the highest ground there are stone walls, and the line of posts marking the County boundary is both a useful landmark and a slightly incongruous feature in the wild landscape.

The upland areas have visual connections with the surrounding valleys, and are also connected with them through issues of management. The Kinnisdale and Wasdale Commoners are based in lowland farms, but use these uplands for grazing their sheep. There are views towards Ennerdale to the north and Wasdale to the southeast, but most views are dominated by the coastal plain and the sea to the west.

Today the landscape is open, expansive and has a sense of emptiness. Settlement is restricted to farms at its far western end. However, there is archaeological evidence of a long history of settlement in the area, including field systems, abandoned settlements and a small stone circle, which are still visible in the landscape.

In the west of the area, beyond the National Park boundary, coniferous plantations dominate the landscape. Their dark colour is particularly striking against the light greens and browns of the grassy hillsides, and their straight edges fit awkwardly with the gently curving forms of the hills.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 30: WASTWATER & WASDALE

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the west of the Lake District National Park. The area encompasses Broad Upland Dale (H) and Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A landscape of extreme contrasts, where England’s deepest lake is surrounded by some of the highest summits;
- Unusual and complex thick ring garth, stone wall system near Wasdale Head is one of the most important and distinctive in Europe;
- Sheer grey, weathered scree slopes which dominate the southern shores of the lake and hint at the very steep v-shaped profile of this Dale; (it is easy to imagine that they might almost continue under the water, to the deepest depths of the Lake);
- An over-whelming sense of drama and foreboding enclosure that these steep slopes provide;
- The unique and visually stimulating pattern of stone walls which divide fields at Wasdale Head and flow relatively highly up onto the Fell sides;
- Strong sense of isolation at the western head of the Lake and strong sense of tranquillity;
- Strong links with mountaineering and the sense that many visitor journeys begin here;
- Dramatic backdrop and shadow of Scafell Pike, which is often shrouded in mysterious mists and throws dramatic shadows on the buildings and landscape at its foot;
- Unique pockets of parkland and grassy knolls within the Netherwasdale Estate;
- Contrast between the striking grey colour of the scree slopes and fell sides and lush green and brown vegetation cover at lower altitudes, often reflecting in the grey, blue lake.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character, containing the deepest lake in England, which is flanked by Red Pike, Kirk Fell, Great Gable and Scafell Pike (the highest mountain of England) and steep, ever-moving scree, which reflect in the clear surface of the lake, encompasses a unique landscape of extreme contrasts which over the years has attracted many poets and artists.

The combination of the absence of built features (other than the Wasdale Head Inn, farmstead and church, clustered at Wasdale Head) and other isolated farmsteads along the valley floor, with the surrounding topography, which creates a strong sense of enclosure, culminates in a sense of tranquillity and isolation, which is almost unrivalled. In addition to this, the steep, smooth, grey and black scree often invoke a sense of foreboding. Occasional red bands within the rocky surfaces of the surrounding High Fells hint at the presence of iron and interrupt the continuity of the vast muted, grey-blackness of the valley sides.

Located at the head of Wastwater, the historic, remote and isolated hamlet of Wasdale Head (of which St. Olaf’s church is the smallest in England with beams said to have had a former use as part of a Viking ship) is set amidst a unique historic patchwork of dry stone walls and pastoral fields, contributing strongly to the sense of place, and the distinctive character of the area. The valley is popular with climbers and fell walkers, keen to challenge the dramatic surrounding Scafell, Scafell Pile and Great Gable.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 31: HIGH CENTRAL FELLS

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is large and irregularly shaped, and occupies the plateau of high ground in the central part of the Lake District. It is entirely within the Rugged, Craggy High Fells (F) Landscape Character Type, and also includes Sub-types F2: Upland tarns and F4: Industrial landscape.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Views from this area are not dominated by a single lake. Its sense of place is defined by both constant and changing factors.
- Landmarks within the area include peaks, tarns and passes.
- Rocks contribute a craggy, jagged texture to the landscape. The colours, sounds and experiences of the landscape are constantly changing, affected by variation in light, weather and season.
- The landscape is experienced by all senses, and works at a variety of scales.
- The remoteness of the area makes it very popular with walkers, and for much of the time, people are a feature of the landscape. Around the passes and the quarry at Honister there are also vehicles present.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Views from within this Area of Distinctive Character are not dominated by a single lake, nor is its character unified by a geological or topographical form. Rather, its sense of place is dependent on both constant and changing factors, which combine to give the area a unique character of its own. Constant factors aid orientation, but are not visible from the entire area. They include landmarks such as the profile of a landform (Crinkle Crags or Bow Fell, for example), distinctive tarns such as Easedale tarn or Styhead tarn, and, very occasionally the presence of a pass between the hills. The rocks themselves, with their jagged texture, are also important to the area’s sense of place.

Constantly-changing factors are also fundamental to the area’s sense of place, and these changes occur over a variety of timescales. The light can change in a split second, suddenly illuminating a patch of hill like a spotlight, or creating dancing, moving patterns on the ground. Becks are also constantly changing in their pattern and sounds. The weather can change many times during the course of a day, and completely alters the atmosphere of the fells. As anyone who has walked these fells knows, the experience of bouncing along on a clear day, with the birds singing and the view below you is a world away from navigating on a compass bearing through low cloud, in total silence, and surrounded by the cold, clammy isolation of the mist. The slowest changes are seasonal ones- the presence of snow in winter, for example, but also the changing colours of the vegetation. The change in the colour of the bracken from green to brown is particularly striking.

This landscape is experienced by all senses, not just sight. There is the feel of springy vegetation or hard rock underfoot, the sensations of warm sunshine or of wet feet in leaky boots, the sound of streams, birds and insects (the tranquillity suddenly shattered by the roar of a low-flying jet), the pungent smell of fresh bracken and the tastes of beck water and Kendal mint cake. There is also a sense of timelessness up here, away from towns and roads and the influences of the modern world.

Visually, the landscape works at a variety of scales. On clear days, there are magnificent views across the surrounding area to distant lakes and valleys. The elevation of the landform means that the horizon is often low in these views, giving a high proportion of sky, and a feeling of being on top of the world. On days of lesser visibility, the eye is drawn towards nearer details, such as patterns in the rocks, or the movement of water in a stream. Cairns become increasingly important as markers of the path.
This area contains some of the most remote country in England, and it can have a very strong sense of remoteness, tranquillity and isolation. It is also one of the most popular walking areas in England, and for much of the time, people are very much part of the landscape. Their bright clothes often contrast with the surrounding colours of the hillsides, and one is aware of their movement and voices, particularly on summits and popular footpaths. The majority of people arrive in cars, parking them in adjacent, lower areas. Around Hardknott, Wrynose and Honister Passes there are also frequent vehicles within the Upland Fells, adding noise and movement, and a sense of the “real world” into the landscape. Honister Pass contains an active slate quarry, with large-scale moving machinery creating an industrial landscape in its immediate vicinity. This is the last working upland quarry, and it provides a connection with what was once an important industry in the area.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 32: GRASMERE AND RYDAL

Location and Boundaries

At the heart of the Lake District National Park, this Area of Distinctive Character is underlain by a combination of Broad Upland Dale (H) and Rugged/Craggy Borrowdale Volcanic High Fell (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Two, relatively small lakes surrounded by patches of soft woodland, nestled within a dramatic Low Fell backdrop;
- Strong contrast between the higher fell tops and a softer, greener patchwork of woodland and grassland pasture fields adjacent to the lakes;
- Distinctive vernacular buildings nestled within Grasmere and Rydal villages, and several stone packhorse bridges;
- Several large villas and halls backing onto the lakes, with associated designed and ornamental planting;
- Celebrated historic and cultural associations with Wordsworth, who came to settle in the valley;
- Rich in small woodlands and mature individual trees, interspersed with exotic Victorian gardens and parkland landscapes (to the north of Ambleside and at the lakeshores);
- Accessible and welcoming landscape for visitors, who can experience an intimate sense of tranquillity and calm.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The relatively small lakes of Grasmere and Rydal Water nestle within a soft and wooded setting. Mature deciduous and coniferous trees surround the lakeshores of both lakes, including coppiced woodland and patches of non-native (Victorian, ornamental) trees. Further woodland and tree cover is present on the surrounding lower fell slopes. Patches of rhodedendrons and azaleas are also dotted within the landscape, adding bursts of colour when in bloom.

Rydal water (which was once known as Rothaymere, due to its proximity to the River Rothay) similarly to Grasmere, has a soft and accessible lakeshore. Small islands on the lake (thought to be formed from glacial drumlins) break up the expanse of water within the lake.

Nestled at the northern end of Grasmere Lake, the distinctive historic village of Grasmere, which overlooks the River Rothay exhibits a range of grey stone and slate buildings, arranged around the central church. The village is overlooked the rocky hill – Helm Crag, which is popular with walkers and known locally as the Lion and the Lamb, due to the shape of rock formations on its summit.

Higher surrounding fells, with their muted grey, brown colours provide a strong sense of enclosure and further highlight the sense of intimacy experienced within this area of landscape. Within this contained landscape, there is also a relatively strong sense of quietness, however tranquillity can be disturbed, particularly during the summer months, by the influx of visitors.

This area has celebrated cultural associations with William Wordsworth, who lived for many years at Dove Cottage in Grasmere. Rydal Water is believed to have been one of Wordsworth’s favourite locations within the Lake District, and the Grasmere-Rydal corridor features within many of his poem’s and writings.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 33: BROTHERS WATER AND HARTSOP

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is located in the central Lake District, between Ambleside and Ullswater. It contains the northern part of Kirkstone Pass. The area is underlain by Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) and Broad Upland Dale (H) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- The most memorable view of the area is looking down towards Brothers Water from the summit of Kirkstone Pass. There is a great contrast between the ruggedness of the foreground and the lushness of the valley below.
- The Side valleys of Dovedale and Hartsop, with very different characters.
- The historic hamlet of Hartsop has a very strong sense of place, and of time-depth in its buildings and surrounding landscape.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The most well-known view of this area is looking north from the summit of Kirkstone Pass. From here, the ruggedness of the foreground contrasts with the lush valley far below, with its mature deciduous woodland, and flat walled fields around the square-shaped lake of Brothers Water. Place Fell closes the view and forms the backdrop.

The side valley of Dovedale is a classic example of a Lake District valley, with a pleasing composition, and all the variety of colour, pattern and texture associated with walled fields, stone buildings, wooded valley sides and craggy fells above.

The hamlet of Hartsop has a strong sense of place, and of time-depth in its architecture and its landscape. Above the village is a series of tiny and ancient walled inbye fields, creating an intricate pattern on the hillside, but with many of the walls now in a very poor state of repair. There are also examples of ash pollards, with their distinctive shape. Once a common feature in the Lake District landscape, the ash poles were used for timber and the brash left on the ground for stock to graze. The pollards at Hartsop are still cut in the traditional manner, giving a sense of continuity with the past. On the opposite hillside are the scars of past lead mining. Hartsop is an old settlement, and spinning galleries are visible on some buildings. Just outside the village is “The Howe”, a traditional Lake District farmhouse that has never been modernised. It has been stabilised by the National Trust, and preserved for its rarity and sense of timelessness.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 34: HIGH STREET AND MARTINDALE

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character takes its name from the Roman road, which ran along the ridge between High Street, High Raise, Loadpot Hill and Barton Fell. The High Street ridge is located towards the eastern side of the Lake District, and is the easternmost (and most prominent) of a series of north-south ridges. The area is entirely within the Rugged, Craggy (F) Landscape Character Type, whilst the valleys fall within Sub-type F5: Upland Valleys.

Distinctive Characteristics

• The airy, elevated ridge of High Street, with its distinctive concave profile, feels like the “top of the world”. It is a landmark from within the character area, and also forms the horizon to many views in the eastern half of the Lake District.
• The series of settled upland valleys, running north-south, to the west of the High Street ridge which have a very different, almost secretive character.
• The strong contrast between the ridges and the valleys in terms of their texture, openness, wildness, pattern and enclosure.
• The variety of wild and semi-wild animal species, including red deer, ponies and eagles.
• The very strong sense of history in the ancient church and hamlet of Martindale, and on High Street itself.
• Two very different waterbodies- the isolated reservoir of Haweswater, and the atmospheric, reed-fringed Angle Tarn.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The distinctive, elevated ridge of High Street, with its series of concave peaks, is a prominent landmark from much of the eastern Lake District, and forms the eastern horizon from much of the Central Fells, the Helvellyn Range, Kirkstone and the high fells behind Ambleside and Troutbeck. It also forms the western horizon from much of the eastern Lake District, including the south end of Haweswater. The views from the High Street ridge are magnificent, giving panoramas across the eastern half of the Lake District. To the west are the Ullswater Fells and Helvellyn range, with the Central Fells in the distance. To the east are Haweswater and the Shap Fells, which extend for miles to merge with the Pennines in the distance. The open, grassy nature of the broad ridge also contributes to the feeling of being “on top of the world”.

In this Area of Distinctive Character, The underlying rocks have been eroded by glacial and fluvial activity into a series of north-south ridges. Between the ridges are the deep sheltered valleys of Boredale, Howe Grain/ Bannerdale and Fusedale, which run roughly parallel, containing streams flowing northwards into Ullswater. The ridges feel so remote and elevated, that it is a surprise to suddenly come upon the settled valleys, with their farms, surfaced lanes and telephone and electricity poles. Boredale and Howe Grain/ Bannerdale contain improved pastureland in the valley bottoms, marked by a network of dry stone walls. Farms are situated on the lower valley sides, and roads follow the course of the valleys. The central valley, the Howe Grain, contains the hamlet of Martindale and the ancient church of St Martin.

There is a great contrast between the physical and experiential characteristics of the settled valleys and the open ridges. Not only are they very different in their sense of wildness and enclosure, they also have great seasonal variation in their vegetation, colour, and texture. The sense of place, and of orientation, within the area is very strongly influenced by whether or not one can see the High Street ridge. Animal life within the area is particularly varied, including herds of red deer and wild ponies. High Street is also a good vantage point for watching the Haweswater eagles.
This Area of Distinctive Character has an extraordinarily strong sense of time-depth. The Roman Road along the High Street ridge is thought to have linked the forts at Brocavum (Brougham) and Galava (Ambleside), but may actually be pre-Roman in date. The modern footpath follows the route of the Roman road, the line of which is still visible, and it is an extra-ordinary thought to imagine oneself as part of a continuous stream of travellers spanning over 2000 years of history. One wonders what the Lake District landscape looked like in Roman times, and contemplates the timelessness of the profiles of the hills. A Roman pillar from High Street is now used as a font in St Martin’s Old Church in Martindale. This church was built in the 17th century to replace an earlier church on the same site. There are many other historic features within the landscape and place-names of this LCA - drystone walls continue onto the highest ground, with a wall running the length of the High Street ridge and marking the County boundary. Until the early 19th century, Racecourse Hill was used as the venue of the annual Mardale Shepherds gathering, a festival including traditional sports and livestock trading.

The two main waterbodies in the area are the isolated reservoir of Hayeswater, which occupies the valley to the north-west of High Street summit, and Angle Tarn, a remote tarn in a shallow upland bowl to the north-east of Hartsop. Angle tarn, with its irregular outline, islands, panoramic views, upland feel and reed-fringed edges has a strong visual identity of its own.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 35: HAWESWATER

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the east of the Lake District National Park. Haweswater Reservoir is the most easterly of the lakes. It encompasses Broad Upland Dale (H) and Rounded, Angular High Fell (G) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A reservoir that holds within its depths the flooded villages of Measand and Mardale Green;
- This artificial lake (one of the largest, which is constant in shape over the entire length) occupies the whole of the valley bottom, with dramatic craggy fells falling down the dale sides towards the water;
- Strong sense of mystery and eeriness apparent throughout the valley, due to the lost villages – some of the buildings of which can sometimes be seen on the bottom of the reservoir at times of very low water;
- Sense of isolation and wildness on account of the general inhospitable nature of the valley, which can only be accessed via the narrow road running along the eastern shore of the reservoir or by walking over the adjacent High Fells to the east;
- Distinct lack of pastoral fields or settlement pattern within the contained vale corridor.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The interaction of the rugged and craggy, angular fells, with small patches of coniferous and deciduous woodland, cloaking the fell side gorse and heather seasonally adding a touch of vibrant colour, combined with the large, blue-grey expanse of water, generally undisturbed by islands (with the exception of Wood Howe at the southern end of the lake), creates a simple, large-scale landscape. The presence of the flooded villages of Measand and Mardale Green (lost when in 1929 the decision was made to turn the valley of Mardale into a reservoir) on the bottom of the lake, adds a distinct sense of mystery and adventure to the valley. Golden Eagles can be seen soaring over the water at times, contributing strongly to the sense of place (with Haweswater Valley providing the only nesting habitat for Golden Eagles in England).

At times, when the water in the reservoir is low, the remains of some of the buildings, and the village bridge, of Mardale Green can be made out through the water surface, when exploring the lake via boat, evoking a sense of eeriness and mystery.

The imposing dam at the northern end of the Reservoir is a striking landscape feature. The lack of dry stone walls and any other obvious human elements and features associated with a valley floor, coupled with the generally low vegetation on the craggy, rugged fell sides, rising up from the surface of the water, gives an almost hostile appearance. These elements combine to create a strong sense of remoteness, tranquillity and isolation.

The Haweswater Hotel, made from slate, in the middle of the eastern shore is one of the few buildings in the area. A small car park at the head of the Reservoir provides a popular starting point for fell walkers wanting to explore the surrounding fells, including the popular High Street, to the west of the Reservoir.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 36: SHAP AND BIRKBECK FELLS

Location and Boundaries

This extensive Area of Distinctive Character is situated on the eastern edge of the Lake District. The majority of the area is within the Rugged, Craggy (F) Landscape Character Type, but parts of the area fall within the Broad Upland Dale (H) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

- An extensive, open and remote moorland area, which feels very isolated.
- The landscape has a relatively rough, craggy texture, with changing colours, patterns and moods.
- Views out of the character area from higher land, with High Street dominating views to the west, and glimpses of movement and development outside the National Park to the east.
- Individual settled valleys in the north, south and east (including Wet Sleddale reservoir) contrast with the surrounding moorland.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The key characteristic of this area is the extent of its open, empty, remote and inaccessible moorland. There is a very strong sense of isolation - the sound of birdsong, the stillness, the lack of people. For much of the area, the undulating topography blocks views out, and so there is a feeling of enclosure, with little sense of the world beyond the moor.

The moorland is craggy and fairly rough in its texture, with its colours, patterns and moods constantly changing with the light, weather and seasons.

From higher land, High Street forms the western horizon, and to the east there are glimpses of the modern world beyond the National Park boundary - movement of trains and traffic on main roads, and a large quarry processing plant.

Around the edges of the area are settled valleys - Swindale in the north, Bannisdale in the south and Wet Sleddale in the east. The latter valley contains a small reservoir, which when it is full has dramatic sheets of water cascading over the dam. The bright green of the improved fields and the regular pattern of the stone walls contrasts with the surrounding moorland.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 37: CALDER VALLEY

Location and Boundaries

The Calder Valley is situated at the western edge of the Lake District National Park, to the northeast of Seascale and Sellafield. The area extends outside the western boundary of the National Park and crosses the Rugged/Craggy Borrowdale Volcanic High Fell (F), High Fell Edge (J) and Lowland (D) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

• Gently meandering narrow course of the River Calder which is fringed by small patches of woodland;
• Predominantly flat valley floor, comprising predominantly pastoral fields, divided by a combination of mature hedgerows and occasional stone walls;
• Relatively steep valley sides, which provide views across and along the valley;
• Ruins of Calder Abbey (built in 1134 for William de Meschines and the order of Savigny) are a landscape feature;
• Intricate and fairly small-scale field pattern, with fields following the line of the river course;
• General absence of settlements or farmsteads within the valley, other than Calder Bridge, a small, nucleated village;
• Dominating presence of Sellafield nuclear plant at the western end of the valley (the river runs through the centre of the plant).

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This relatively intricate and small-scale landscape consists of patchwork pastoral fields, which are delineated by a striking combination of mature hedgerows and occasional stone walls. The gently meandering course of the river is fringed with small patches of woodland, which provide some sense of enclosure.

Within the valley, the ruins of Calder Abbey, set amongst mature single trees, provides a striking landscape feature. Views towards the remains of the abbey and also views to Sellafield power station in the west, contribute to recognisable sense of place within the valley.

The valley has a strongly rural character towards its eastern end, with a general absence of settlements, other than the occasional farmstead or village (an example of which, is Calder Bridge). Calder Bridge exhibits a pattern of traditional whitewashed stone buildings. At the western end of the valley, the landscape is dominated by the imposing presence of Sellafield nuclear power station, which blocks open views towards the sea.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 38: BLENG & IRT VALLEYS

Location and Boundaries

The Bleng and Irt Valleys Area of Distinctive Character is located in the west of the National Park, to the west of Wastwater. The area encompasses a number of different underlying Landscape Character Types, including Lowland (D), High Fell Edge (J), Broad Upland Dale (H) and Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Two, predominantly lowland Valleys set against the distinctive backdrop of the High Fell Edge;
- Gently undulating peaceful landscape dominated by pastoral farmland in the west and becoming wilder and more rugged nearer to the High Fells to the east;
- Generally open with views throughout the area framed by irregular clumps of woodland, and views towards the edges of the High Fells to the east.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character is characterised by the two lowland valleys of the Rivers Bleng and Irt. A peaceful and gentle rural landscape, the undulating topography allows open views, which are framed by small, mainly irregular, clumps of woodland (both deciduous and coniferous), across adjacent predominantly pastoral, farmland landscape. The small and mainly irregular fields are generally divided by a combination of hedges and dry stone walls. Looking eastwards, the more rugged character of the wooded edge of the High Fells form a contrast with the gentleness and smooth texture of the rest of the area.

A strong sense of tranquillity is apparent in this area as a result of the fairly sparse settlement pattern. The vernacular character of the hamlets and villages of Eskdale Green (overlooked by Muncaster Fell), Santon Bridge and Gosforth further contribute to recognisable sense of place and character within this area.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 39: GREAT AND LITTLE LANGDALE

Location and Boundaries

Great and Little Langdale Valleys are situated at the heart of the Lake District National Park, to the east of Ambleside and southwest of Grasmere. These two valleys fall within the Broad Upland Dale (H) and Rugged/ Craggy Borrowdale Volcanic High Fell (F) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Classic, U-shaped, long narrow valley of Great Langdale, running from Ambleside in the east, to the steep, dominating Langdale Pikes in the west, encompassing grassy pastures along the valley bottom and intakes with remnants of wood and veteran trees, which contrast with the bare rock and bracken of the higher Fell Top;
- Sinuous form of Elter Water situated at the eastern confluence of Great and Little Langdale valleys and surrounded by patches of soft woodland;
- Shorter and slightly wider hanging valley of Little Langdale, which is separated from Great Langdale by the Lingmoor Fells and reached from the east by a minor road which passes the Little Langdale Tarn and from the west by the steep, dramatic Wrynose Pass;
- Elterwater, Little Langdale and Chapel Stile small-scale, intimate vernacular settlements, dominated by scatterings of stone houses within the wider-scale valley landscapes, which have developed alongside the local industries of slate quarrying and gunpowder manufacture;
- Strong historic and cultural associations with mountaineering, with popular Bowfell, Crinkle Crags and Scafell Pikes nearby and the Old Dungeon Ghyll hotel (adjacent to the Old Dungeon Ghyll – a deep ravine and high waterfall) providing strongly recognisable landscape features;
- Strong sense of isolation, remoteness, contrast and tranquillity, despite proximity to the Central Lakeland settlement of Ambleside;
- Pollarded Ash trees and remnant stands of juniper on the fell sides, combine with an overall rugged beauty of the greeny-grey, silvery landscape.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The glaciated, U-shaped meandering form of Great Langdale Valley is enclosed by dramatic High Fells, which loom above the pastoral valley floor and provide a strong sense of containment, particularly at the valley head, where the Langdale Pikes provide a striking visual backdrop.

Little Langdale, a hanging valley to the south of Great Langdale, has a smaller-scale and more intimate feel however there is a very strong sense of tranquillity and isolation within both, especially at the valley heads. At the western end of Little Langdale, a sense of excitement or foreboding is encountered as the road snakes steeply and sharply upwards across the narrow Wrynose Pass, which was once a Roman route.

Elterwater, at the eastern end of both valleys, has a softer and greener character, providing a transitional landscape between Great and Little Langdale Valleys.

In both valleys, discharge of water when it rains, has a huge impact on the visual and sensory perception of the landscape, with torrents of water gushing down the High Fell sides, particularly down waterfalls such as Old dungeon Ghyll (Great Langdale). The underlying geology (greeny-grey and silvery colour), overlain by the patchwork of fellside habitats (with occasional tree cover) denotes a landscape of strong contrasts.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 40: UPPER WINDERMERE

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character encompasses the northern half of Lake Windermere, to the south of Ambleside, and is at the heart of the Lake District National Park. The area encompasses Broad Lowland Valley (M), Broad Upland Dale (H) and Rugged/ Craggy Borrowdale Volcanic High Fell (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Broad Windermere Lake (the colour of which changes with seasonal light) surrounded by a soft and accessible foreshore, with patches of soft-edged woodland along the western shore;
- Popular holiday destination town of Ambleside with its distinctive vernacular arrangement of slate houses, cottages, shops and hotels;
- Strong sense of openness at the lakeshore, with dramatic views to the High Fell setting of Fairfield Horseshoe to the north;
- Soft, green landscape structure to Ambleside and the Lake, consisting of mature woodland and clumps of trees;
- Sense of hustle and bustle within the landscape, particularly in summer, as a result of the popularity of this area as a visitor attraction;
- Patchwork of grassland and pasture fields follows the lakeshore, interspersed with mature woodland.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

At the heart of this Area of Distinctive Character, the wide expanse of Lake Windermere, dominates the landscape with a dramatic backdrop to the north provided by the distinctive chain of fells forming the Fairfield Horseshoe. Waterhead, a cluster of grey stone and slate buildings, including Ambleside Youth Hostel at the northern end of the Lake, overlooks wooden jetties, which protrude from the lakeshore and often house tethered rowing boats and passenger cruisers.

A strong sense of openness is apparent at the lakeshore, with dramatic views across the ever-changing pattern and colour of the water within the lake, which varies with the changing weather patterns and seasons. A series of large houses line the lakeshore, each with associated formal gardens and mature planting (much of which is ornamental).

Set back further to the north of the lake, the town of Ambleside, with its distinctive vernacular arrangement of slate houses, cottages, shops and hotels, sits comfortably within the surrounding enclave of High Fells. The setting to the town is predominantly wooded; with a combination of soft deciduous woodland cloaking the lower fell sides (with the more regular form of coniferous trees poking out of the top of the canopy) and single mature trees dotted within the surrounding landscape. Buildings lining the High Street provide a relatively strong sense of enclosure, with few views to the surrounding landscape or lakeshore.

The traditional grey stone and slate buildings, with white detailing and adjacent more modern housing developments are visible against the predominantly green fell backdrop, within views northwards from the lake. Despite the popularity of this area with visitors, especially during the summer months, this area provides opportunities for quiet enjoyment, and for many people, is one of their first experiences of the Lake District landscape.

Along the western shore of Lake Windermere, a stronger sense of tranquillity is apparent (than along the eastern shore). Wray Castle, set amongst a picturesque setting of mature parkland landscape (encompassing mature specimen trees, such as beech, redwood, gingkoia and weeping lime) is a
prominent and striking feature within the landscape. Looking northwards from the battlemented castle building, breathtaking views of Lake Windermere, set within its predominantly treed backdrop, against the dramatic High Fells of the Fairfield horseshoe, provide immediately recognisable sense of place. The ever-changing influence that the weather has on the northern landscape backdrop is apparent here, as the sun casts shadows over the High Fells and flickers and darts across water within the Lake. The wind also changes the experiential character of the Lake, often causing ripples and waves.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 41: TROUTBECK VALLEY

Location and Boundaries

Troutbeck Valley is situated to the northeast of Lake Windermere (flowing into the lake) towards the centre of the Lake District National Park. The area predominantly falls within the Broad Upland Dale (H) Landscape Character Type, with bands of Rugged/ Craggy Borrowdale Volcanic High Fell (F) and High Fell Edge (J) forming the valley sides.

Distinctive Characteristics

• Very strong sense of tranquillity within this long, intimate and relatively narrow valley, despite proximity to the busy central Lakeland settlements and lakes;
• Series of dispersed and relatively isolated farmsteads spread along the valley sides, and surrounded by intricate patchworks of pasture fields (divided by a series of stone walls and mature hedgerows) and occasional copses of soft woodland on the valley sides;
• Strong and instantly recognisable landscape pattern of inbye and intake land;
• Meandering course of the Trout Beck is lined with a hotchpotch of rich meadows and pasture;
• Spectacular views along the valley towards Windermere Lake from the north-eastern (higher) end of the valley.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Troutbeck Valley, to the east of Lake Windermere, encompasses a patchwork of pastoral farmland, interspersed with patches of woodland on the valley sides. The strongly recognisable pattern of inbye and intake land, divided by continuous links of grey stone walls, contributes to localised sense of place.

At the heart of the valley, the meandering course of the Trout Beck, which is lined with a colourful and diverse hotchpotch of rich meadows and pasture fields, contributes to the balanced visual composition of the valley. Trickling and gushing water within the Beck is sometimes one of the only sounds, which punctuates the overall strong sense of tranquillity within this area.

This general sense of isolation and tranquillity is further heightened by the absence of main roads and scattered settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads (an example of which is Town End Farm – one of the finest examples of a Yeoman farmhouse within the Lake District: once owned by one family for several generations, and now by the National Trust). Troutbeck Village, with its linear arrangement of historic white cottages, further contributes to strong recognisable sense of place.

As a result of the surrounding topography, the scale of the valley is intimate, with the rolling, generally smooth surrounding fells providing a strong sense of enclosure. Overall, the valley has a lush, green and generally soft appearance, on account of the mature landscape structure of mature woodland, trees and hedgerows.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 42: KENTMERE FELLS

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the east of the Lake District National Park, separating the Valleys of Kentmere and Long Sleddale. The area falls predominantly within Rugged, High Fell (F) Landscape Character Type, but also within the Broad Upland Dale (H) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

• Overall a very simple and open landscape, dominated by boggy heather moorland and interspersed by the occasional small block of woodland, providing focal points within views;
• Farmland becomes more apparent towards the southern edge of the area, where it slopes down towards Kentmere and Long Sleddale;
• Very strong sense of tranquillity within the area as a result of difficulty of access (no main roads and very few footpaths) and almost complete lack of settlement.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Kentmere Fells is a simple large-scale landscape where the continuity of the open heather moorland habitat, which covers the fells, is interrupted in places by small clumps of trees and the occasional juniper or hawthorn bush, framing views. Vibrant yellow gorse bushes and rocky outcrops, hinting at the underlying geology, add texture and visual interest, to an otherwise monochrome green-brown landscape.

The character of the area changes to the south, in close proximity to the road which runs from Staveley into Long Sleddale, and where the landscape slopes down towards the valleys of Long Sleddale and Kentmere. Here, pastoral farmland, clumps of mainly deciduous woodland and mature single trees, replace moorland, resulting in a gentler appearance. Numerous small becks filter through the area, following the topography of the fells, with resultant patches of boggy landscape is places. The area is almost completely devoid of settlement and built-up elements, with occasional farmsteads providing the only evidence of human interaction.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 43: KENTMERE VALLEY

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated within the east of the Lake District National Park. Kentmere Valley, to the northeast of Windermere. The area falls within Broad Upland Dale (H), Rounded, Angular High Fell (G) and High Fell Edge (J) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A very long and narrow valley with the river Kent meandering along the valley floor;
- Strong feeling of enclosure and isolation due to the nature of the topography;
- Overall strong sense of isolation and tranquillity, with the small villages of Staveley and Kentmere, plus occasional scattered farmsteads dotted along the valley sides, contributing to an otherwise sparse settlement pattern.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Within the Kentmere Valley, there is a sense of isolation from the surrounding ‘outside world’, a feeling that is made stronger by the narrow single-track road with passing places, which provides the only means of access to the valley. The road is for access only and ends not far of Hartrigg, at the head of the valley, which contributes to the strong sense of tranquillity that is apparent throughout the valley.

The narrow road (with grassy wildflower verges) runs parallel to the river Kent, with the eastern valley sides rising up steeply beside it, and is lined by stone walls, which replaced by hedges moving deeper into the valley. The valley is very narrow and enclosed to the north, at first, with surrounding views focused on pastoral farmland (lined by hedgerows and mature trees, including Ash, Birch, Oak and Hawthorn), which is set back from the narrow, slow-moving sinuous stream. Views to the western valley sides are dominated by blocks of woodland (mainly deciduous but some coniferous), which also frame views. The valley opens up just past the turnoff to Elfhowe, revealing a much more open landscape and allowing far-reaching views further into the valley and toward wooded low fells to the northeast. The area exhibits a parkland character with many mature (mainly deciduous) trees scattered over the rolling hills and valley floor. On top of the fells heather moorland habitat replaces trees.

The village of Kentmere, is a central feature within the valley, and with little vegetation to shield it from it from the surrounding landscape, it dominates views along the valley. The village can be reached by crossing a small bridge over the River Kent. Some dairy farming is evident near the settlement, in contrast with the sheep farming which is evident within the rest of the valley.

Past Kentmere the character of the valley changes again. The texture becomes more rugged with fewer trees, with the exception of occasional juniper bushes, and more moorland covering the fells to the north and west. From Hartrigg, dramatic, open views towards surrounding fells and across the valley can be enjoyed.

Near the entrance of the valley lies the village of Staveley, which has a sense of enclosure, on account of its wooded setting. Staveley, however, feels a lot less tranquil than Kentmere due to its proximity to the busy corridor of the A591, which carries traffic between Windermere and Kendal.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 44: LONG SLEDDALE VALLEY

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the east of the National Park. The area falls within the Broad Upland Dale (H) and Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A long, narrow, enclosed, isolated and predominantly rural valley, lining the course of the River Sprint meandering its way from deep within the High Fells to the north, towards the village of Garnett Bridge;
- A secondary single-track road provides the only form of access to the valley, resulting in a strong sense of tranquillity, which is further augmented by the sparse settlement pattern;
- The small hamlet of Long Sleddale towards the centre of the valley;
- Network of mature hedgerows lining field boundaries.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character encompasses a long and enclosed, narrow valley, the nature of the topography of which evokes a strong sense of isolation. The narrow single-track road (with grassy wildflower verges), which provides the only means of access to the valley, enhances this feeling of isolation. To enter the valley, the visitor passes through the small and peaceful hamlet of Garnett Bridge first; after which, the surrounding High Fells (underlain by Borrowdale Rocks) subtly close in, guiding you deeper into the valley. The mature trees and hedgerows lining the road (which snugly nestles against the eastern valley side) allow filtered views towards the narrow valley floor westwards, to adjacent pastoral farmland (mainly sheep and some cattle near Long Sleddale, with hedges and fences demarcating the small fields) set back from the narrow and slow-moving River Sprint, which is lined with trees. The valley sides are covered with blocks of woodland (mainly deciduous, some coniferous), focusing views.

Overall settlement pattern is very sparse. In addition to Garnett Bridge, only six farms and a handful of houses, dotted along the road and along the valley sides, and the small and peaceful hamlet of Long Sleddale (which has a church) are present within the valley. This results in a generally strong sense of tranquillity resting like a thick blanket over the landscape.

Many trees are scattered on the valley bottom and sides, denoting a parkland character in places. Further along the valley to the north, dry stone walls replace the hedges along the road and also gradually replace hedges as field boundaries. Here, the character of the valley changes, with the Low Fell backdrop becoming more dramatic and rugged with more craggy edges and outcrops apparent.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 45: ESKDALE

Location and Boundaries

Eskdale is situated at the southwestern corner of the Lake District National Park, in close proximity to the western coast. The area is predominantly within the Broad Upland Dale (H) Landscape Character Type, however the dale sides fall within the Rugged/Craggy Borrowdale Volcanic High Fells (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Dale of contrasts, moving west to east from the broad coastal plain at the western edge, to the soft, verdant, green landscape surrounding the river, with cascading becks in the middle section, to the rugged, craggy and bleaker character at the eastern end of the valley;
- Strong enclosure pattern of stone walls criss-crossing the dale sides, which are clad in heather moorland at higher altitudes;
- Steep and dramatic twisting path of Hardknott Pass leads visitors into and out of the valley at the eastern end;
- Meandering River Esk, which often cascades and tumbles down the valley and is lined with patches of linear woodland, provides the central focus of the area;
- Accessible and popular landscape;
- Series of tarns perched above the valley sides (including Blea Tarn and Stony Tarn).

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Eskdale is a valley of contrasts as it follows the narrow River Esk, flowing from dramatic and imposing High Fells in the west, towards the broader coastal plain in the east. The eastern upper valley is comparatively wide and exhibits a striking network of relatively large-scale, lush, green pasture fields, punctuated by soft clumps of mature woodland. The striking pattern of stone walls, dividing in-bye and in-take, denotes a strong landscape pattern, which is particularly notable when viewed from the surrounding High Fells above.

The rugged surrounding High Fells (including the dramatic form of Scafell Pike), display a spectrum of muted greens and browns, and provide imposing sides to the dale, contributing to a strong sense of enclosure on the valley floor. There is also a strong sense of wildness and isolation within this section of the valley.

Cascading and rushing water within the River Esk (and the several ‘Dubbs’ or pools) in the riverbed, alongside the rugged ghylls that cascade down the fell-sides to meet it is a feature of the whole dale, but particularly notable towards the eastern end. Although in visual terms, the river does not dominate the valley, it provides a key-unifying feature within the landscape, in combination with the several stone packhorse bridges that cross it.

To the west of Forge Bridge and Eskdale Green, the valley widens, encompassing a coherent patchwork of, irregular fields, lined with soft patches of woodland and adjacent to the course of the river. Rocky knolls are visible on the edges of Muncaster Fell ridge, which provides a strong sense of enclosure to the north, and separates Eskdale from the relatively narrow corridor of the River Mite (Miterdale). The recognisable path of the Ravenglass to Eskdale La’al Ratty - narrow-gauge railway is also a feature. A fascinating pattern of walls surrounds the small hamlet of Boot, which sits adjacent to a steep wooded gorge.

Moving further westwards, the valley exhibits much more of a pastoral character, with mature hedgerows delineating field boundaries as the course of the river widens. Here, Muncaster Castle overlooks the valley and is a striking landscape feature. Throughout the entire valley, recognisable sense of place is strong.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 46: ULPHA AND CORNEY FELL

Location and Boundaries

This upland Area of Distinctive Character is located in the southwest of the National Park, inland from Ravenglass and between Eskdale and Dunnerdale. It falls entirely within the Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) Landscape Character Types, and encompasses small areas of sub-type F 2: Upland tarns (Devoke Water) and Subtype F3 Upland Forest.

Distinctive Characteristics

- The contrast between the past and present character of the landscape - There is a rich archaeology of settlement and working of the land, which contrasts with the emptiness and desolation of the present landscape;
- The lack of vegetation and development mean that the changing effects of light, weather and season are particularly important to the appearance and atmosphere of the landscape;
- Devoke water, an area of improved land, and occasional roads and paths are features within the landscape;
- A sense of solitude rarely experienced in the busier parts of the Lake District.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Today this area has a sense of emptiness and desolation, but this was not the case in the past, and the area is full of archaeology from the prehistoric to the C.19th. There is evidence of prehistoric cairns, field systems and enclosures, medieval settlement and later industrial archaeology associated with mining on the fells. It is difficult to imagine this still, remote, forgotten area as a busy, settled and active landscape.

The landscape is almost entirely devoid of trees (apart from a patch of coniferous plantation), or structures such as buildings or stone walls. The ground cover is a mixture of rough grass, bracken and marshy species, with many surface rocks and areas of scree. It is a blank canvas on which the changing patterns and effects of light, weather and season can display.

The most distinctive landmarks in the area are the large tarn of Devoke Water, and an area of enclosed and improved land to the east, bounded by a network of dry stone walls. These landmarks, along with the two narrow roads and occasional bridleways, which cross the area, provide orientation in an otherwise featureless landscape. This area is relatively rarely visited by recreational walkers, cars are very infrequent along the roads, and it is therefore one of the few places in the Lake District where one can feel utterly alone.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 47: UPPER DUNNERDALE

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is sityated towards the south of the Lake District National Park, to the southeast of Eskdale. It follows the upper reaches of the River Duddon from Wrynose Bottom to the southern extent of Dunnerdale Forest. It sits almost entirely within the Broad Upland Dale Type (H) with the valley sides underlain by the Rugged/Craggy High Fell Type (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- An intimate and enclosed, relatively narrow valley, following the upper reaches of the River Duddon;
- Views dominated by a dramatic backdrop of sweeping High Fells (including the Old Man of Coniston and Scafell Pike) and moorland to the north and the imposing, regular form of Dunnerdale Forest to the west;
- Very strong sense of remoteness, isolation, wildness and tranquillity, as a result of the enclosing topography and sparse road network and settlement pattern;
- Strong sense of time depth, as a result of the pattern of isolated traditional stone farmsteads (such as Cockley Beck and High Wallabarrow) and associated stone walls which snake along the valley bottom;
- Eastern edge of the valley is accessed via the dramatic, steep and winding Wrynose Pass, which runs over Wrynose Fell from Little Langdale valley to the east, and along Wrynose bottom (at the foot of a classic U-shaped valley)
- Intimate scale intensified by the rough texture of surrounding pikes, crags and ghylls;
- Historic and cultural associations with Wordsworth.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Encompassing the upper reaches of the River Duddon and surrounded by dramatic, craggy High Fells, this character area has a very strong sense of remoteness, isolation, wildness and tranquillity. The winding valley floor, which exhibits a patchwork of pasture fields, delineated and intricate pattern of traditional stone walls, provides stark contrast to the surrounding rough texture of the surrounding fells, much of which are swathed in moorland.

A minor road follows the meandering course of the River Duddon, as it snakes through the narrow, enclosed landscape. Wondering sheep, and occasional vehicles on this road, sometimes provide the only source of movement within the valley. Further south, the dense, regular, predominantly dark green form of Dunnerdale Forest (cloaking the western valley side – and currently in a state of flux), further contributes to the strong sense of enclosure.

Settlement pattern is extremely sparse, consisting of isolated farmsteads dotted amongst associated pasture fields. There is a strong sense of in hospitality within this landscape, particularly during winter months, when the valley can be strongly affected by changing weather patterns. Weather and associated light has a strong influence on the character of Upper Dunnerdale. Often, the sun casts shadows into the valley from surrounding High Fells, whilst rain causes the River and fell side ghylls to come alive with rushing, tumbling water.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA 48: LOW FURNESS FELLS

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated at the centre of the Lake District National Park, to the south of Great and Little Langdale Valleys. The Low Fell Type (K) predominantly underlies the area, with the Rugged/Craggy High Fell character area fringing the northwest corner.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A patchwork low fell landscape with a rich mosaic of different habitats, including woodland plantations (both coniferous and deciduous), pastoral farmland, parkland, small waterbodies or tarns and heather moorland;
- Some of the oldest Alder in England near Boon Crag;
- Dramatic views from higher areas across adjacent craggy landscapes, towards lower landscapes;
- Constantly changing perceptions of scale, enclosure and texture;
- A landscape of peaks and troughs, which vary from rough to smooth, the colour of which also varies with the seasons.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The texture of this landscape is varied, with a combination of craggy rock outcrops, protruding from smooth moorlands, which cloak the fell sides. In places, coniferous, deciduous and mixed woodland plantations provide striking landscape features within views across the area.

Sense of intimacy and scale varies, moving through the many folds, peaks and troughs in the landscape. To the northwest, the imposing form of the Langdale Pikes, with their distinctive form and profile, contribute to a strong sense of enclosure and sense of place and also provide orientation.

In many locations, there is a strong sense of isolation and tranquillity as a result of the scattered settlement pattern and absence of main roads. Despite the fact that this landscape sits at a lower altitude than adjacent higher fells to the north, there is still a greater sense of remoteness and wildness than within the patchwork of the lower lake and farmland landscapes to the south.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 49: TARN HOWS

Location and Boundaries

Tarn Hows is situated to the northeast of Coniston and of Hawshead village, in southeast of the National Park. This unique, intimate-scale area is set within the context of the Low Fells (K) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Striking blue Tarn, surrounded by an intimate patchwork of green grassland, mires, bracken, spruce and larch clad fells;
- Designed, yet naturalised landscape, with a combination of conifer woodland; grassy picnic spots and footpaths;
- Dramatic and long-distance views to the wrinkled, dark grey rugged rock of the surrounding Coniston Fells, with long-distance framed views to the Little Langdale and the Langdale Pikes to the north and along the Yewdale Valley to the east;
- Extremely popular tourist attraction, with strong associations to Beatrix Potter;
- Intimate - scale, yet diverse and accessible landscape, with a strong sense of isolation and tranquillity, as a result of the dramatic enclosure provided by surrounding fells.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The dark blue colour of the Tarn (derived from the old Norse word ‘tjorn’ meaning teardrop) set within a context of the surrounding Coniston Fells (‘How’ meaning hill) the sides of which are clothed with green spruce and larch woodland give this area its strongly recognisable and intimate sense of place.

The combination of natural habitats (including lush green grassland, mires and brittle bracken) in juxtaposition with designed elements such as single mature ornamental trees and subtle human elements (such as footpaths, which follow the flow of the landscape) creates a sense of unity and balance within the area.

Set against an extremely dramatic backdrop of rugged, craggy, grey Langdale Pikes to the north and surrounded by the lower, hummocky, scree and bracken covered Coniston Fells, contrasting colours are a element of the visual composition of this landscape. The small-scale contrast between the ever-changing green to brown spectrum of trees, bracken and grassland (within the immediate landscape of the Tarn) is set within a wider, seasonally changing large-scale backdrop of Higher Fells.

Gripping views eastwards into the Yewdale Valley (which exhibits an intimate pattern of pasture, small farmsteads, stone wall field boundaries and clumps of softer deciduous woodland) provide a dramatic contrast with framed views to the more open, exposed, craggy and muted Higher Fells to the north.

In terms of sensory perception, this combination of elements leads to an experience of relaxation and tranquillity. Coupled with visual excitement in terms of dramatic views, colourful contrasts, shimmering water and dramatic shadows, this intimate landscape has a strongly recognisable sense of place.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 50: CLAIFE HEIGHTS AND LATTERBARROW

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the southeast of the Lake District National Park, to the southwest of Ambleside. The area falls within the Low Fells (K) and Broad Lowland Valley (M) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A hummocky patchwork of woodland, grassy clearings and tarns;
- Disused quarries are a feature;
- Dramatic views across Lake Windermere to the east and Esthwaite Water to the west; and panoramic views northwards from Latterbarrow;
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by woodland;
- Latterbarrow forms a dramatic backdrop within views westwards across Windermere;
- Lush, green nature of pasture (particularly in Spring and Summer) which can be seen through gaps in woodland cover;
- Nucleated settlement of Hawkshead to the north of Esthwaite Water, with its distinctive pattern of narrow cobbled streets and courtyards, whitewashed cottages and grey stone and slate buildings;
- Hawkshead has strong historic and cultural associations with Beatrix Potter and Wordsworth.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This landscape encompasses an usual patchwork of hummocky grassland and tarns, nestled within a strongly wooded backdrop provided by the Heald woodland to the east. Higher points such as Latterbarrow to the north and Colthouse Heights to the west provide dramatic panoramic viewpoints across the surrounding landscape, towards Lake Windermere to the east and the Coniston Fells to the west. Claife Heights viewing station is a recognisable landmark feature within the landscape. Views from the edge of this area contribute to a strong sense of place and orientation.

Towards the centre of the area, a strong sense of enclosure is provided by dense coniferous and deciduous woodland. Clearings in the woodland reveal a series of tarns, nestled amongst surrounding lush green grassland. From here, views are limited to the immediate landscape, with the patchwork of tarns and woodland creating a small-scale and more intricate sense of place.

To the west of the higher land that forms Claife Heights and Latterbarrow, the nucleated village of Hawkshead nestles amongst surrounding pastoral fields. A compact arrangement of whitewashed cottages and grey stone and slate buildings, arranged around squares and courtyards, contribute to strong recognisable sense of place within the village. Hawkeshead has strong historic and cultural links with Beatrix Potter. One of the white cottages (dating to the 17th Century) at the heart of the village was once the office of Beatrix’s husband – local solicitor, William Heelis. It is now a gallery, which houses several of Beatrix’s works and contributes, amongst other things to the popularity of the village with tourists and visitors.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 51: LOWER WINDERMERE

Location and Boundaries

Lower Windermere Area of Distinctive Character is situated to towards the south of the Lake District National Park, and encompasses the settlements of Windermere and Bowness-on-Windermere. The area falls within Broad Lowland Valley (M) and Low Fells (K) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Southern half of Windermere Lake, with its soft, predominantly wooded western shores, punctuated by scattered farmsteads;
- Eastern shore dominated by large private houses (small villa properties) and hotels, often with private jetted access onto the lake and associated designed or exotic planting;
- Distinctive wooded Belle Isle to the west of Bowness on Windermere, punctuates open views across the lake;
- Mixture of Victorian and more modern buildings within Bowness on Windermere, overlooking the lake, with a cluster of buildings at the lakeshore, associated with Windermere lake steamers;
- Colourful steamers and yachts punctuate views across the lake;
- Windermere, town to the north of Bowness, with a combination of Victorian terraced and more modern buildings arranged along a linear high street;
- Marina to the south of Bowness, imparts a regular, human influence over the eastern lakeshore;
- Set back from the immediate lakeshore to the east and west, wooded and open rocky outcrops and knolls.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The shorelines of Lake Windermere have a soft and predominantly wooded or treed character as the lake narrows, moving southwards through the landscape. To the west, an almost continuous swathe of woodland cloaks the shore, with patches of open farmland or grassland overlooked by farmsteads or houses. Woodland has a dense, green understorey, which often comes alive in spring with swathes of bluebells. This results in a relatively strong sense of enclosure and denotes an intimate-scale landscape, with occasional glimpse views across Lake Windermere to the east. Sense of tranquillity is relatively strong along the western shore.

The eastern shore is speckled with large (predominantly private) houses, facing the lake, and lining the relatively busy main road (which introduces noise and visual intrusion). Towards the north of the area, Bowness on Windermere exhibits a combination of Victoria terraced houses (with uniformity in architectural style, detailing and materials) and shops along the High Street, with both Victorian and more modern buildings overlooking the lake. Windermere is set back from then lakeshore, to the north of Bowness. Houses and shops here also date predominantly to the Victorian period, with more recent additions. The lake provides a dramatic and ever-changing backdrop to Bowness to the west, whilst to the east, settlement edges abut pastoral fields and patches of woodland. Towards the south of the lake, the surrounding Low Fells provide a strong sense of enclosure, and contribute to the small-scale and relatively intimate landscape pattern.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 52: CROOK

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated to the east of Windermere and sits entirely within the Low Fells (K) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Small-scale rural landscape, consisting of a small-scale patchwork of pastoral fields, crossed by a myriad of narrow lanes, connecting the hamlets and scattered farms;
- A very peaceful landscape, with a strong sense of tranquillity at distance from the A5074 and A592;
- Hedges lining roads generally limit views across the landscape.
- Recognisable sense of place is provided by views to higher areas, such as Lord’s Lot.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This area is characterised by an interesting, small-scale patchwork of pastoral farmland (the fields demarcated by a combination of hedgerows – mainly hawthorn with mature trees – and dry stone walls, curving over the Low Fells). Farmland is interspersed with small clumps of trees, and a scattering of farmsteads. Heather moorland punctuates the pastoral farmland, bringing variety to the landscape, with gorse providing vibrant splashes of colour amidst the low fell vegetation. Occasional rocky outcrops hint at the underlying geology of the area.

The nature of the topography combined with the land cover creates an intimate landscape where the views (when not blocked by the roadside hedges) are generally open and framed by clumps of woodland. From higher areas, for example Lord’s Lot, panoramic views across the surrounding landscape can be gained.

This gently rolling landscape is served by a myriad of narrow lanes (framed by hedgerows), connecting the scattering of villages, hamlets and farms. There is a relatively strong overall sense of tranquillity, at distance from the urban fringe of Windermere and the busy road corridors of the A5074 and the A591.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 53: CUNSWICK

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is located in the east of the National Park and falls entirely within the Coastal Limestone (C) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Small scale open, gently rolling low fell and farmland landscape, with a patchwork of pastoral farmland alternating with woodland clumps (both deciduous and coniferous);
- Sense of tranquillity and peace at distance from the A591;
- Gentleness of the topography allows far-reaching views of the surrounding Low Fells from several locations.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Pastoral farmland dominates land cover in the area, with medium-scale fields generally delineated by and occasional dry stone walls. Small clumps of woodland frame views throughout and add texture to the landscape. The nature of the topography creates a sense of openness in places, with open views across the area to wooded low fell beyond and across the coast to the south.

Rocky outcrops, strong reminders of the underlying geology of the area, provide grey patches amidst the green of the pastoral farmland, breaking the continuity. In the south the character of the landscape changes, becoming more rugged and textured, with woodland and heathland dominating character.

Settlement pattern is very sparse, and consists of occasional farm buildings. As a result of this, and the general absence of main roads tranquillity throughout the area is strong, at distance from the A591.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 54: RAVENGLASS AND BOOTLE

Location and Boundaries

The Ravenglass & Bootle Area of distinctive character is situated at southwestern extent of the National Park. The area sits predominantly within the Coastal Sandstone Type (E) whilst the northern part of the area is divided between Estuary and Marsh Type (A), the Coastal Margins Type (B), Lowland (D) and High Fell Edge (J) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- An open coastline consisting of a combination of mudflats, pebble, shingle, sandy beaches and dunes, with the underlying geology occasionally showing in the form of sandstone cliffs;
- Flat to gently undulating and sloping coastal landscape, which falls from west to east towards the sea;
- Predominantly pastoral farmland where the generally regular fields are divided by a mixture of hedgerows, dry stone walls and wire fences;
- Rising High Fells (including Black Coombe and the wooded side of Muncaster Fell) to the east, provide a dramatic backdrop and contribute to a strong sense of place and enclosure;
- Predominantly open landscape, with open views northwards along the coastline, with Sellafield power station (to the north) and the windfarm (south of Kirkstanton providing landmark features;
- The historic village of Ravenglass (the only coastal town of the Lake District) which lies at the estuary of the Rivers Esk, Mite and Irt;
- Several narrow, single-track lanes connect the area with beaches to the west;
- Vast, expansive seascape to the west;
- Sense of tranquillity within the area varies, dependent on proximity to the hustle and bustle of Ravenglass and the Sellafield power station.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The flat to gently undulating topography of this area of coastal plain, with its regular network of pastoral (predominantly dairy) fields, which are divided by a mixture of hedgerows, dry, stone walls and wire fences, provides stark contrast with the vast expansive open seascape to the west and the dramatic rising High Fells to the east.

Looking westwards from the coastline of mudflats, pebble, shingle, sandy beaches and dunes, extensive long-distance views to an uncluttered, never-ending horizon creates a strong sense of openness and continuity. In contrast, looking eastwards, the dramatic backdrop of the vast form of Black Coombe to the south and adjacent High Fells to the north, provides a strong sense of enclosure and containment.

Throughout the landscape, there is an overall sense of uniformity and harmony, with coherence provided by the constancy of open views across the sea, to the west, from the length of the area. The nature of the topography allows far distance views in all directions, with Sellafield PowerStation a distinctive landmark in views to the north. In views to the south, the wind farm to the south of Kirkstanton draws the eye.

Settlement pattern is generally sparse and isolated, consisting of a handful of villages (including Bootle and Ravenglass, from where the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway starts), and a scattering of farmsteads and houses. A general absence of roads adds to the sense of isolation and tranquillity, however, the fast moving corridor of the A595 (T) running north-south across the area breaking the continuity of the surrounding pastoral landscape and disturbs the general sense of tranquillity.
At its eastern edge, this landscape is dynamic and constantly changing with the ebb and flow of the tides. The nature and character of the foreshore varies depending on tide levels. The landscape has a symbiotic relationship with the sea, which is ever-changing and contrasts with the wide, often dramatic and moody skies.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 55: LOWER DUNNERDALE

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park and encompasses the lower reaches of the River Duddon. It falls within the Broad Upland Dale (H) and Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Varied character, encompassing an intricate patchwork of woodland, pasture, meadows and farmland following the course of the River Duddon;
- Scattered settlement pattern including small historic settlement of Seathwaite and several isolated farmsteads;
- Soft patches of mixed woodland clothe the western valley sides, following the course of the gently meandering River Duddon;
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by surrounding Dunnerdale and Heak Fells in the north and Thwaites Fell in the south;
- Vast expanse of woodland within Ulpha Park (towards the centre of the area) provides a strong sense of enclosure and is a recognisable landscape feature;
- Deeply incised, intimate-scale, enclosed wooded gorge to the north of High Wallowbarrow;
- Distinctive field patterns, delineated by stone walls, often at high altitudes on the fell sides;
- Pattern of prehistoric cairn fields, ring boundaries, hut circles and field systems on Thwaites Fell;
- Strong sense of isolation, wildness and tranquillity throughout the valley;
- Recognisable pattern of coastal habitats at the southern end of the valley.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

A strong sense of isolation and tranquillity is apparent throughout this character area as a result of the generally sparse settlement pattern and absence of major road. An intricate patchwork of mixed woodlands cloaking the western valley sides, herb-rich meadows, wetlands and pastoral farmland (delineated by traditional stone walls) contributes to recognisable landscape pattern.

Recognisable sense of place is provided by the imposing High Fells forming the valley sides, which also provide a strong sense of enclosure. Field pattern is often visible at higher altitudes on the fell sides than with adjacent Broad Upladn Dales. The southern half of the valley encompasses a landscape of contrasts, as pastoral (sheep) farming gives way to an intimate network of tidal habitats lining the Duddon Estuary.

Contained within a narrow corridor for much of its length, Dunnerdale opens up at its southern end, to meet the course of the River Lickle to the east, and form the Duddon Estuary. At this point, wider, more open views southwards to expanses of sea and sky can be gained.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 56: BROUGHTON WEST

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the southwest of the Lake District National Park, to the west of Coniston Water and east of Dunnerdale. The area falls within the Low Fells (K), Coastal Margins (B) and Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Ridge and adjacent sloping topography which encompasses a network of pastoral fields (delineated by hedgerows and stone walls);
- Small patches of deciduous woodland which has generally soft edges, punctuates surrounding fields;
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by Dunnerdale Fells to the north and the regular densely wooded form of Postlethwaite allotment;
- Further sense of enclosure and orientation provided by views to craggy surface of Torver Low Common to the east;
- Views generally limited to short distances as a result of the surrounding higher landscapes;
- Overall sense of tranquillity is disturbed by the presence of the A593 main road corridor.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character is sandwiched between the hummocky, roughly textured landscape of Torver Low Common (Low Furness Fells) to the southeast and the higher, Dunnerdale Fells to the northwest. This contributes to recognisable sense of place, but also to a strong sense of enclosure throughout the area.

Belts of linear woodland, with predominantly soft edges, punctuate the network of rolling pasture fields. Field boundaries are delineated by a combination of mature hedgerows and traditional stone walls. Single mature field trees are also a feature in places.

In addition to the corridor of the A593 main road, a number of steep, minor roads snake across the landscape. Sinuous becks and narrow stream corridors are also a feature. Settlement pattern consists of a number of isolated farmsteads and small, nucleated hamlets, such as Broughton Mills.

There is a strong sense that this area forms part of a transitional landscape from higher Fells to the northwest to Lower Fells and Coniston Water to the southeast.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 57: CONISTON WATER

Location and Boundaries

Situated to the west of Lake Windermere, Hawkshead and Grizedale Forest, this Area of Distinctive Character sits predominantly within the Broad Lowland Valley (M) Landscape Character Type, with the valley sides forming part of the Low Fells (K).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Strong sense of enclosure provided by surrounding Low Fells (which are densely wooded along the eastern shore);
- Sense of tranquillity, enclosure and intimacy on the lake, with spectacular views to dramatic surrounding fells. Boats play an important part in the composition of the landscape;
- Generally muted landscape with a coherent colour composition of greens, greys and blues;
- Symbiosis between lakeshore and adjacent Coniston village (with its generally unified grey slate appearance);
- Designed estate landscape associated with the Victorian Monk Coniston Estate at the northern end of the lake.
- Historic and cultural links with Ruskin (whose house, Brantwood, overlooks the Lake) and Arthur Ransome. Also with Donald Campbell and his attempts on the world water-speed record.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Despite the size of Coniston Water, the low fells beyond the eastern and western shores give it a sense of intimacy and enclosure. The softness of the landform is enhanced by the mature deciduous woodlands on the fellsides. The northern part of the lake has spectacular views of the higher fells of Wetherlam and Coniston Old Man, which seems to “watch over” his lake and village below.

The most distinctive vessel on the lake is the steam yacht “Gondola”. However, the speed limit means that the majority of craft on the lake are sailing boats. Their slowly gliding sails contribute to the lake’s sense of tranquillity, and also add splashes of white and bright colour into the landscape. The distinctive quality of light in the area often gives a muted appearance to Coniston’s landscape colours of greys, greens and blues.

Coniston village nestles between the lake and the fells on the western side of the lake, and fits very comfortably into its landscape setting. The buildings in the village are either whitewashed or constructed of local slate, and so blend into the landscape from which the slates were quarried.

The northern shore of the lake was part of the Monk Coniston estate. Its designed parkland, with mature individual and grouped deciduous trees is still a distinctive feature in the Coniston landscape. The effect of the parkland on the composition of the landscape is particularly striking in views where the soft, designed landscape of the parkland contrasts with the wildness of the fells beyond.

Coniston has a rich cultural history, and has inspired a wide range of people and activities. John Ruskin lived at Brantwood, on the eastern shore of the lake, from 1871 until 1900, and his house is now open to the public. Coniston Water, its surrounding fells, and –perhaps most importantly- Peel Island with its secret harbour, inspired Arthur Ransome to write his “Swallows and Amazons” stories, and many of the locations in the books can be found around Coniston. Arthur Ransome lived at the southern end of Coniston Water for many years, and sailed on the lake. In 1967 Donald Campbell
broke the world water-speed record on Coniston Water in *Bluebird K7*, but crashed and died in the attempt. The wreck of *Bluebird* has recently been lifted from the lake.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 58: GRIZEDALE FOREST

Location and Boundaries

Grizedale Forest is situated towards the southern edge of the Lake District National Park, between Lake Windermere to the east and Coniston Water to the west. The area incorporates a combination of Broad Lowland Valley (M) and Low Fells (K) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Vast, dense expanse of mostly coniferous woodland underlain by a generally hummocky and craggy topography;
- Strong sense of enclosure and remoteness within the Forest, despite the accessibility of the landscape, which is criss-crossed by a network of pedestrian and cycle trails;
- Narrow course of Grizedale Beck runs through a clearing at the centre of the Forest. Its patchwork of lush pasture fields, divided by stone walls and hedges, provides contrast to the surrounding woodland;
- Different shades of green dominate the visual composition of this landscape;
- Unusual environmental art and sculptures within the Forest;
- Forest is dominant landscape feature as the backdrop within views from adjacent Coniston Water and Windermere Lake.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

One of the most distinctive features of Grizedale Forest is its scale, which can only really be appreciated from elevated viewpoints outside and within the forest, such as Carron Crag. From these viewpoints, the forest appears as a swathe of dark green, laid over the low fells. The topography below the forest is uneven, and contains many rocky outcrops.

Grizedale Forest is a popular recreation area, and contains a dense network of footpaths, bridleways, and forest tracks which are used for mountain bike trails. There is also a “go-ape” course (from which there are distinctive sounds of screams of exhilaration!) and various sculpture trails and visitor centres. Yet despite the numbers of visitors, the area still feels remote and detached. This is largely due to the dense tree cover, which blocks views out, and creates a strong sense of enclosure.

The valley of the Grizedale beck runs north-south through the centre of the forest. The open valley bottom, with its small pastoral fields contrasts strongly with the surrounding forest in terms of colour, texture and openness, and consequently has a very different feel.

Green is the dominant colour in the forest landscape. The coniferous trees are dark green, but there are also many patches of lighter deciduous trees, particularly around the sculpture trails. The tracery patterns of the trees add an intricate texture to the landscape, whilst the tree trunks give a strong vertical emphasis.

Within the forest are many examples of sculptures and environmental art. Some are in natural materials, others more artificial. Some large works form focal points in the forest, whilst smaller ones can easily be missed. There are also musical sculptures, and the sounds of xylophones and woodblocks echo through the valley. The sculptures are beautiful as features in themselves, and also add an element of surprise to the forest landscape, making it a distinctive place.

Grizedale Forest is on elevated land between lakes Windermere and Coniston, and consequently forms the backdrop in views from these lakes. The dark colour of the forest means that it is a dominant feature within these views.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 59: ESTHWAITES

Location and Boundaries

Esthwaite is situated to the south of Claife Heights, west of Lake Windermere and east of Coniston Water – towards the south of the Lake District National Park. The area predominantly encompasses Broad Lowland Valley (M) Landscape Character Type, with the valley sides falling within the Low Fells (K).

Distinctive Characteristics

• Esthwaite Water – a relatively narrow and short lake, which is set amongst green fields and bounded by woods and reeds;
• Strong sense of remoteness, tranquillity and calm within the intricate landscape;
• Classic views over the lake to the dramatic outline of distant Langdale Pikes to the north;
• Popular lake for fishing;
• Historic and cultural associations with Beatrix Potter due to proximity to Near Sawrey village to the east.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Esthwaite water is a relatively small and shallow lake, but which nevertheless provides a visual focus for this character area. This is a soft and gentle landscape, well vegetated with trees and woodland, and with reed-fringed shores.

The lake feels exceptionally tranquil and serene. This is largely due to the lack of access to the lakeshore, which is restricted to a path from Hawkshead at the northern end, and two short stretches of road on the east and southern shores. The vegetation and small fields around the lake create an intricate landscape.

The Langdale Pikes form distinctive features on the skyline in views to the north, whilst the dark green swathe of Grizedale Forest forms the backdrop to the south and west.

Esthwaite Water is a popular lake for fishing, and the jetties, pens and fishing boats are distinctive features of the area. Although they are not natural features, their presence often adds to the sense of calmness associated with the lake.

There are elevated views across Esthwaite Water from the road between Windermere Ferry and Hawkshead. On this road (approximately half a mile to the southeast of Esthwaite Water) is the village of Near Sawrey, the location of Beatrix Potter’s house Hill Top). The area inspired several of Beatrix Potter’s stories and characters, and Hill Top is hugely popular with visitors. As a result, there are often crowds of tourists, coaches and cars in Near Sawrey village.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 60: DALE PARK

Location and Boundaries

Dale Park Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park, to the east of Grizedale Forest, south of Esthwaite Water and west of Lake Windermere. The area is situated entirely within the Low Fells (K) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Dense, coniferous woodland plantations which denote a strong sense of enclosure;
- Intimate-scale, yet open corridor of Dale Park Beck, which separates Dale Park woodlands from Grizedale Forest to the west;
- Mature, designed parkland landscape associated with Graythwaite Hall (towards the east of the area);
- Glimpse views towards Lake Windermere to the east and Esthwaite Water to the north;
- Mature coppice woodlands;
- Hummocky, rough texture of underlying geology of the fells, visible at the surface;
- Woodland is interspersed with numerous streams and springs;
- Strong sense of enclosure throughout most of the area as a result of the combination of rolling topography and dense coniferous woodland.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

A strong sense of enclosure is apparent throughout this landscape as a result of the dense cover of coniferous woodland. This woodland cloaks an underlying rolling and hummocky topography of rocky outcrops. Patches of deciduous, coppiced woodland, provides softer contrast to the regularity of conifer plantations such as High Dale Park.

Towards the southeastern corner of the area, Graythwaite Hall, with its associated mature, designed parklands and ‘estate’ character, imparts a further sense of human influence over this landscape. In addition to buildings associated with the hall, settlement pattern is very sparse, with only occasional farmstead buildings visible.

Overall sense of tranquillity throughout the area is relatively strong as a result of the relative inaccessibility of the area, other than via a few minor roads and public footpaths. Nestled at the western edge of the area, the intimate corridor of Dale Park Beck, with associated lush pasture fields, provides a sense of openness and contrasts with surrounding woodland areas.

To the north and east, recognisable sense of place is apparent as a result of views northwards across Esthwaite Water and eastwards across Lake Windermere.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 61: WHITBARROW

Location and Boundaries

This Landscape Character Area is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park, to the east of Lake Windermere. The area falls within Low Fell Edge (L), Broad Lowland Valley (M) and Low Fells (K) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Small-scale low fell mosaic landscape with a great variety of different habitats, including large areas of coniferous and deciduous woodland, pastoral fields and the valley of the River Winster;
- Frequent outcrops of underlying limestone, for example Whitbarrow Scar;
- From higher locations, stunning views over the colourful mosaic landscape and Lake Windermere to the west.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The distinctiveness of this area lies within the mosaic of different habitats, which overlay the landscape. The valley of the River Winster, with its pastoral fields, mature trees and hedgerows, separates Low Fells to the west from the wooded limestone ridge of Whitbarrow Scar (with upland heath and blue moor grass) in the east, resulting in an interesting, colourful, small-scale mosaic landscape.

To the west, the Low Fells are draped by farmland, interspersed with large blocks of woodland (which frames views in every direction) with patches of gorse adding a touch of vibrant colour, or, in the case of Newton Fell, further south, covered by scrubby birch, hawthorn, relic heather, bracken and tough grasses).

With the exception of the A5074 and the A590, which border the area, roads are secondary and relatively narrow, in most places lined by thick (often hawthorn but also Beech and Hornbeam) hedgerows, obscuring views. The hedges, combined with large patches of woodland within the area, give a sense of enclosure and isolation. In stark contrast, far-reaching views from higher locations (which are often only accessible by foot) give a sense of exhilaration. An example of such a view is the dramatic, panoramic view towards Lake Windermere, which can be gained from Gummer’s How. For example views from Gummer’s How, from where Windermere Lake can be seen as well. From the road running through the Winster Valley, gaps in the hedgerows offer glimpses on Whitbarrow Scar, an imposing and significant landmark within the surrounding landscape, which contributes to a strong sense of place.

Sense of tranquillity is strong throughout most of the area, particularly within the Winster Valley. This is aided by the sparse settlement pattern, which consists of a handful of farms dotted along linear road corridors, occasional hamlets, the picturesque vernacular village of Witherslack, and a handful of large estates (often with limestone vernacular character apparent within buildings).
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 62: BLACK COOMBE

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the western edge of the Lake District National Park, to the north of Silecroft and east of Bootle. The area falls entirely within the Rounded, angular High Fell (G) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A fell landscape which is relatively open and dominated by large expanses of heather moorland, which exhibits a muted combination of greens and browns;
- Generally strong sense of openness and smooth texture, punctuated by clumps of bracken and rough grassland;
- Occasional rocky outcrops of underlying geology punctuate the smooth moorland and are visible at the surface;
- Long distance, panoramic views from the highest points across never-ending horizons of sea and sky to the west, across adjacent pastoral farmland to the southeast;
- Strong sense of remoteness, isolation, wildness and tranquillity as a result of the absence of minor roads (the only access being via the footpath network);
- General absence of main roads and almost complete lack of settlement.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This landscape has a predominantly smooth texture, with uniformity in colour (changing with the seasons). In places, the underlying angular geology punctuates the moorland surface. There is a strong sense of remoteness, isolation, wildness and tranquillity, as a result of the absence of settlement and man-made elements, including roads.

The proximity of this landscape to the west coast, coupled with the high topography, facilitates dramatic panoramic views across never-ending horizons of sea and sky to the west and adjacent pastoral farmland to the southeast. Barrow-in-Furness and Walney island also feature in views southwards.

Throughout the area, fell-walkers area often the only source of movement, with footpaths providing the main means of accessing the area, strongly contributing to the sense of tranquillity that is present throughout the area. The generally rounded, high mass of Black Coombe, provides a dramatic backdrop to views from the western coast, framing adjacent coastal farmland.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 63: WHICHAM VALLEY

Location and Boundaries

This area of Distinctive Character is situated at the southwestern edge of the Lake District National Park, to the north of Silcroft and south of Black Coombe. The area falls entirely within the High Fell Edge (J) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Flat to very gently rolling, low-lying topography;
- Dramatic and strong sense of enclosure provided by the rising mass of Black Coombe to the north;
- Landscape dominated by a relatively regular network of pasture fields, delineated by a series of low, trimmed hedges;
- Sinuous belts of deciduous trees meander through the landscape;
- Open views from the western end of the valley, dominated by sea and sky;
- Landscape dotted with isolated farmsteads and buildings, including Whicham Hall;
- Predominantly rural landscape, with a relatively strong sense of tranquillity, particularly to the south of the area, at distance from the A595 main road corridor.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Strong recognisable sense of place with the valley is apparent, resulting from the strong sense of enclosure provided by the rising mass of Black Coombe to the north, Lowscales bank to the southeast and views to the sea from the southern edge of the area.

The predominant characteristic of this area is patchworks of muted and harmonious pasture fields, which are divided by a series of traditional vernacular stone walls and low, often-trimmed hedgerows. These fields, follow the course of the Whicham Beck, which is very narrow, in comparison the breadth of the surrounding valley.

Despite the presence of the A595 main road corridor, which runs along the northern edge of the area, at the base of Black Coombe, introducing a source of movement and noise, there is a sense that this is a predominantly rural and relatively isolated landscape. At distance from the road corridor, a relatively strong sense of tranquillity is apparent.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 64 BLAWITH FELLS

Location and Boundaries

This area of Distinctive Character is situated at the southern edge of the Lake District National Park (extending outside the boundary to the south) to the southwest of Coniston Water. The area falls predominantly within the Low Fells (K) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A smoothly textured low fell, moorland and hummocky grassland landscape, punctuated by rougher, grey, rocky outcrops;
- A series of tarns appear on the horizon (varying in size, and including Beacon Tarn and Burney Tarn), moving through the fell landscape;
- A harmonious landscape in terms of colours (which vary in spectrum from greens and yellows in the Spring and Summer, to browns in the Autumn and Winter);
- Dramatic views eastwards towards Coniston Water, within its predominantly wooded setting, contribute to recognisable sense of place;
- At distance, low fells provide a backdrop and are visible on the horizon;
- From Kirkby Moor in the south, dramatic views south-westwards across the Duddon Estuary;
- Occasional single deciduous trees punctuate an otherwise predominantly open landscape, which exhibits a relatively strong sense of tranquillity;
- The landscape is criss-crossed by a network of narrow roads, often lined with fences or hedges.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

There is a predominant sense of openness within this landscape, with recognisable sense of place apparent as a result of dramatic views eastwards towards Coniston Water (within its predominantly wooded setting) and southwards (from Kirkby Moor) across the Duddon Estuary.

Rougher, grey rocky outcrops punctuate the predominantly smooth texture of hummocky rough grassland and moorland. The spectrum of colours change, in harmony, from greens to browns in accordance with the changing seasons. The grey-blue colour of water within tarns also provides visible colour contrast, which appears when moving through the landscape.

A network of minor roads (often lined with fences or hedgerows) and public footpaths criss-cross this landscape, providing access. Despite the presence of these, the overall sense of tranquillity is relatively strong.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 65: STAVELEY

Location and Boundaries

This area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park, to the southwest of Coniston Water. The area falls predominantly within the Low Fells (K) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

• Large patches of mixed woodlands, which provide a strong sense of enclosure;
• The gently meandering corridors of the Rivers Crake and Rusland;
• Gently rolling topography which channels the viewing experience;
• Network of narrow, gently winding roads which criss-cross the landscape;
• Patchwork of pasture fields which are predominantly delineated by a network of mature hedgerows, with occasional stone walls;
• Several nucleated hamlets, such as a Oxen Park and Bouth, which nestle within the surrounding landscape;
• Mature landscape structure, with several mature deciduous trees in fields, within hedgerows and lining road corridors;
• Dramatic open views across the Leven Estuary from the south of the area;
• Sense of place provided by dramatic rising backdrop of wooded fells to the north.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This landscape has a predominantly rural character, criss-crossed by a series of narrow roads, which link nucleated settlements, nestled amongst patches of soft mixed woodlands. Sense of tranquillity is relatively strong throughout. Mature single deciduous trees at field boundaries and within fields, coupled with patches of woodland, contribute to an overall mature landscape structure.

The predominant colours of this patchwork of pasture fields (delineated by a series of hedgerows and grey stone walls) are green and brown. At the southern edge of the character area, dramatic views across the Leven estuary contributes to recognisable sense of place, whilst to the north, views to the wooded backdrop of the low fells provides a strong sense of enclosure.

To the east, the corridor of the River Rusland and the west, the River Crake, with their associated riverside habitats and drainage ditches, provide visible corridor features within the landscape. In both cases, patches of woodland on the valley sides, provide a sense of enclosure and containment.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 66: HAVERTHWAITHE

Location and Boundaries

This area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park, to the southwest of Lake Windermere and continues outside the park boundary to the south. The area falls within the Low Fells (K) and Low Fell Edge (L) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Winding channel of the River Leven, which is fringed with sand and mudflats at low tide;
- Dramatic open views southwards along the River channel;
- Sense of enclosure and containment provided by backdrop of low, predominantly wooded fells to the north;
- Series of predominantly green, wooded and open mosses adjacent to the River channel;
- Regular network of drainage ditches at field boundaries;
- Small-scale and relatively intricate landscape pattern of pasture fields, interspersed with patches of woodland;
- Nucleated, traditional vernacular village of Haverthwaite, with its cluster of white-washed houses;
- Sense of tranquillity disturbed in places, adjacent to the A590 main road corridor.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The meandering corridor of the River Leven, fringed with sand and mud at low tide, dominates the character of this area. Strong recognisable sense of place is apparent as result of views southwards along the river corridor and also northwards towards the rising, predominantly wooded, low fells, which provide a sense of enclosure.

Adjacent to the river channel, a small-scale and relatively intimate patchwork of pasture fields, interspersed with patches of woodland are visible. Within pockets of the landscape, sense of tranquillity is relatively strong, however the A590 main road corridor introduces a source of movement and noise.

The small village of Havethwaite imparts a vernacular built character on the surrounding landscape, with its arrangement of white buildings and houses, adjacent to the River Leven corridor.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 67: BIGLAND

Location and Boundaries

Bigland Area of Distinctive Character is situated close to the southern edge of the Lake District National Park and falls predominantly within the Low Fell Edge (L) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Small-scale rolling landscape characterised by a patchwork of different habitats, offering variety and diversity;
- Wide, open views from the higher points, including Brow Edge, over the area, towards the Low Fells beyond.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This small-scale, intimate and diverse landscape incorporates a rich variety of habitats, including many small woodland plantations (both deciduous and coniferous with lots of coppice), the hummocky rough grassland of the ‘allotments’ and large pastoral fields demarcated by dry stone walls, which follow the curve of the fells. Additional colour and variety is apparent with bracken, hawthorn and gorse on top of the fell. A series of narrow becks criss-cross the landscape, with Bigland Tarn (reflecting the surrounding trees in the blue-grey surface of the tarn). Visible colour composition includes a wide spectrum of different greens, browns, greys and blues.

The area is accessible via a handful of narrow secondary roads, connecting the few hamlets, the village of Backbarrow, and the scattered farms, coupled with a relatively dense network of footpaths. As a result, a strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness is apparent aided by the nature of the vegetation, which contributes to a sense of enclosure.

From the higher points, in particular the area on top of the fells to the east of the hamlet of Brow Edge, (which was once a wartime viewing point) striking views can be gained across landscape within this area, towards rising Low Fells beyond.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 68: BROUGHTON EAST

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the southeastern corner of the National Park, stretching from High Cark in the west to Lindale in the east. The area falls predominantly within the Coastal Limestone (C) Landscape Character Type, with the northern edges within the Low Fell Edge (L).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A cluttered low level rolling farmland covered by a dense network of lanes, linking small hamlets and scattered farms;
- Consumption walls, including huge walls around High Cark;
- Views of surrounding low fells, including Newton Fell in the north;
- From Hampsfell, striking views over the character area and the mountains far beyond.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character encompasses low-lying farmland area, which has a predominantly smooth texture, surrounded by adjacent Low Fells, which provide a sense of enclosure and containment. Uniform in colour, this rolling pastoral farmland, with its small, generally irregular, fields (bound by a combination of dry stone walls and hedgerows) becomes a bit more rugged in appearance, and gains a more open character, just to southwest of Lindale. In this location, topography and land cover is more characteristic of the adjacent Low Fell landscape, with woodland plantations (both deciduous and coniferous, alternated with heather moorland, taking the place of pastoral farmland).

Intimate in scale, the area is very accessible with narrow secondary roads criss-crossing the landscape, connecting the scattering of hamlets and farms, which, with their vernacular character contribute to recognisable sense of place within the area.

From Hampsfell, southeast of Lindale, striking views can be gained across the area and the distant fells far beyond, creating a strong sense of openness and remoteness, in stark contrast with the rest of the landscape within this area.

Dry stone walls demarcating the fields in the area, tend to be high – in particular around High Cark, the walls are huge – ever giving evidence of the rich cultural heritage of the landscape and its underlying geology.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 69: FOULSHAW & MEATHOP

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character towards the southern edge of the Lake District National Park and falls within the Coastal Margins (B) and Estuary and Marsh (A) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- A low-lying landscape characterised by a regular network of pastoral fields interspersed with large areas of peat bog and raised mire;
- Sense of enclosure and contrast provided by coniferous plantations (occasionally interspersed with deciduous species);
- Flat, open nature of the landscape, with expansive views south and east along the Kent Estuary and expanse of Milnthorpe Sands;
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by adjacent Low Fells to the north.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character encompasses Foulshaw (a series of lowland raised peat bogs, partly drained and planted with predominantly coniferous woodland) and Meathop (a series of raised mires) Mosses. This intricate landscape is surrounded by a patchwork of regular, predominantly pastoral (dairy fields), which are delineated by low hedgerows and drainage ditches.

Recognisable sense of place is strong, on account of open views (from the southern and eastern edges of the mosses) towards the Kent Estuary and adjacent rising Newton Fell and Whitbarrow Scar (from the northern edges). This is a flat, low-lying landscape, which is only punctuated occasionally with pockets of higher land, such as the small, partly wooded mound of Ulpha Fell (rising to a height of 35 m above the surrounding landscape) providing a visual focal point. Patches of limestone pavement add texture and rugged variety to this otherwise smooth landscape.

Settlement pattern is sparse (consisting of very occasional farmsteads and the small hamlet of grange), resulting in a generally strong sense of tranquillity and emphasising the peaceful and rural character of this area.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 70: THE LYTH VALLEY

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the southeastern corner of the Lake District National Park and continues to curve southwards outside the boundaries of the National Park. The Lyth Valley landscape character area is situated in the southeastern corner of the National Park. The area encompasses Broad Lowland Valley (M) and Low Fell Edge (L) Landscape Character Types.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Dykes and hedges demarcate the large, regular pastoral fields and pockets of wet grassland;
- Broad lowland valley which has a strong landscape pattern of regular geometric fields;
- The Valley is famous for its damson orchards, which add great seasonal variety to the landscape;
- Gently meandering narrow corridor of the River Gilpin, set within a much broader valley floodplain.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The broad Lyth Valley encompasses a series of regular, predominantly pastoral fields, which are delineated by a network of regular field boundaries (including hedgerows and drainage dykes). Damson trees, dotted among the large green fields are set against a dramatic backdrop formed by the surrounding low fells, including Whitbarrow Scar to the west and Underbarrow Scar (outside the National Park) to the east. This valley (which is underlain by limestone) has great seasonal diversity, which determines ever-changing colour composition within the landscape, which is dominated by white in spring by the blossoms of the damsons and purple in autumn by its fruit.

Strong sense of place is apparent, partly due to the general absence of stone walls at field boundaries (which are typical of much of the rest of the Lake District landscape), and also by proximity to the wide estuary of the River Kent (which is fed by the River Gilpin) to the south. Within views southwards, there is a strong sense of openness, with generally wide visual panoramas. There is also a sense of human intervention over the landscape of this area, which has been reclaimed and drained (via pumps) for many years.

This Area of Distinctive Character encompasses a very peaceful valley, evoking a strong sense of calm and relatively strong sense of tranquillity. Settlement pattern is sparse, with scattered halls, houses and farms peppered across the landscape. The vernacular character of these buildings contributes to a sense of coherency and balance within this valley.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 71: BIRKBECK FELL COMMON AND BORROWDALE FELL

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated at the eastern edge of the Lake District National Park and extends to the east of the Park boundary. The area is predominantly underlain by Rounded, Angular High Fell (G) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

- Deeply incised valleys and gills, crags and dramatic steep scarps with scree;
- Improved and semi-improved pastures in sheltered valleys especially on south and east;
- Traditional stone buildings and stone walls (in-by and out-by);
- Open moorland on Birkbeck Fell Common;
- Forestry plantations in the north of the area;
- Few settlements in valleys.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character encompasses sweeping expanses of open moorland and fell, which are characterised by rough grassland, dwarf shrub heaths, peatlands, bracken and areas of rock outcrop and screees.

In contrast to the open moorland and fells, sheltered valleys or dales comprise improved and semi-improved grassland enclosed by dry stone walls and hedgerows. Traditional stone farm buildings in vernacular styles with slated roofs are typical at these lower altitudes. The ancient patterns of stone walls which subdivide lowland pasture and high fell sides reflect the management of land as inbye, intake and fell grazing and create a strong landscape pattern. In some areas, poorly drained land often supports unimproved wetland habitats, which add to the variety and texture of the landscape. Water courses, including narrow open ditches usually lined with broadleaved trees and shrubs together with small copses and small woodlands, create a sense of local enclosure.

Despite proximity to the M6 motorway corridor, a strong sense of isolation, wildness and tranquillity prevails throughout much of this landscape.

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1 See Alison Farmer Associates (March 2005:40) Recommended Area of Search for Land Worthy of Designation in the North West of England
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 72: CONISTON FELLS

Location and Boundaries

This dome-shaped Area of Distinctive Character is located to the south of the Central Lake District and the west of Coniston Water. Its highest hills are The Old Man of Coniston, and Wetherlam, which are linked by a horseshoe-shaped ridge incorporating Swirl How. From these central highest points, the area gradually slopes down to the Tilberthwaite Fells to the north (just south of Wrynose Pass), Seathwaite fell towards Dunnerdale in the west, Torver High Common to the south and the intakes associated with Coniston Village to the east. The area forms Sub-Type F1 within the Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

- The disparity between the dominating “natural” features of the mountains themselves, and the way they have been chipped away at by people. However, centuries of quarrying have not reduced the impressiveness of the hills.
- The strongly textured and rough appearance of the landscape, pitted with old mineral working. Its grey colour, lack of vegetation, and dramatic glaciated scenery.
- A long history of slate and mineral extraction, which is clearly visible in today’s landscape, giving it a slightly other-worldly and abandoned feel.
- Rapidly changing views, and changing perceptions of scale and enclosure.
- Association with Arthur Ransome’s “Swallows and Amazons” novels.
- Coniston Old Man is one of the most easily accessible peaks in the Lake District, therefore popular with walkers and families.
- An area capable of great variation in its atmosphere, depending on the time of year, the weather conditions and the number of visitors.
- The distinctive hill profiles form the backdrop to many views. There is a sense of the Old Man of Coniston watching over his village and lake.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The central (highest) part of the Area of Distinctive Character contains impressive examples of glacial topography, including steep-sided hanging valleys, corries, arêtes and the pyramidal peak of Wetherlam. There are several dramatically sited corrie lakes, including Goat’s Water, Low Water and Lever’s Water (a reservoir). Mineral veins are visible in the rocks, and the presence of copper gives the tarn of Low Water a distinctive bright blue colour.

The forms of the landscape remain impressive and dramatic, despite centuries of mining and quarrying for their slate and mineral deposits. The relics of this industry are still very visible in today’s landscape; as the hillsides are littered with spoil tips, adits, shafts and occasional pieces of mining machinery, which can give the landscape a strangely “abandoned” feel. The area known as Coniston Coppermines (above Miner’s Bridge out of Coniston village) also has numerous ruins of former mining buildings, particularly around Levers Water Beck. A row of former miners cottages remain inhabited, and the Coniston Coppermines Youth Hostel was formerly part of the mine complex.

The scale of the landscape varies greatly within the area. Within the steep valleys, the landscape feels fairly intimate, but in views from the summits, particularly from Wetherlam, the fells are open and expansive. The sea is visible to the south and west, and the Isle of Man is visible on clear days. Views change suddenly, around bends in valleys.

Arthur Ransome described the Coniston Fells extensively in his “Swallows and Amazons” series of books. The “Katchenjunga” climbed in “Swallowdale” is the Old Man of Coniston, and “Pidgeon
Post” was set on the Coniston Fells, with “Slater Bob’s mine” being the Penny Rigg quarry, on the lower slopes of Wetherlam.

This Area of Distinctive Character is very popular with walkers and families, because of its association with the Arthur Ransome novels, its views, the desolate beauty of the rocky landscape, but also for its convenience; Coniston is relatively easily accessible by main road, and there is a car park part-way up the Old Man of Coniston. Consequently, the footpath up the Old Man of Coniston, and the paths around Coniston Coppermines are usually busy, with a bustling, cheerful atmosphere. Away from the most popular routes, particularly during poorer weather conditions, the atmosphere is very different- the abandoned mines take on a far more isolated and desolate quality, the hills seem less approachable, and the whole atmosphere seems much less comfortable.

The Old Man of Coniston forms an impressive and well-known backdrop to views west from Coniston water and across the lake from the eastern shore. There is a sense of the Old Man of Coniston watching over his village and lake. Wetherlam to the north is visible from Ambleside and the northern end of Windermere. From the latter viewpoint it visually balances the Langdale Pikes in views to the west.
AREA OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER 73: FAIRFIELD HORSESHOE

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is located at the centre of the Lake District, immediately to the north of Ambleside and Rydal. It is within the Rugged, Craggy High Fell (F) Landscape Character Type.

Distinctive Characteristics

- The distinctive shape of the horseshoe of hills, which forms the setting to Ambleside.
- The contrasting sense of place between the centre of the horseshoe (including the mature parkland associated with Rydal Hall) and the ridge.
- Views over many Lake District landscape character areas.
- A harsh environment, with snow pockets often remaining until spring. Very bleak in winter, or in poor visibility.
- Walking back down into Ambleside has a sense of “returning to civilisation”

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The most distinctive aspect of this Area of Distinctive Character is the horseshoe-shape of the hills, with Fairfield in the centre at the highest point. The Fairfield horseshoe forms the setting to Ambleside in views from the south and south-west, including from Lake Windermere.

There is a great contrast in the sense of place between the centre of the horseshoe and the ridge. From within the horseshoe the horizon is very high, and one feels protected, sheltered and enclosed by the surrounding hills. The parkland associated with Rydal Hall also gives a serene, established and soft character to the landscape. However, from the ridge of the horseshoe, the lack of vegetation, the low horizon and the panoramic views give a sense of exhilaration, and of being “on top of the world”.

From the highest parts of the horseshoe, much of the sense of place comes from the views out. Windermere lake is visible to the south, the central fells to the west, Helvellyn to the north, and a series of horizontal ridges rising towards High Street to the east. One can see much of the Lake District from here, and there is contrast between the relatively soft, low and vegetated landscape to the south, and the higher, rougher fells to the north. These views make the Fairfield Horseshoe a popular walk, and the colours, movements and voices of walkers are part of the character of the area.

The top of Fairfield is flat, and scree covered. It is slightly disorientating, particularly in poor visibility when reference points in the views are not visible. This is a harsh environment, with snow pockets often remaining well into the spring, and it can appear very bleak. On descending the horseshoe and arriving back into Rydal or Ambleside, there is a sense of “returning to civilisation”
6.0 NEXT STEPS

6.1 General

6.1.1 The draft assessment has confirmed the diversity of the Lake District’s landscapes, identifying 13 generic Landscape Character Types and 73 individual Areas of Distinctive Character within the 2,292 square kilometres covered by the National Park. At the broad scale, this diversity is largely influenced by the varied geology (slates, granites, volcanics, limestones and sandstones) and the topographic variety (coastal margins, estuary and marsh, high and low fells, rolling lowlands, upland dales and river valleys). This assessment also confirms that the historical settlement, development and use of the Lake District landscape, and its ecological character, reflect this diversity.

6.1.2 The next steps for the Study are set out below.

6.2 Further Stakeholder Consultation

6.2.1 Further stakeholder consultation is planned during the next stages of the Study as follows:

- Workshop for Natural England, Friends of Lake District and National Park staff - Tuesday 19th June at the National Park Authority’s offices in Kendal.

- Stakeholder Workshops - Thursday 19th July 2007 at the National Park Authority’s offices in Kendal (to present the interim findings of the character assessment work; present the proposed scope of the guidelines/opportunities for managing change; and to discuss with stakeholders how these can be used to inspire locally appropriate landscape management and inform the planning and development control process)

- Obtaining stakeholders additional views through the Consultation Questionnaire previously circulated

- Obtaining stakeholders views through discussions on a one-to-one basis where requested

- Contact Parish Councils directly to encourage completion of survey questionnaire, and invite parishes to identify in words and/or pictures what it is about their local landscape that matters and why.

6.3 Refinement of the Character Assessment

6.3.1 The draft Character Assessment will be refined during July and August 2007 to take into account the following:

- The need to incorporate the CPRE tranquillity mapping analysis into the character descriptions set out in Sections 4.0 and 5.0.

- Following the deadline for responses on 13 July, incorporation of the public questionnaire findings into the character descriptions

- Incorporation of general information from on-going stakeholder and public consultations and detailed feedback from the client commissioning group/partner organisations staff on the draft Character Assessment
• Illustrating the character descriptions for the Areas of Distinctive Character using photographs (including aerial images), historic maps/postcards, quotes (from poets, writers and local communities), and other visual material integrated into the text to help fully highlight the distinctiveness/unique characteristics of each area. This could include the information gathered from the Parish Council consultation proposed above.

6.4 Evaluation & Guidelines Preparation

6.4.1 This stage of the Study is programmed to be completed during July and August 2007. It will involve evaluating each of the landscape character units to inform judgements about their inherent sensitivities, capacity to accommodate future forces for change and the development of appropriate landscape guidelines to inform policy formulation and decision making in relation to land management, planning and design within the National Park.

6.4.2 A proposed method statement for this stage of the study is set out in Appendix C.

6.5 Preparation of Overall Report

6.5.1 An overall report for the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines will be prepared in draft and submitted to the Project Group for review in early September. The overall report will incorporate a range of visual material including high quality maps, photographs and other images to help convey the character of the Lake District’s landscapes in pictures as well as in words.

6.5.2 The overall report will include recommendations on developing a framework for monitoring landscape change in the Lake District National Park.

6.5.3 The overall report is scheduled to be finalised by the end of September 2007.
THE LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT AND LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES

TENDER BRIEF

Introduction

A partnership of organisations (The Lake District National Park Authority, Friends of the Lake-District, The National Trust and Natural England) wishes to commission consultants to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment with Landscape Guidelines for the Lake District National Park. The project will be carried out according to ‘Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland’ (2002), by The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage.

The Character Assessment and Guidelines will be separate sections of a single document. The Character Assessment will capture baseline information in an objective, transparent and value free way and the Guidelines will involve making judgements leading to guidelines for landscape related planning, management and design policies and prescriptions.

The document will provide an invaluable tool to inform the project partners planning, design and land management services and will be readily available to other partners, stakeholders and customers. It will act as an information resource for all, from national agencies to students and casual visitors; it will promote better understanding of the challenges facing the Lake District and more effective planning and management of the Lake District National Park landscape.

Aims

Character Assessment

- To improve the knowledge and understanding of the Lake District landscape to help conserve and enhance the overall characteristics, qualities and diversity of landscape character, its sense of place and local distinctiveness.
- To identify and understand factors influencing landscape change.
- To provide baseline data to facilitate future monitoring
- To develop indicators to monitor change within individual landscape types/areas.

Guidelines

- To support a holistic approach to managing change and encourage the sustainable planning and management of the Lake District landscape including the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment and the enrichment of biological diversity.

Objectives

Character Assessment

- To highlight and describe the character of the physical, cultural, historical, ecological, visual and sensory landscape.
- To identify past, present and future forces for change and describe their impacts.
To assess the sensitivity to and capacity for change, for the various landscape character areas and landscape types.

Guidelines

- To provide local planning, management and design guidelines, integrated with the Local Development Framework and the National Park Management Plan, for each landscape character area and landscape type.
- To recommend how these guidelines can be implemented.
- To suggest indicators for monitoring landscape change.

Scope

The Lake District National Park boundary will define the project but the setting, including but not exclusive to, the zone of visual impact, the relationship with adjacent areas and the fact that landscape character types and areas do not coincide with administrative boundaries must be considered and recorded. The relationship between coastal areas and seascapes is also important in this context. Consultants must set out in their tender response how they would manage this information.

We believe that individual policies, plans, proposals and advice involving landscape change must:

- be based on a sound understanding of the characteristics and features which make a place and its setting different from elsewhere;
- take account of the importance of local features of interest, viewpoints and changes in scenery encountered when moving through an area; and
- be responsive to, and avoid adverse impacts on, less tangible qualities associated with a sense of wildness, remoteness and freedom.

The LCA/Guidelines will help us achieve this and must work to a scale and level of detail which makes it possible. In some areas this may encompass broad tracts of land of similar character as a single unit whilst in others it may require working at a much smaller scale reflecting the distinctiveness of land units and where particularly significant, influential, or unique characteristics or features are present.

Whilst the document essentially deals with the countryside the effects of settlement pattern and vernacular building style must be considered, particularly with reference to the 20 designated conservation areas within the National Park.

Tranquillity mapping will be incorporated into the Classification/Guidelines using the CPRE/CA guidelines piloted in Northumberland National Park and subsequent CPRE mapping.

Uses

The document must be comprehensive in its content and clear in its presentation so as to facilitate the following uses:

- Provide valuable information to influence the full extent of the land use planning system from strategic planning, the Local Development Framework to the development control decision-making process.
- Add to the transparency of the planning process by setting out a method of assessment in line with national guidelines.
- Provide essential information and guidance to land owners and managers.
- Act as an information resource to our partners and customers from national agencies to students and visitors.
Help guide the working of agri-environment and woodland grant schemes.
Provide guidance for anyone implementing work on the ground projects.
Provide a baseline for State of the Park reporting and identify critical indicators of change.
Be an information source for the National Park Management Plan review.
Strengthen the potential World Heritage Site Inscription bid.
Add to the outputs of the Lake District Historic Landscape Classification.
Inform the development of Strategic Area Management Plans
Assist in developing property management plans
Provide supporting information for Supplementary Planning Documents.

Context
The document must sit in context with, relate to and compliment the following:

- Countryside Character Volume 2: North West
- European Landscape Convention
- Govt Sustainable Development Strategy, A Better Quality of Life
- Cumbria Landscape Classification
- Cumbria Landscape Strategy
- MAFF Environmentally Sensitive Area LCA
- Cumbria Historic Landscape Classification
- Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan
- Existing Village/Parish/Community Plans (20 complete, 8 in progress)
- LDNPA State of the Park Report
- World Heritage Site Inscription bid
- The National Trust Strategy for the Lake District
- Current proposed National Park boundary changes
- The LDNPA Vision
- The Local Development Framework
- The Countryside Quality Counts Project
- Tranquillity mapping (CPRE/CA methodology)
- PPS7

Methodology
The methodology to be followed will be as set down in Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland produced by the Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage in 2002.

Additionally the research should include development of appropriate indicators of change for each landscape type/area which can be used to demonstrate whether change is happening that is inconsistent with existing landscape character. These should take into account the main forces for change identified within the characterisation process and must be suitable to build on existing datasets for use in measuring the state of the National Park. We would like the contractor to be creative in developing these indicators.

The methodology will involve a mixture of desktop study, fieldwork, stakeholder consultation and liaison with the partner organisations to maximise best use of their existing relevant data and knowledge base.

Desktop study will include developing the use of, and links with, existing Mapinfo based GIS data held by the partner organisations. Local knowledge from within partner organisations should contribute to the information gathering exercise and interviews with appropriate staff should be part
of the process. Temporary office accommodation will be made available to the consultant for accessing and compiling data if required.

Fieldwork should also draw on local knowledge. Locally based staff (for example National Park Rangers and National Trust Property Managers) will be available for interview and temporary office space will be available to the consultant in various locations throughout the National Park for this stage of the project.

Stakeholder Consultation will involve contacting key stakeholders (partner organisations and major landowners/land managers) individually. A list of key stakeholders will be compiled in conjunction with the project manager and will not exceed 20 names. It will also include preparing a questionnaire, to be advertised in the local press and available through the Lake District National Park Authority website, Tourist Information Centres and by post on request. Any additional innovative methods of engaging the public in the project would be welcomed. Results of consultation will be considered during preparation of the LCA/Guidelines and reported in a separate report to be presented to the Advisory Group.

Format and Outputs

The Assessment and Guidelines need to be accessible to all.

The Assessment (characterisation) part of the document will contain descriptions of the process and methodology, descriptions of landscape character areas and types, features and locations, maps, tables, photographs, drawings and any other medium felt necessary to communicate information at the various levels at which it is expected to work. It will also indicate how it relates to other landscape character assessments at larger and smaller scales and within adjacent administrative boundaries.

The Guidelines part of the document will fully describe the approach and reasoning behind making judgements and recommendations, the link between characterisation work and judgements made and the role played by stakeholders.

The document must be accessible via:

1. Electronic access via the Lake District National Park Authority website
2. CD format
3. Hard copy

On completion the consultant must produce twelve hard copies, twelve CDs and a series of PDFs (Portable Document Formats) of the document, under one megabyte each, suitable for Lake District National Park Authority staff to add to the website.

All text should be produced in Microsoft WORD and maps must be in a format suitable for importing into MAPINFO.

Timetable

Project milestones:

17 Nov 2006 Advertise for ‘expressions of interest’ from consultants in Landscape Institute publication ‘Vista’
24 Nov 2006 Invitation to Tender
11 Dec 2006 End tender period/Open tenders/Invitations to present
13 Dec 2006 Presentations/Interviews
14 Dec 2006 Appoint consultants
w/b 18 Dec Start-up meeting (date to be agreed)
12 Feb 2007 Present 1st draft (Landscape Assessment) and progress report by consultant
03 May 2007 Present final draft (Landscape Assessment) and 2nd progress report
16 July 2007 Present 1st draft (Landscape Guidelines) and progress report
17 Aug 2007 Present final draft of complete project and progress report
31 Aug 2007 Approve submission or seek changes
30 Oct 2007 Controlled close
07 Dec 2007 Launch and sponsors acknowledgements/Publication on LDNPA website

**Reporting procedures**

The project will be guided by an Advisory Group representing key stakeholders in the Lake District and the consultant must include for a minimum of four meetings/presentations in Kendal to report progress to this group.

The Project Manager for this project is:

Chris Greenwood  
Landscape Architect  
Lake District National Park Authority  
Murley Moss  
Oxenholme Road  
Kendal  
Cumbria LA9 7RL

Tel: 01539 792618  
Fax: 01539 740822  
E: chris.greenwood@lake-district.gov.uk

All contact with the partner organisations will initially be through this channel.
Acknowledgements

This Study was undertaken on behalf of a partnership of organisations comprising the Lake District National Park Authority, Friends of the Lake District, The National Trust and Natural England by Chris Blandford Associates (CBA). CBA would like to thank the Client Commissioning Group for their guidance and support, including:

- Chris Greenwood - Lake District National Park Authority (Project Manager/Landscape Architect)
- Andrew Herbert - Lake District National Park Authority (Head of Conservation)
- Jack Ellerby - Friends of the Lake District
- Jeremy Barlow/John Darlington - The National Trust
- Susannah England/Dan Hunt - Natural England

The consultants also wish to acknowledge the considerable inputs and assistance provided by staff from the Client Commissioning Group partner organisations, and from the many stakeholder organisations and individuals who contributed to the preparation of the Study.

The CBA Project Team comprised:

- Dominic Watkins
- Chris Blandford
- Emma Clarke
- Sarah de Vos
- Alison MacDonald
- Marian Cameron
- Will Salvetti
- Jonathan Webb
- Keith Rowe (ADAS)
- Fiona Fyfe (Living Landscapes Consultancy Ltd)
THE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

In summary, the Character Assessment involved:

- Information Scoping
- Desk-Based Research
- Fieldwork
- Characterisation - the classification and description of landscape units

Information Scoping

This preliminary stage involved the following main tasks to scope the information available for the Study:

- Identifying and reviewing existing landscape character assessment information covering the Lake District
- Obtaining relevant landscape character assessment information for incorporation into the landscape character assessment
- Identifying shortfalls in coverage and detail of existing landscape character assessment information, and determining further assessment work required where necessary to provide an appropriate level of information for incorporation into the Lake District assessment.

Desk-Based Research

This stage involved desk-based research to identify the physical and historical factors that have influenced the shape and use of the landscape. This work drew on a variety of documents, maps and digital data that describe the physical geography and cultural history of the Lake District (see Appendix D for details of the main sources of information used to inform the Study). The desk research also identified the forces for change affecting the character of the Lake District’s landscape.

In summary, the desk-based research involved:

- Review of relevant published landscape character assessments within and around the National Park - including the Countryside Agency’s Character of England Map, the Cumbria County Landscape Classification and other existing assessments
- Review and analysis of the available datasets related to the physical and natural environment
- Review and analysis of the available datasets related to the historical and cultural environment – including in particular the Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation data for the Lake District National Park
- Discussions with staff from the client commissioning partners organisations to obtain local knowledge to contribute to the information gathering exercise
- Review and analysis of tranquillity mapping dataset (data awaited)
- Review and analysis of OS maps and air photos
- Production and analysis of map overlays of physical and cultural components of the landscape
- Identification and mapping of draft Landscape Character Types for testing in the field
Fieldwork

Fieldwork involved assessing how different features and elements combined to create distinctive patterns in the landscape, and identifying issues and landscape sensitivities, visible forces for change and management needs. The fieldwork was undertaken from key viewpoints within each draft Landscape Character Type by a team of field assessors using a structured checklist. The checklist included:

- physical influences:
  * geology
  * elevation
  * landform
  * soils
  * drainage pattern
- human influences:
  * land use
  * land/vegetation cover
  * field patterns and boundaries
  * communications/routes
  * settlement form/pattern
  * building styles
  * recreation
- visual character (e.g. landmarks/skylines/key views)
- aesthetic and perceptual characteristics (including tranquillity)
- landscape condition/intactness
- landscape and visual sensitivities
- visible forces for change
- landscape management issues

The fieldwork drew on discussions with staff from the client commissioning partners organisations to incorporate their local knowledge into the assessment. A record of the field survey notes from this process are provided as Appendix E. This survey information (including photographs) has been used to inform the descriptions of landscape character and to test and refine the preliminary landscape character unit boundaries. This information will also be used to inform the preparation of the landscape guidelines (see Stage 6 below).

Characterisation

The characterisation stage involved the combination of the findings from the desk study research and field survey analysis to inform a classification of the landscape into discrete units of land.

The classification consists of generic ‘Landscape Character Types’ (broad tracts of land of similar character - such as the High Fells) and geographically specific ‘Areas of Distinctive Character’ (smaller scale units of land with particularly significant, influential or unique characteristics and features – such as Tarn Hows). Where necessary, Sub-Types are identified and mapped to reflect local variations of a main Landscape Character Type.

These landscape units were mapped and assessed at 1:25,000 scale. The mapped extents of these units reflect variations in the complexity and pattern of local characteristics and features across the Study Area identified through the characterisation process.

As acknowledged by the Countryside Agency’s guidelines, landscape is a continuum and character does not in general change abruptly on the ground. More commonly, the character of the landscape
will change gradually rather than suddenly, and therefore the boundaries between landscape character units should be considered to reflect zones of transition in many cases.

**Description of the Landscape Character Types**

For each Landscape Character Type (and any Sub-Types), its boundaries are mapped and character described under the following headings:

- **Location and Boundaries** – a short paragraph detailing location in terms of overall National Park and major settlements
- **Definitive Attributes** – a bullet point list of the main landscape attributes that contribute to character
- **Physical Character** – a summary description of geology/soils, landform, hydrology and land cover elements that contribute to character
- **Ecological Character** – a summary description of ecological habitats and their relative nature conservation importance that contribute to character, by reference to designated sites citations and the distribution of designated sites
- **Cultural and Historical Character** – a summary description of the main cultural associations and historical features that contribute to character, by reference to the historic landscape characterisation data and distribution of designated assets
- **Settlement and Building Character** – a summary description of the settlement forms/origins and patterns, building styles and vernacular materials that contribute to character, by reference to fieldwork, research and existing assessments
- **Landscape Character Sub-Types** – where identified, a bullet point list of the main landscape attributes that contribute to the character of the Sub-Type that reflects a local variation in the character of the overall Landscape Character Type.

The above information is set out in Section 4.0 of this interim report.

**Description of the Areas of Distinctive Character**

For each Area of Distinctive Character, its boundaries are mapped and character described under the following headings:

- **Location and Boundaries** – a short paragraph detailing location in terms of National Park and boundaries in relation to underlying Landscape Character Types/Sub-Types
- **Distinctive Characteristics** – a bullet point list of the main distinctive visible and non-visible experiential characteristics of the landscape that contribute to the area’s distinctive character.
- **Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place** - a summary description of the main locally distinctive characteristics and features that give the area its unique sense of place

The above descriptions focus on identifying both the aesthetic aspects (such as scale, enclosure, diversity, unity, texture, form, line, colour, balance/proportion, movement, pattern), and perceptual aspects that contribute to the character of the landscape (such as sense of wildness/remoteness, the quality of light and perceptions of beauty or scenic attractiveness).
This assessment is based on fieldwork observations, supplemented by the local knowledge of staff from the client commissioning partners organisations.

*NB. the CPRE tranquility mapping dataset is to be integrated into the descriptions by applying an analysis of the positive and negative factors affecting tranquility for each Area - such as noise levels, perceived naturalness, visible overt human impact, density of settlement/diffusion of people and artificial lighting. This analysis is to be completed.*
THE EVALUATION & GUIDELINES METHODOLOGY

NB. This part of the process is to be completed. The following is an outline method statement for discussion with the client commissioning group and key stakeholders.

In summary, this part of the process will involve evaluating the descriptive information for each of the Landscape Character Types and Areas of Distinctive Character to inform judgements about:

- Landscape Sensitivities and Capacity for Change
- Forces for Change

These judgements will lead to the identification of opportunities for managing landscape change for:

- Each Landscape Character Type
- Each Area of Distinctive Character

The evaluation and guidelines are presented at the end of the description or ‘profile’ for each individual Landscape Character Type and Area of Distinctive Character.

Landscape Character Types

Landscape Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

A bullet point list of the key positive attributes that are judged to be inherently sensitive; the inherent character of the Landscape Character Type or specific Sub-Types would be changed if these attributes were lost or altered.

This analysis is supported by a judgement on the capacity of the overall Landscape Character Type to accommodate change.

This evaluation is based on fieldwork observations and the local knowledge of staff from the client commissioning partners organisations.

Forces for Change

A bullet point list of recent past changes in the Landscape Character Type, and a separate bullet point list of the positive and negative future changes that are considered likely to affect the landscape over the short-term (5 years) and long term (20 years +). Where relevant, issues related to past and future changes associated with specific Sub-Types are also identified.

This evaluation is based on the local knowledge of staff from the client commissioning partners organisations, fieldwork observations and the assessment of ecological, socio-economic and rural land management forces for change presented in Section 2.0 of this Study.

Opportunities for Managing Landscape Change

A concise statement setting out the overall management objective for the Landscape Character Type, supported by a bullet point list of specific opportunities for managing landscape change for the overall Type. These will focus on land (and water) management considerations. Where relevant, specific opportunities that apply to Sub-Types are also identified.

Areas of Distinctive Character

Landscape Sensitivities and Capacity for Change
A bullet point list of the key positive experiential aspects that are judged to be inherently sensitive; the inherent character of the Area of Distinctive Character would be changed if these attributes were lost or altered.

This analysis is supported by a judgement on the capacity of the Area of Distinctive Character to accommodate change.

This evaluation is based on fieldwork observations and the local knowledge of staff from the client commissioning partners organisations.

**Forces for Change**

A statement providing a cross-reference to the forces for change from the relevant underlying Landscape Character Type/Sub-Types that affect the Area of Distinctive Character.

**Opportunities for Managing Landscape Change**

A statement providing a cross-reference to the broad landscape management objectives and guidelines for the relevant underlying Landscape Character Type/Sub-Types that apply within the Area of Distinctive Character.

A bullet point list of opportunities for managing landscape change that are specific to the Area of Distinctive Character. These will focus on land use planning/design considerations.

**Indicators for Monitoring Changes in Landscape Character**

Indicators for the objective monitoring of future change in landscape character will be defined. These will be designed to measure individual elements or cumulative changes to assess whether they are (i) negative changes that are inconsistent with the defined character and weaken the special qualities of the Park, or (ii) positive changes that are consistent with the defined character and support/enhance the special qualities of the Park.

The monitoring framework will use the information from the mapping and description of the Landscape Character Types and Areas of Distinctive Character in the Lake District National Park as a baseline. A sample of views will be selected from to identify and measure the individual elements or cumulative changes that are directly affecting visual landscape change.

The selection of individual landscape elements as indicators will:

- reflect the distinctive character of individual Landscape Character Types/Areas;
- be liable to experience change either in extent or in relation to condition;
- be capable of being measured against the key management objectives/guidelines for individual Landscape Character Types/Areas and the overall monitoring target.

The selection of indicators will also consider the following:

- they will be defined precisely in terms of desired trends;
- the desired direction of change (target) of the chosen indicator will be defined;
- the views of stakeholders on the choice of indicators, particularly where their participation is needed to collect information to monitor changes.

The indicators would monitor the following changes within individual Landscape Character Types/Areas as appropriate:
• changes in the extent of characteristic landscape elements;
• changes in the condition of characteristic landscape elements;
• changes in the extent and form of new elements in the landscape.
Digital Datasets

Character of England Map – Joint Character Areas
Cumbria Landscape Classification – Landscape Character Types/Sub-Types

Topographic/elevation data
Surface drainage
Floodplains
Geology
Soils
Woodland
Tranquillity Mapping Data

RAMSAR sites
SACs
SPAs
SSSIs
Local/county wildlife sites
Ancient Woodland
Local Nature Reserves
National Nature Reserves

Historic Landscape Character Types and Areas
Conservation Areas
Listed Buildings
Scheduled Monuments
Historic Parks and Gardens
Archaeological Sites/Features

Rights of Way network
Promoted routes
Open access land
Common Land

Major Landownership

Aerial photographs

1:50,000 OS base mapping
1:10,000 OS base mapping
Documents


LEADER + (Cumbria Fells and Dales) (Date unknown) Mineral Wealth

Lake District National Park Authority, Education Service (date unknown) Outline Geology of the Lake District.


English Heritage Atlas of Rural Settlement in England

Historic Landscape Characterisation Programme for Cumbria Project Design (Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority)

Historic Landscape Characterisation Programme for Cumbria - Lake District National Park Historic Landscape Character Areas (Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority)

A Social and Economic Profile of the Lake District National Park, LUC, 2004

Lake District National Park- State of the Park 2005/06

Lake District Economic Futures Study: Stage 1 & 2 Reports, June 2004


Lake District National Park Management Plan (LDPNA, 2004)


National Inventory of Woodland and Trees (The Forestry Commission, 2002.)

England Rural Development Programme - An Overview by the University of Reading (www.ecifm.rdg.ac.uk/compensatory_schemes)

English Upland Face Bleak Future (National Trust, 2005)


Cumbria County Council (1995) Cumbria Landscape Classification, Economy and Environment Cumbria County Council


Department of the Environment and Department of National Heritage (1994) Planning Policy Guidance note 15; Planning and the Historic Environment, HMSO

Planning Policy Statement 7, Sustainable Development in Rural Areas


LDNP Local Development Framework – LDS, SCI, LDD Issues & Options

LDNP State of the Park Report 2005/06

CBA Lake District WHS Statement of OUV Report

Lake District ESA Landscape Assessment

Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan

National Trust Lake District Vision 2025 (internal draft)

LDNP Vision

Countryside Quality Counts Project

European Landscape Convention/Biodiversity & Landscape Diversity Strategy
UK Sustainable Development Strategy – A Better Quality of Life

Recommended Draft Boundary for an Extension to the LDNP (AFA, 2005)

NT Property Management Plans (INSERT LIST)


Agri-Environment Schemes in the LDNP Uptake Data

LDNP Area Management Plans (INSERT LIST)

North West Regional Forestry Framework/District Strategy

Forest Design Plans for the LDNP

Flora of the Fells Visioning Project (see leaflet)

Tranquillity mapping (CPRE/CA methodology)

Historic Parishes of England & Wales (Roger and Richard, 2001)
FIELD SURVEY NOTES

The following notes are based on observations of the CBA field survey team and the Lake District National Park Rangers and National Trust Property Managers and Countryside Staff. These included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Park</th>
<th>National Trust</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scott Henderson</td>
<td>Penny Webb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graham Standring</td>
<td>Jim Loxham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Hill</td>
<td>John Pring</td>
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<td>Dave Pickup</td>
<td>Jeremy Barlow</td>
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<td>Steve Tatlock</td>
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<td>Chris Berry</td>
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<td>Ian Clemmett</td>
<td>John Malley</td>
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<td>Sue Thompson</td>
<td>David Almond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Gaskell</td>
<td>James Archer</td>
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Objectives of Site Visits and Field Survey Meetings:

The objectives of field survey visits and meetings, was to determine the following two key themes:

1. Definition of ‘Areas of Distinctive Character’: places with a strong sense of place, which gain their distinctiveness from unique combinations of physical, perceptual, ecological, historical and cultural characteristics. Examples of such characteristics may include combinations of the following:

   - Distinctive geology and topography
   - Unique mosaics of lakes, tarns and rivers
   - Opportunities for quiet enjoyment
   - Open nature of the fells
   - Distinctive settlement character
   - Celebrated social and cultural roots
   - Seasonal variations in the colour and texture of the landscape

2. Definition of the ‘key issues and challenges for sustaining these valued characteristics in the future’.

The following map indicates field survey zones. Each letter corresponds with the field survey notes set out below:

Area C

General

- Buttermere, Crummock and Loweswater appear as a line within the landscape;
- Haystacks have a Wainwright connection (his ashes are scattered here);
- Very steep and narrow valleyheads and the building character hasn’t changed much;
- Gateshead used to have a vachery,
- Buttermere is accessed by Whinlatter (towards CW), Newlands Pass (drove over in the morning), Honister pass;
- To the north, hamlets are more spread out/ dispersed and character of the landscape is more open;
- Buttermere village consists of hotels, 4 farms, YH, car parks
LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT AND GUIDELINES
Buttermere

- Buttermere is pastoral with mid to low grazing regime
- Natural oak woodland, natural ancient woodland with very little understorey (needs to be re-established);
- Ambleside a lot more commercialised;
- Peak times parties on lakeshore → disturbance
- Vales and more open in North;
- More complex in East;
- Grazing pressure keeps the sheep in one place;
- Heathland, under pressure from grazing?
- Bracken sprayed every year by helicopter;
- Moss Force popular with ice climbers;
- Relationship with rivers and houses;
- Top of Newlands, more pressure on paths, car parks enlarged, visitor numbers not up but more confidence’
- Colour of houses not covered by planning’
- Volcanic area (top);
- Crofting
  - People miss village because small hamlet, B landscape degraded by visitor pressure, parking main issue, farmers are allowed 28days a yr to open fields to visitors. Double yellow lines, boulders etc. to keep cars off verges, and changes in surface to discourage drivers to use certain roads.
- Buttermere community was built up around Millbeck, Syke Farm, and the church
- Valley bottom has a sense of openness in the foreground and there are views to haystacks (foreground)
- Strong sense of tranquillity around Crummock water (beach), more difficult to walk around lake
- Conifer plantation on the western shore → will be re-established as oak woodland
- Hedgerows between Crummock and Buttermere waters have been re-established in the last decade
- Buttermere has a very good circular walk around it
- Take rocks from the bottom of the scree to repair the paths, big boulders as steps to reduce erosion;
- NT have reclaimed village centre in Buttermere. Restored village heart (picnics etc, open space)
- Oak woodland on the w side of B has recently been grazed by cattle (rather than sheep)
- Geology apparent (rock outcrops)
- Clear artificial lines on valleysides, grazing/heather, want to avoid that
- Hedgerows blocking views looking south to B
- NT car parks quite nicely hidden by trees
- Oppressive corridor
- Used to test tanks during war
- Timber reused for NT houses
- Car crime a problem, people specifically target cars
- Parish boundaries tend to follow water features, ridgelines etc, watershed boundaries
- Try to avoid negative signage

Honister

- Slate mining
- Access tracks for quarries.
- Sled runs down screes
- Narrow V-shaped valley floor.
- 10m either side of road owned by NT. Remainder privately owned.
- Some grazing.
Crummock Area

- More tranquil. Less people because fewer paths.
- Victorian passenger ferry from Rannerdale Farm across lake.
- Rannerdale- bluebells without woodland.
- Low Fell prominent from Embleton and Stanger.
- N. Crummock and Loweswater. General landscape character notes:
  - Hedges alongside roads, some fences.
  - Key characteristics: lower hills, broad valleys, gorse
  - Softer landscape-deciduous woodland and hedges.
  - Some conifers on Eastern side.

Lorton Vale

- Another landscape character area
- Low fell becomes more prominent.
- From top end of area, open views back to Buttermere.
- Greater concentration of farms in this area.
- Stop by substation: Landscape slightly more cluttered: trees, fences, poles, etc.
- Subtle changes by farms being sold.
- Big green sheds as grant aid for winter stock cover.
- Landscape character reflects are to north.
- Good footpath network, unsurfaced roads,
- Fewer campsites Band Bs etc, therefore less commercialised. Area generally has fewer tourists, but used as recreation resource by residents of Keswick and Cockermouth.
- Farmers Quote: Having to look after the playground of the urban community

Sail Fell Valley
- Lord Inglewood’s land,
- Views to Lord’s seat to South.
- No commercialisation
- Field terraces.
- Ridge between Wythop Mill and Bassenthwaite- another landscape character change- becomes more dominated by Bassenthwaite and typical “lakeland scenery”.
- Whinlatter Forest- recreational resource for mountain biking, walking, fell running...

Matterdale

- Tight valleys run east-west further south.
- Ullswater
- Through route to Ambleside- road gets busy. Lots of caravan and camping sites- some conspicuous.
- Access to lakeshore path less obvious.
- Croft head farm area- landscape more like Embleton- lower and more pastoral.
- Blencathra = prominent landmark with distinctive saddle shape.
- Tranquillity in contrast with A66.
- Groups of Scots pines distinctive feature.
Area A

To the east and north of Skiddaw Range

- Carrock Fell - supposed Iron Age Hill Fort – Gabrow Rock and Axe Factory iste
- Mosedale Valley and Carrock Mine
- Series of mineralogically and historically important mines (Caldbeck Fells);
- Used to have problems with artefacts being nicked, now permit scheme for collecting;
- Tungsten mines – closed now – within the Skiddaw massif.
- Skiddaw/Blencathra – Saddleback – sharp edge for walking;
- Scales Tarn and Bowskill Tarn – Blencathra – Skiddaw slate
- Low Fells to the north of heather moorlands. SAC – Merlin and Red Grouse;
- Caldbeck Common, Mungrizedale Common and Threkeld Common;
- One of the issues is non-responsible visitors and closeness to Carlisle;
- Series of mires and valley bottoms;
- Some of the oldest volcanic rock;
- Views to Helvellyn range to the south;
- Matterdale Forest is Forestry Commission woodland;
- Very complex geology here;
- Further north granite;
- A few issues in the area with 4 wheel drives;
- Carlisle urban issues such as car burning, drugs;
- Heather moorland very important;
- Lots of glacial features, corries etc;
- To Eycott hill.
- Stone walls/fences, aligning roads.
- Very tranquil.
- Sheep.
- Beautiful views on sweeping fells.
- Vernacular material.
- Oak, gorse etc.
- Uplands and tenanted land;
- Wet end – water catchments and tarns;
- Bassenthwaite – European still waters partnership – Environment Agency, National Trust, Natural England, Forestry Authority;
- 5 valleys leading into Bassenthwaite – trying to stop silting getting into rivers;
- Venn Days glacial fish? – relic fish;
- Sustainable projects – stopping invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and unwanted pollution/New Zealand Pygme weed on Derwent Water;
- Kewick Tip – landfill site;
- Look at landscape in the bigger sense;
- The history of Force Crag mine – last mineral mine to be worked for Borites and zinc. Major production ceased in 1990; they reopened the production mill;
- Wad mines at Seathwaite – Keswick built on this. Elizabethan 1st and profits from Canadian/German mining;
- A real ‘mining heritage’;
- Miners lived in the house on Derwent Water – where there is also a brewery;
- Trees were felled for pit props;
- Borrowdale – Atlantic oak woodland (natural) has been grazed and common land; One of the most wooded valleys in the Lake District;
- Blencathra is a young wood and one of the highest upland oakwood in the Lakes;
- The problem is that they are being grazed;
• Stunted oaks – hoping for natural regeneration (same as at Newlands);
• Lead/ Wad and graphite;
• Hefted flocks;
• Unique collections of hamlets and farmsteads;
• Amalgamating Farms – lots of small farms are going out of business and selling up;
• Flood management of Stonethwaite Beck – this is going to get worse with the threat of climate change – land at the bottom of fields is vital for lambing;
• ‘washing away neighbours farmland’;
• Very ancient landscape;
• Famous ash pollards;
• Ancient ash pollards and ancient Yew trees at Seatwaite – replanted 400 yrs old – lost/severely damaged in storms of 2005;
• Effects of climate change;
• Commoners/upland hill farmers are worried about the future of upland farming;
• Castlerigg stone circle – no advertising policy – Scheduled Monument – English Heritage – tenant grazed neolithic site;
• Derwent Island house – tenant on it – Edwardian/Georgian, it’s open 5 days a year?
• Sill at the end of the Lake (northern end of Derwent Water) – water level of Derwent water goes up and down on a daily basis;
• Crag Hills and the Jaws of Borrowdale;
• Mid Borrowdale is Tolkein esque and is ‘hobbit land’;
• Over-grazing and scrub encroachment, also fires can be a problem, in the heath;
• Not a natural landscape – man made and altered (mining, deforestation and agriculture);
• Tenant rates - £6,000 – must manage the land but need income from a B & B or campsite; small farmers are dependant on tourism;
• Agriculture does not pay unless you own the land/;
• Money goes to the owners of the land rather than the managers;
• Lots of hedges are being restored – Cumbrian hedge laying;
• Stone walls are being rebuilt;
• Strip to bare and layer hedges- needs fencing in some places;
• Ghills are fenced off to avoid erosion and overgrazing etc.;
• Sheep are changing – hills will scrub up with loss of sheep;
• Hills will scrub up with the loss of sheep;
• Areas that have been fenced off for 5 years – Uldale Common – lots of natural landscape;
• Carbon sinks – exposed peat – becoming exposed and blowing off;
• Moorland blocked with heather bales;
• Armboth Fell – there is a line between National Trust and United Utilities land (Thirlmere);
• Landscape has been fenced for fifteen years – to gather sheep. Heather has been lost by over-grazing;
• Mungrizedale Common (Higher Level stewardship) – along the northern side there is really nice heather;
• Whole vegetation should eventually change;
• Conservation is fantastic and in a way we don’t want to put sheep back on – hopefully not;
• Steep gills are fenced to keep sheep off;
• Native and local stock is important;
• Some native juniper at Grasmere/ Ullswater and the Mosedale Valley;;
• Re-introducing juniper onto pockets of land;
• Red deer here at Borrowdale and Thirlmere – managed by United Utilities – culling/ counting;
• Minimum problem with grazing on National Trust Land;
• NP boundary not always logical, sometimes it follows parish boundaries, some cut right across parishes;
• Mosedale hamlet;
- Mosedale valley is unique;
- Bowskill tarn is glacial and unique;
- Dale main estate land – Caldbeck Common;
- Bright yellow gorse;
- Relatively enclosed v-shaped valley;
- Irresponsible camping is an issue and destroying things for firewood;
- Juniper scrub;
- Landslides;
- Designated quiet area;
- Very popular in Summer;
- Lack of walls – and a sense of openness;
- Mines are a Scheduled Ancient Monument for their industrial heritage;
- Canadian cross-cut mines in he war;
- Every single tree will have a buzzard nest;
- Lack of walls and clutter;
- Coniferous woodland not really in line with the landscape;
- Reduce in grazing pressure will see more trees;
- This a special valley;
- Banks of the river are eroding;
- Carrock Fell – nesting peregrines – open and less rugged;
- Main hamlets or villages within this area are Thelkeld, Udale and Heskert Newmarket;
- Ponies have no right to graze on the commons;
- Gabra boulders are the only part which is climbed on this eastern part of Skiddaw;
- Series of old mines – SMR;
- Patches of gorse;
- Old Cliff – drinking, camping, fires;
- Heather burning regime every 3 of 5yrs;
- White-washed building;
- Stone walls;
- Cut rides through to allow access for grazing;
- ‘hushes’ – artificial streams – quick way to wash away veins and find minerals (also found in the Pennines);
- parasailing is allowed one day per week;
- More treed, rolling landscape to the east which is reminiscent of the Pennines;
- Upland - this is the biggest area over 2000ft;
- Heather moorland;
- Sweeping fells, a lot broader and open, less rugged;
- Hedges and stone walls;
- In-bye land – farmers;
- Mines above the fell wall;
- Wind turbines at the edge of the Park;
- KEST – ditch and bank hedges – some of these are in need of restoration;
- Path to watersmeeting – The Howk - Caldbeck (limestone Gorge);
- Heskett/ Newmarket Green;
- Lots of visitor pressure, parking on the roads, quite new, they’re not used to it;
- Orchids/ wildflower meadows;
- Dairstying just outside Heskett Newmarket;
- Parish plans – need to get hold of;
- Caldbeck – series of old mills and a pond;
- Small terraced cottages;
- Fire breaks in the gorse which burns fiercely;
• Very good views from the top end of the Park – you can see Scotland, Carlisle and the Solway Estuary;
• Fire plan for the Skiddaw massif – moorland fires;
• John Peel is buried at the church in Caldbeck;
• High Pike and Caldebeck and Ulldale Fells;
• Caldebeck Common;
• Narrow valleys;
• Roughton Gill – some of the most important mining remains;
• Uldale common is a bit flatters;
• Very similar to the Pennine landscape – with very little surface water;
• Rolling limestone with little surface water;
• Since foot and mouth there has been less pressure on heather;
• Caldebeck (meaning cold water) joins Calde at watersmeeting – otters and wildlife;
• Used to be a big dairy farm to the west of Heskett Newmarket;
• Less dairying since foot and mouth;
• Sheep cut down from 12000 to 4500;
• Trenches to deter 4 by 4s;
• Not typical lake scenery up here;

Area H

• Drove past Coniston Water
• Coniston Dale
• Left water, right Coniston Man - obvious landmark
• Landscape less rugged, more rolling, lush and romantic
• Less stone walls, lots more hedges
• More trees
• Grizedale Forest on left - most of the time (commercial forest)
• West less touristy, farmer struggle
• Walls following road to a central point, then hedges
• More varied landscape
• Backdrop black coombe - cliffs
• Coast path - beach
• Caravan park to the right, driving back
• Hedges along the road
• Pastoral land and arable
• Rail track
• Stopped at Curstop
• Pylons, hedges, fences
• Here the stone walls don’t seem to be in as good condition
• Hedges following roads
• Stone walls left
• Towards Gutterby
• Fencing
• Cattle rids common
• Hedges

• Hedges along road
• MOD notice – views to power station
• Views become wider
• Muncaster fell with its wooded side
• MOD on left (Eskmeals Range)
• Rolling bowl farmland
• Hedges along road
• Pylons
• High hedges blocking view just before Corney
• Stone walls
• More hedges down 286-276 on the fell
• More monotonous landscape, less variety in colour
• More rugged, reflected in stone walls (not as managed)
• Reed, leather, turkey, grass
• Stunning views to dales
• Ulpha Park!

Area J

• Kirkby Ireleth – Lowfell – dominated by bracken
• Commons – matt grass – molinea -bracken
• Grazing pressure lower – more heather?
• Woodland Fell – valley – rolling pasture – dairy farm
• Intensively managed grassland
• Mosses – – tidal to certain point
• Lowick – patches of low fell/molinea and matt grass
• Open Access low fell – “defacto access – people motorbikes damage land – trial biking – making on fells
• Hill climbing – a few make a huge impact
• Still a quiet area – Kirkby Ireleth – small farms – agriculturally based
• Bypass – High Newton
• Lowick – mixture of pasture – very sparsely populated
• Hamlets along river Crake
• Views out from Kirby Park Wood – across bay
• Real interaction between coast
• Black Coombe – sea mist
• National Park own Blawith and Lowick Common
• Very busy roads – A5084 and tourist road – 3,5,000 people work @ Sellafield
• People drive a long way off road into commons for woodlands
• Block of 1 and A574 – coast and round to Haverthwaite.
• Huge bands of Low Fell (Gunners House) – Cartmel Fell – relatively quiet – Strawberry Bank – hotspot
• Lowland Fell interspersed with woodland
• Forestry Commission plantations – commercial viability has gone
• Storms of 2005 – lots of damage
• Clear felling back end of 2006 – storm damage events
• Private woodlands Till Hill – Commercial Forestry part of UPM
• Newton – scrubby birch, hawthorn, bracken, molinea matt grass
• Winster – valley – semi improved pasture
• More pasture to south – fairly quiet/few footpaths
• Bands of limestone – plateau NNR
• Whithbarrow and Yew Barrow – woodland on calcareous days – butterflies High Brown Flotillery
• Morecambe Bay SS1
• High Park Wood – lots of old coppice stands
• Major industry – Backbarrow Iron Works and furnaces.. Bobbins - for Lancashire Mills.
• Management of coppice woodlands
• High plateau – upland heath on limestone – blue moor grass
- Row – owners of Crathwaites Lithe – Witherslade – wealthy village – large owners/big estates
- All of limestone
- Lyth Valley – famous for limestone and damson orchards. Damson Day – special quality – trips from Lancashire
- Lyth Valley – reclaimed and pumped – whether to keep pumps going? – boggy land
- Massive peat extraction – woodland car
- Lithe roads crossing mosses – relic birch woodlands if peat
- Grasswathie – Lord’s Lot – low fell – dominated by gorse, brackens, hawthorn
- myriad of lanes/very quiet/rural – A5074 – major road – big long fast road/tasffic/motorbikes
- Busier with lorries – well used route – coaches up to hotels – tidal rivers
- Cumbria – coastal way
- Grange – mossy land/big dairy farms
- Meathop Woods – Woodland set on a crop of Yew – lots limestone pavements
- One of the most diverse areas
- Harups Fell – onto limestone – upland fell/heath Nr. Grangeover Sands – FC removed woodland
- Fantastic view across limestone pavements
- OS of A596 – lien of bypass – cuts through High Naston – traffic
- Now closer to Barker Green – semi improved low lying pasture lands
- Cartmel monastery – consumption walls – 5 – 8 ft wide.
- Small hamlets – High Cark – very old – medium farmstead
- Rolling pasture semi – improved
- Cark – Allotments – (significance of names) low fell/bracken/hawthorn/gorse
- Cut of Brow Edge – path
- Barrow was bombed, pillboxes – big open allotments.
- Dropping down into deeply wooded valley- Dolly Blue works – Iron Works
- Haverthwiate Heights – NP woodland – coppice stands, woodland had to pay its way
- Getting rid of softwood – back to Broadleaf – Edge of fell onto tidal
- Roadsea – Wood – NNR – Cumbria NT
- Greenod – beautiful bays
- Raised bog and coppice woodland
- Estuary or coastal?
- Access – popular walking area – older people – more gentle – walking/summer and winter – more low key than central lakes – Guiness How – fantastic viewpoint
- Blades of open access land – open access land – vegetation interia – unimproved fell in theory
- Lords’ lot – people – moor how – wild daffodils
- Newton fell – open access – not in history
- Whitbarrow and Witheslack – people stop off.
- Constant but low-level numbers
- Walney to Wear cycle route – cyclists
- Lanes and quiet areas “Relatively unspoilt”
- Problems of 70’s coming back – “education thing”
- Campsites have stopped single sex groups – all boy/girl
- Stone walling
- No walling on mosses slate/limestone and good mixture of hedgerows
- ESA – Lyth Valley – hedge laying going on
- Very few places where you can stop and get out at Windermere
- Beeds Hill NO – Fell foot NT
- Private ownership
- Road to Ulpha – low wooded mixed conifer and deciduous hills – views to main road – busy traffic (A5690)
• Background noise from A – road
• Sheep on low farmland pasture – backup of low hills – fells – wooded feel – mixed woodland – Hedges – lowest hedges
• Pylons – but not dominant
• Limestone outcrops – some
• Whitbarrow Scar to south
• Views to Newton Fells in east.

Areas M and L

• Lake Windermere – western end at Birthwaite Road
• Landscape and waterscape
• Lake – worth basin and south basin
• High fells dominate high basin
• Nanover – different geology – the shtows – middle bit – glacial moraine
• Glaciers S – 164ft    N 212 ft
• Steamed built to move through shallow areas
• Claife Heights  – cliff or rocky area – southern slopes – broadleaf – semi ancient national woodland – Belle Isle – 1786 – short horn cattle – all sorts of timbers wooded landscape – top half – NT “microcosm of higher fells”
• 4 walls – all sea through etc.
• Was very much an industrial – bobbins, coppice- more wooded landscape now
• Softer rolling estate – Graythwaite Hall – Cistercian Abbey – dissolution of monastery – Mr Sandyers – Bishop of Carlisle)
• Low fells with tarns – bobbin mills – charcoal pits etc.
• Newby Bridge 1600’s – stepping stone at fell foot
• Was a sea trout and salmon fishery
• Possibly pollution – oil boats and weir in 70’s – 40’s …… And reed beds – now nothing left
• 16 years – 4 degrees change in temperature of the water
• Marine Biological Association
• Southern half dominated by ancient/semi nat. Hundreds of camp sites “wooded valley feel”
• East shore – most developed side of lake – Lancashire cotton fields – 1820 railways on shore as a less developed side
• Big houses – eastern side.
• Small villa properties – expensive
• Belle Isle – millions
• Impact on waterscape on eastern shore
• Capability Brown – natural or semi-natural – indulge own whims – statuary – summer houses – waterside landscape no planning control over gardens.
• Bowness hub of activity – 400 berth marina – car ferry – duplex apartments £450,000
• Million per year day-trippers
• 6 million pass through basin
• Blackpool of the Lake District – amusement arcade
• Windermere and Bowness v.cliff – mass tourism around poet’s
• Was once very different small fishing villages- series of small hamlets
• Windermere – Wordsworth – Name of lake – “Winanders mere” Windermere Lake and Village – not
• Wordsworth fought Windermere going to Keswick
• Arrive in Windermere – lakes are happy
• Large mansions – fell barrow – camping. West of Windermere
- White Crofts Bay – secret base and submarine base – railways
- Waterhead and Ambleside – grew up later - original village – Roman times – Gulava cohort of 500 troops
- Roman remains on Belle Isle of a summer house
- Greenodd – Romans – ship to Windermere
- East shore feel of central fells – mid distant visual
- Langdales – Coniston Old Man
- N/S communication line and Troutbeck Valley – High Street – roman road – fairly dense tree cover – up to about 5,000 ft.
- Slopes denuded by medium packhorse route – (Kirlatone Pass) – highest pub (snow)
- Troutbeck used to be a deer park – med
- Central fells man – intake/hill/heather/ grazing
- Crow access land
- Limefitt park – dominate from road to fell paths around campsite – visual
- Grown to accommodate – wooden lodge/chalets/pitches and lighting etc.
- Fly camping
- The tongue – very visible centre of valley – Bronze Age and associated works.
- Rivers – caused – 3rd of LD drains into Windermere spate rivers - flash flooding – 1m every 24 hours possible
- Rolling, tumbling type feel (deep and narrow)
- Loughrigs fell – rolly bog – Guluva Roman Fort and better
- Belle Isle – round house – built for English “the pepper pot” – Isabella Kirum
- Sailings and marina – 1000 moorings
- Bryersford – traditional
- Claife heights 1968 – Prince Philip first public open waymarked trail white post route
- Gunner’s Howe
- Farmland backing onto Grizedale
- Through village of Troutbeck – Yeoman’s building – cultural “built/scape”
- Kirkstone “The Struggle” Graythwaite Hall – rhododendrons - human interaction with landscape
- “Aircrafts – peace and quiet” – planes – limited to 250ft.
- Steamers built specifically for Lake – significant employers
- Top 10 visitor attractions in country
- “Great White birds of landscape” – 1920 in Barrow
- Char – southerly limit of the Char – latest glacial fish. Still fished on a semi commercial basis – special fist and trout.
- “Char pies” – Char boats – designed 1 mile an hour over lake – cold water fish
- Heritage steamboat museum. History of power boating – cultural links measured km – 10 and 6 mph)  
- DVD of Windermere – lakeshore – how it might change – Friends of the Lake District
- U-tube – Hawk flight over Lakes/Windermere
- Honister – tracks
- Grizedale – outdoor gym

Area C

- Crag Hill – one character area
- Rannerdale and intakes and walk loop around historic landscape
- Mid Rannerdale and fairly rocky – flat fields again in valley
- Old settlements – ridge and furrow systems – Bluebells and mountain bikes
- Small intakes and woodland at side of road
- Mosedale and Down to Floughton – reminiscent of fells – Peak District
- Everything not Floughton has a very different feel – Black peat on Kinder
• High fell – ridges and watershed
• Gatesgarth – pretty key
• 2 passes – have a dominant character – to prevent widening of road
• Buttermere pines – native Scots Pines to this area. Oakes Wood – 3 to 4 years
• Overwhelming – distinctive character
• Changing landscape – trackways coming down
• Visible from Borrowdale side
• Woods and fell – Kirk close – ancient woodland – clumps of woodland (ancient woodland)
• Tend not to have big blocks – but woodland within valley
• Scattering of individual mature trees, holly, hawthorn, stock (in between wars)
• Rannerdale as a farm was bought in late 80’s
• Birkness Wood – previously conifer – slowly revert to deciduous
• Buttermere village and in – bye – unique in Lake District and largest number of working farms – centre of village
• Field system – of ownership – mismatches of fields – distinctive shape – long and thin)
• NT – planted 21km of hedgerows within valley – pretty dominant feature in landscape
• Lanthwaite Wood – Beck house – dominant features woodland bett
• Moat system and the Peel – moat defence system – all walls on other side are intake
• Gorse was feature but its died now.
• Rolling Hills
• Horton Fell – completely different character area to Higher Fells
• Loweswater – more rolling hills – everything enclosed
• Lorton – sudden sense of openness
• Kilns – archaeological – valley – kilns – Cinderdale common SAM – Peel Tarn – Langthwaite Valley
• Peel place

Management Issues

• Farmland – walls – lakeshore management – continue woodland along shoreline
• Chaning landscape – if one big tree falls – Hedgerows – replanting
• Grazing pressure on the fells – massive reduction in stock on fells
• Cut stock on fells – foot and mouth – Lorton – support management
• Water quality in valley – all candidate SAC – absolutely critical – farming practices – water framework directive
• Gatesgarth – large agricultural building to be built ground is too wet during winter
• Demand for increasing need for farm buildings in valley
• Grazing numbers come down and all stock can be housed
• Migratory Salmon
• Rannerdale Beck – tree system – quite interesting
• Bluebells/ancient woodland – trying to keep character
• Lambing
• National Trust – all owned land within valley
• Willy Richardson more pressure on knocking down houses and building back with bigger houses.
• Loweswater big yellow houses – pressure for second homes – buying development sites
• Not pressure for local homes – old families left in valley more pressure in South Lakes
• Lorton Local hosues
• Buttermere and Lorton Valley
• NT Ennerdale images
• Check recent AP’s Ennerdale
• Water levels and changing lake levels – demand for water - changes
• Crummole and Ennerdale – demand in West Cumbria – low water supply
- Framework directives
- Scale Hill – heading south to Lowes water
- Steep hill looking down across wide Lorton Vale, with a patchwork of stonewalls and gently rolling farmland.
- Tackling water of the River Cocker
- Sense enclosure provided by Lowewater Fell and Whiteside (Grassmoor)
- Lowewater – densely wooded shore in places (particularly SW side) – very strong sense of tranquillity (other than panes overhead)

Area G

Ennerdale

- Coastal Plain – more open to the western end of Ennerdale Lake.
-Typically Lakeland in-bye and in-take
- Commons – Upland fell – sense of wildness and wild pen space to the South of Ennerdale
- As wild as you get with
- Completeness about landscape – one continual joined up landscape driving south to Wasdale
- Kinniside commoners – same issues as Wasdale Commoners
- Not interspersed with valleys in way that other sides are
- Kinniside Common – valleys coming up from Coastal Plain
- Ennerdale interesting valley – trees and fences not as wild
- Industrial landscape to east 800 ha of devastated valley bottom
- Transitional landscape’
- Stark boundary between fell and forest
- From middle bridge – upwards – all mature (95%) of trees have gone – clear felling
- Landscape being transformed
- Forest – open fell – to allow a dynamic mosaic of habitats
- Where space taken out – regeneration
- Bowness Knott – all about to come out in next 8-10 months – will be broadleaf regeneration
- Uncertainty about what woodland taken out
- Water – letting river do what it wants to do
- River is a central feature and water coming down – unique in England and Wales – no signs of intentional management in the past
- Worm Gill – flows into the Calder – rapidly moving and changing – geomorphological
- Very unusual High Fells and grassy
- High Fells – grassy
- Pillar – presented with real rock which is stark – (bare rugged rock) – striking character
- Felling programmes
- Pillar and Grable Crag – Historic significance – Nape’s needle – birthplace of mountaineering
- Old Dungeon Ghyll at Wendale
- Drumlins – top end of stone – glacial ‘icy pass’ by Black Sail hostel
- History of agriculture in this valley – no intensification/agricultural improvement
- Archaeological survey – large array of Bronze Age Settlements Iron-ore/woodland for charcoal
- Haycock – impressive walls at top
- County boundary – metal/wooden posts
- Gates and metal posts – way it was managed
- Agriculture at Lakeside
- Sense of tranquillity
- On fell top – forest roads – visual and noise impact from Gillerthwaite
- Track will green over no road beyond – road on north and south side of river
- Bridge to be taken out over Windal Beck
• Natural lake/reservoir character
• Some places where lake shore is in natural – southern end – managed…..used reservoir
• Dam has increased natural level of lake – lakeshore western basin from Anglers form reside – 9m – shelf on other side to 180ft
• Western end/change – more coastal
• Not many boats (a few on Wast water) Used to be more fishing
• Bowness ….up forest track and back again
• Nine Becks Walk – people used to bat.
• Coast to coast on south side of lake
• Marter Fell – felling – regenerating outside Scaldeskew Wood – felling and regeneration
• Spread of Duddon Valley outside
• Weather regeneration appearing in crags/becks
• Ennerdale – West Coast – Whitehaven
• Tougher more working environment
• Burnt out cars more – harder/character and tougher
• Higher on Fell
• Sellafield – amount of traffic – keep on getting views of Sellafield from bottom – not “too” bad
• Traffic onto fell roads – when Sellafield changing shifts
• Kinniside Common – agricultural use of area
• Open expanse – historically of common. Reduce stocking scrub arrives – will prevent people walking
• Vegetation up there is astonishing and grazing patterns
• Tree cover up fell sides
• Kinniside Common – managing stock – reduced number of sheep/more ticks on existing sheep
• Transition stage
• Less sheep – cotton grass is appearing
• Motorbike use tracks are being made – Kinniside Common – right to roam
• People go and do with they want to do
• Incredible poaching culture here – fish or game
• Harder side
• Bowness Knott – river valley curves down – larch
• Gate and bottom with a little stream on top of Brown Howe

**Wastwater and Wasdale Head**

• Lots from Lord Egremont at Petworth
• Wasdale
• Intensive management one of most important wall systems in Europe 6,000 years of man – evolved landscape
• From Neo axe factories on Scafell Pike
• Walled landscape
• 3500 BC – with axes
• Highest part of valley floor around church – enclosed bottom of fell – ring garth wall – sheep etc. joining up of walls to ring garth
• 16th century – 19 farms within this valley – intakes to grow barley for Napoleonic Wars – intakes from ringarth
• Classic patchwork of Lake District Landscape
• Evolved landscape farmed – sheep since 11th century
• Sheep which graze here – natives from norse – one of the hardiest in Britain
• Sheep which graze great Gabler Ling Mell
• Sheep are crucial in way landscape can be managed – culture of shepherding
• Birthplace of British Mountaineering – Great Gable
- 8 Settlements at head of valley away from good land - don’t build on good land
- Farmhouses important as a collection of buildings – white lime rendered
- Built environment and compact steadings
- Green mown and grazed in-by valley bottom land
- Improved intake land – rougher grazing and pasture
- Open fell – gradation
- Medieval Dee Path – NT - top wall boundary
- Highly important cultural/historic and managed environment
- What public want: Keep it as it is
  - quiet, uncommercialised
  - far from madding crowd
- No new farm buildings
- Try to keep farming community in the valley head
- Trust – diversifying
- Birthwaite Farm: big farmhouses – guest house is making him all the income
- Plight in terms of agriculture and valleys
- ESA – schemes – keeping herbish meadows
  - no sans coming on
- £6,000 on walls
- Flash Flood river – Lingmell Peck – off Great Gable – round river boulders in valleys
- Canalised to tame it
- Not natural and therefore out of control
- Reverting to a natural river process (3,600 metre sq) into lake
- River Wast Water – SAC and digtropic status – one of purest lakes in Europe – water quality
- No slurry/farmyard manures
- Wetland and buffer zones – Wandale Head around corridor
- Surface run – off is a difficult issue
- 3 peaks challenge events – June – 41,000 people movements in June
- Archaeology and conservation ruined
- Iconic landscape of beauty, recreation, int-designated conservation sites
- Screen SAC and geology
- Wast water should remain pristine - no surface boats other than canoes.
- 80% of intensive time of NT management
- Conflict management – tourists – tenant farmers – conservation
- Hectarage payment now – schemes (higher in green grass land – higher then moorland grass)
- Not enough money – it is for public benefit – government need to put money into it
- 1.5 hours from motorway
- Access management problems – fly tenting/fires
- Camping
- Fence wood and semi ancient natural woodland
- Valley Bottom – big houses/parkl ike estate land around River Ert.
- Is connected to coastal plain – Ennerdale is mote connected
- Big body of water of daunting screes
  - Bigness – daunting – scary - huge hills – farming, man’s history
- Sky mead pass – footpath erosion
- Pillar
- Eskdale – onto other side
- Fix the Fells project – understand landscape
- Ling mell – quiet and very changeable
- Wasdale Head village green- Copeland District/Parish Council
- At bottom – when looking down from Gable – still looks pretty small
- Overwhelming/threatening
• Round corners – big blocks of stone – in your face
• Quite imposing on some people
• Sheer scree with moorland on top
• Coll – big open fells (brown)
• Sea tollar – open/big/rounded moorland
• Common – links to Kinniside Common
• Gable angles change – squares very different from different angles
• The highest mountain and the deepest lake – patchwork quilt
• More open landscape
• Valley fans out to the coastal plain
• Squeezed into Wasdale
• runs from Lake to Birthwaite Farm

Buck Barrow Farms – Netherwasdale Farm

• Traditional Estate and woodlands/river – Netherwasdale Estate
• Managed as one whole for nature conservation – farms are not economic
• Into coastal plain
• Sponge – softed rounded edge to end of valley – woodlands and lagoon at YHA – complete contrast – with building – Pumping station for Sellafield
• 3 lakes enquiry – tried to increase water levels
• Lots of water goes down to Sellafield from Wast Waster
• Draw down - visual landscape issue
• Rare fish and rare plants
• Recreational pressure on lake – diving
• Borrowdale – Bowderdale – acquired by NT
• Lots of commercial property – straight lines – Gareth Browning Landscape Plans – for softening straight (FC) edges
• Low lying moraine lands – otters – weeds etc. along Beck edges
• Dairy country to west rolling small farms – could be anywhere in country
• Right at centre of Lake District
• No trees in valley head other than existing
• Have removed conifer plantation above Birthwaite
• ESA schemes
• EN enhanced payment schemes to further reduce stock in terms of SSSI’s
• Freehold farmland – massive farms which cover the fells
• Lambs are filter – producing 2 lambs – landscape can’t cope
• Heefing heefed and acclimatised – mother takes lamb to fell – lamb stays there. Grazing on other farm keeps sheep there.
• Farms stock getting out of balance. EN schemes – natural heefs have imploded. Warning farmers.
• Wall – top fencing – sheep jump over (since 1920’s)
• Wild sheep
• 3 peak challenge – mass outdoor events – having to have adrenalin rush
• noise/pounded landscape wet landscape (24 hours) pound through paths and most sensitive at 3.00 a.m. 69 minibuses – at one time. Tented villages. Fires. Tickertape etc.
• Huge communication exercise (huge amounts of money for charity)
• Gouges – 6000m deep. JCB onto scafell for landscape works Engineering on Scafell Pike.

Hardknott/Wynose and Eskdale
- Wildness – Eskdale – up valley into Great Moss Bog
- Buttress – camp spot – Scafell and Scafell Pike – wilderness area
- Upper Valley – comparatively wide – Big walled fields
- River – vitally important
- Treed valley around river/in blocks
- Tree care primarily at interface between – green in-byre bottom land and woods – in-byre/fell – between = oak woodland
- Ghylls – nature conservation area – fencing out ghylls – ESA – riverside fencing – nature conservation
- Intake not as big as in Dudden and common
- Brother Lyhcell Farm – chocolate box farm – sheep farming
- Dubbs – swimming pools/big wells in bed of rivers
- Highly accessible footpath both sides
- Bonfell and Crinkle Crags – freehold fell – Bowfell – sheep Harter Fell
- No sheep on intake
- Landscape is beginning woodland linkages between fells in-byre to scrub up – landscape will begin to scrub up
- Reduced stacking rates (other side – Tier – ESA) – what will happen? Heather isn’t regenerating – heather not coming back
- Common is life blood of Eskdale – without Higher Tier payments – this will have a big impact.
- Brown colour – caused by bracken – July/August is a sea of bracken a great green mass
- Autumn – visual brown impact – changing colour of landscape. All related to common
- When helicopters remove bracken – straight lines in landscape – huge impact – all down to choice of commoners and land managers
- Mangers want to get rid of bracken
- Compact steadings – lime rendering – return to
- Roman forts at Ambleside/Ravenglass WHS
- No lake – river is very important – not very visual in valley
- Roads are very visually significant – road is more visible than river in Eskdale
- Landscape is so accessible – road straight through it
- Footpaths are visible in landscape - lines – rights of Way system is obvious – when walked
- Cattle vachery as in valley
- Farm – owned by monks of Furness
- Very accessible – road
- Straight fence – NT – want to take fence down
- Do not get fell fencing in Lake District
- E and – wild
- The tourist route into valleys
- Big landscape – big farms in Valley head SAM site.
- Lower smaller/irregular fields – down at bottom Wahouse bridge – join between bigger valley bottom pasture land
- Irregular size/smaller ……
- More intimate crags and little woodlands
- Park horse bridges – stone – relationship between road, river, materials and landscape
- Sudden change in landscape over bridge – knolls/wooded – warmer/people/pubs- craggy hard wood
- Trusting landowner has – major impact – woods are primarily
- Conifers – Woolpack Inn/ birch/oak regeneration NT – Stanley Estate
- Compact steadings – no new farm buildings – much more enclosed. Wa Hows farm – farmhouse – huge barn
- Bank barn – built into rock/hillside/mountain
- Top side a ramp where hay is stored – into rock on other side it is 2 storeys
- Enclosed – Eskdale Youth Hostel and Woolpack Inn – people visiting are tourists – was a family pub
- Common land behind pub – in-gang to take you to fell – pub here for this reason
- Ridges craggy lost its tradition – Eskdale fell
- Fairly steep ridge
- Tarns on top which are Blea Tarn/Stony Tarn focuses for people’s walks.
- Woodland on knolls – intake rough grazing on knoll.
- Dramatic features - House – can be seen from top of ……as a landscape feature. Isa Block to mid – Eskdale
- Wooded over bluffs
- Planted miles – miles of hedges – more pastoral. Heavily enjoyed riverside walks – very good linkages
- Armit Hill – all linear …. on hill – high stone walls
- Boot intake – fascinating wall patterns – sheep herded into – separated into cliff units/farms
- Nucleated settlement – Whineth Belle beautiful gorge – above trees – one farm on top of hill before going onto common land – higher devation
- Boot bank – wooded gorge up – mines - ….linear walls
- Narrow-gauge railway took iron to coast – Ravenglass. Now Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway – from coast to valley – Links – Romans to now.
- Top of Boot bank – peat houses – cluster of
- Not attached to farms – stuck (nowhere else in lakes) – on top of hill – so many of them
- Flat bottom grounds and ridge – not much intake like in Wasdale
- Above ridge – flattens out into common – cultural/communal – old mine tracks visible in landscape – NT many – of common – farming
- One of largest areas of common land in Lake District
- Boot – church by rivers – riverside walks
- Trad – coffin route to Wasdale where there was a church – Bimmoor pass – Eskdale to Wasdale
- Mosaes Trod – Warsdale to ennderdale – Bobbin Mills at Mill Bank – no community – all holiday cottages – disparate valley – farms make the valley (scattered)
- Quite flat – don’t feel so isolated as Budden Valley
- L’ahl – Rhatty – steam engine
- Fantastic wall patterns/pen @ Bill Bank
- Above peat huts and Neolithic stone circles and tarn
- Eskdale – busy valley. Road from C Lake District and railway 150,000 NIA Staley Ghyll – waterfall
- Railway great way to come up Valley (150,000 people up valley on railway)
- Cycle Trail down valley (bikes on train) – routes off road
- People management – intervention
- Mill on a low-key tourist attraction – “real” no interpretations
- Not a very wide valley
- Muncaster Fell ridge – separation between E & W – Coast
- One of quietest valley – ridge of Muncaster – Ravensglass – on the ridge coastal woodland
- Forestry in Mitterdale
- Birker Moor – Eskdale Common – Ill Gill Head – over to Wasdale

**Duddon Valley**

- Duddon valley – scraggy/windy – changes at every stage
- Steep from valley bottom – mostly swathed with a strip of woodland
- SSSI1 from estuary to top of valley
- Ghylls – 2 elevations – farms in valley bottom – Farms on ridge (mountain)
- Coniston – craggy – improved side of Coniston
- First view from south of valleys – Dow Crag and Coniston Old Man
- Hill farm – kept contact at top of ridge
- Estuary SPA – 1st part – Dudden Hall – good land/farmland 3 separate sections
- Muncaster Fell – remote - not west coast – cultural divide
- Duddon – 9 miles from high central fells – classic improved mountain dairy farming – clinging onto bottom of slope
- Flat valley floor with a lot of walls
- Estuary - moorland and road raised on ridge – very shaped river further down
- Craggy – flat pastoral winding pastoral wooded
- SSS1 woodland (NT) Walla Crag – SSS1 – heather
- Behind crag is a gorge – goes up into plateau moorland with farms
- Scattered settlements – Ulpha and Seathwaite – scattered hamlets and farmsteads
- Scattered, hilly, crags and separated
- Bigger/more buildings – farms have amalgamated – abandoned farmsteads
- Farm and house – expanded/bungalows/1950’s/1960’s
- Very hard valley – small farms. Craggy – fertile valley bottom
- Water and abstraction works fro barrow – Seathwaite Tarn
- 5 farms – 4/5 holiday cottages in village – nothing left. Heart is lost. Crisis of farming in sharp focus
- Good flat land
- Small intales on top of moor
- SSS1 woodland strip all way from estuary to top of
- Hidden valley – huge walled intales
- Walnaskar – road – used to be a country road – Bridleway now
- Industrial slate quarries – striped – Seathwiate Tarn – dam and reservoir
- Tam Beck – let water in and out (not really visible)
- Wetlands under ESA – like a little
- Second homes – NY policy to keep farms
- Longhouse/Tongue House – bluebells
- Troutle: not amalgamated
- Farms High Wallabarrow keep own landscape units
- FC managed land – questions to answer walls fall down – NT rebuilt
- Dunnerdale Forest – removing conifers and letting go natural broadleaf
- Not commercial
- Keeping sheep out? – fences have had to go up to keep sheep out – landscape issue
- Revelation to see opening forestry and heather appear conservationists FC – land and valley head
- MAFF
- Roads badly eroded – holes in bridge - caused by big logging wagons.
- Move walls to allow wagons
- Jaws – flat plateau – no walls on other side
- Troutle – Head of Duddon – Cockley Beck Farm - cowshed (new farm buildings)
- Herb rich hay meadows on farm
- Huge intales – going to top of mountain
- Conifers – planted – shelterbelts
- One of hardest places to farm in LD
- Altitude – Roman road on left up Wrynose bottom
- Wrynose Bottom U-shaped valley – classic Scottish glen.
- Mosedale valley onto upper ESU
• Cringle crags and Bonfell
• Foot and mouth fencing – lost all sheep – 15 mile electric fence around whole mountain
• High Budden – very hard – Gatescale – odd old farmstead – too harsh to farm

**Area K**

• Low fell park landscape
• Wooded, with stone walls aligning the windy one-track roads (with grassy verges). A less managed feel (yet not neglected), with the stone walls incomplete and covered with moss in many places
• Trees are typical of this area with Hawthorn, oak? dominating
• Fells are covered with occasional lone juniper and hawthorn bushes dotted / trees and the rocky outcrop showing the underlying geology
• The area is tranquil away from the busy corridor of the A781, from Windermere to Kendal. Sheep are the main form of grazing
• Stone walls divide the fields (which) on the low fells, drawing the eye
• Drive from Stavely, the area is fairly enclosed with trees along the windy road blocking views. The area becomes more open past the Elthowe turn off with views reaching into Applethwaite Cannon
• Many small becks are characteristic of the area
• Vernacular material
• Ash, birch, oak hawthorn – trees lining the stream at the bottom of the valley
• Some conifer plantation
• Past the bridal way all of a sudden the landscape becomes more open, less trees along the road in places and views on the wooded slopes of the low fells in the NE
• The area gains a more parkland feel, with many mature (mainly deciduous) trees scattered over the rolling hills – sheep
• Moorland on top of the higher fells
• The landscape becomes more open – fells N and W Kentmere more rugged, less trees, more Moorish, higher, out-bye visible
• Onwards landscape very different, hedges and stone walls (neat) lining road (very narrow with passing places) and a lot more open
• Kentmere arable, open, cattle near settlement
• Lonsleddale– long enclosed valley –beautiful hedges, conservation status
• Farms, only 1 farm a son to take over
• The pass – good views
• Kentmere no focal point
• Most of the houses lived in
• Parking a big problem in Kentmere
• Area changes a lot – Harkigg, lot more rugged, no hedges, more moorland, tuft grass
• Very difficult to come up with parking solutions
• Bus six weeks a year at weekend, up the valley, county council and stage coach use it (not taken off)
• Guided walks
• Kentmere reputation of being quite a hostile valley
• Kentmere has a café
• Pottery
• Valley sides more rugged, rocky outcrops, less lush
• Farmers and sick people live in Kentmere
• People are moving out – Issue!
• Juniper bushes
• No stream further up
• farmland either side, interspersed with trees east a bit further, past Staveley, to the right some parkland
• Also a band of farmland, lower farmland around Staveley!
• Stavely – it becomes deeper and more wooded
• Past church (on this lane to the right) B5284 (turn left)
• Some of the fells are covered with gorse and bracken and trees
• Lots of mature deciduous trees
• Bulman Streads
• Probably art gallery
• Improved land
• Stocking grassy walls
• Less fences, more hedges
• S of ASM more fragmented
• Strong community north – lots of social things going on
• Underbarrow pub, no post office
• More enclosed
• Gently undulating south
• Slowing strong X
• Economy thriving
• Rocky outcrops, south – fantastic views, gentle landscapes
• Farmers a lot more laid back
• Sleddale Forest – some heather regeneration
• East, no rights of way
• Tourism not a big issue
• Crow not changed too much
• No real landmarks on ranch
• Kentmere Part of SSSI for Crayfish etc.
• Offers
• Pastoral, no arable in Kentmere
• More crash floods
• Grey squirrels – views
• Bats
• Japanese Knotweed sprayed
• Himalayan Balsam – by hand
• Very tranquil
• More enclosed, more wooded, closer to Staveley

Areas M and N

North of Rydal Water

• Rydal landscape – similar to Grasmere
• 3 distinctive areas – Grasmere/smaller settlement
• Woodland/lower areas of fell
• Interspersed with non-native trees – Victorian
• Association with Wordsworth – formal rhododendrons/azaleas – overlay previous wood – coppice woodlands
• Coppice woodland was maintained
• Gentler visitor experience – big car parks – softer and friendlier
• White moss – more people coming to view it rather – very good tracks Fairfield Horshoe – toe of lower slopes
• Tree cover graduating up the fellside – too steep for sheep to get into
• Wordsworth/Coleridge/Quincy – cultural association
• People wanting to discover same sorts of landscapes
• Quarries working landscapes
• Small stone quarries – coppice woodland/dominant industry
• Grant for agriculture – grant funding
• Quarrying developed into a large industrial process Elizabethan
• Farming as a product
• Tourism as an industry in its own right
• Helm Crag – Lion and Lamb – higher fells – managed by sheep grazing
• Road is a key issue – N/S – artery to lake District – Grasmere/Rydall more open
• Junipers – post ice age. Increase coverage by 6% - BAP
• Make best gunpowder – charcoal – gord mix – hanging on
• Never dominate because of altitude
• Skylarks – dead landscape
• Don’t feel much nature/dead landscape
• Blind Tarn – birdsong/diversity – striking contrast – shelter/ashes – special places
• Rydal Grasmere – wooded/open bow
• Langdale now a valley but was once much more wooded
• Once famous for herb-rich meadows – now lost
• Loughrigg – different landscapes – Elterwater and steelwith Bridge – softer/trees?
• Tarns of Langdale with quarry working
• Iconic Langdale Piles
• Top end of valley
• Spiritual significance – north Lancashire t – accessible valley – sense of timelessness/wilderness/escapes
• Perceived not touched by man
• Old Ash plantation – pollarded ash trees
• Erosion/sig. Amounts (one of 1st)
• Boot pressing – people and grazing pressure
• Classic U-shaped and rain (big problems)
• Soft wood “White fell” – strongest grasses left (sheep selecting grazing)
• Juniper and
• Hedgerows
• Juniper on common (where no real control)
• Stone axe factory site – Neolithic
• Aesthetic – to footpaths – on every key route out
• Bowfell and Crinkle Crags
• Raven Crags (pre 1930) significant cultural identity climbing heartland
• Sense of scale/imposing landscape
• NT farms – from /to areas
• Less farms still here – Little white houses in landscape
• Does need grazing management - some level – out on fell – field systems
• Napoleonic intales – woodland inbye’s – regen not viable – transition to open fell
• Stands of juniper – none grown in last 80 years
• Hawthorn flowering in intales – all dates to 1st world war – grazing pressure dipped
• Big Grey Wall of crags – Styck/Ghyll and Old Dungeon Chyll
• Corne Tarn – dammed – gunpower factory
• 200 years ago had to burn peat not wood – smelting iron ore
• stone – beck cobbles – cane – ledges 5,0000 yrs grazing pressure (upset scree beds) – arch
• Motorways 1960 – Stark geological landscapes from one area to another.
Area I

- Wray Castle - Windermere/Surveys/Hawkshead and Claife
- Windermere/B5235/-Hawkshead & Ambleside
- Esthwaite Water
- Islands on Lake – Lady Holme/ Men Holme/ Range Holme
- 100ha land
- Majority farmland/woodland on
- Wray Castle:- visitor attraction – at end of picturesque movement (grounds – open access)
- Boat service from top half of lake
- Low Wary campsite (well hidden) – traffic – visitor pressure (busy at Easter)
- Blenheim tam – SSSI’s/NRR’s – geological interest
- Outgate – mainly farmland – changes in farmland will bole different open fields
- Hawkeshed – honeypot village – pretty/picturesque – Beatrix Potter gallery - film impact on number of people coming to lakes
- Deeper interest in Beatrix Potter - link galleries/landscapes which inspired her
- Hawkeshed – Wordsworth links and corrections with where he stayed – key walking links up to Tam Hows
- Lower level woodland at w’lakeshore
- Upper = FC – key views – to western woodland – one of first views of L. District
- Clear felling of conifer coppicing – allowing natural regeneration
- Most of lakeshore is broadleaf decide.
- Esthwaite Water – big fish farm – water quality
- Windermere catchment management plan
- Hilltop – world famous visitor attraction – parking and traffic…
- Claife station – old viewing station (linked in with Vict. Grand Tours in England)
- Claife and Wray Castle WHS Sites
- Cark Parks
- Traffic
- Housing –
- Farms/cottages owned by NT – Low Wary Farm – dev. As part of castle – craft workshops – public diversification
- If number of farm buildings – empty – use? – sensitive diversification
- Latterbarrow – view: basecamp NT
- Claife Heights towns & mines – low fells
- Parish Council – Grizedale Forest – FC – across to Coniston
- Bringing back hedgerows, Dry stone walls, slate shard walls (e.g. around Hawkeshed)
- Belle Isle – privately owned – islands let me
- Ferry – queues in summer – part of experience – roads near Sawrey / far Sawrey
- Colours along Lakeshore – autumn can be stunning – lakeshore (New England on a smaller-scale)
- Wray Castle – views – locations & picturesque setting – below to north- parkland
- Parkland trees planted
- Beech trees – Battlemented – setting with Coniston & Langdale Pikes behind.
- Strong sense of tranquillity
- Public transport great – size of vehicles on country lanes – physically – size
- Lack of rain/dryness
- Fire risk not too bad – tams/mosses mines
- Smaller village to south – sense of peace & tranquillity along western shore (people leave cars along e-shore)
- 4 B’s network – boat, bus, boots and Bike – Barney Hill
- Beatrix Potter – selling points – Herdwick/sheep/books & literary side
• Tourism – B&B’s /guest houses
• Geese – Low Wray campsite. View to latter barrow wooded campsites
• Archaeological sites – charcoal burning along lakeshore, Old bark industry – bark bar – shipped across lake.
• Incredibly busy park at Hawkeshead
• 4 –Star hotel at Hawkeshead
• Park and ride to hilltop (Parish is listed church)
• Village pressures
• 2 squares – 20% second homes – high proportion second homes
• Hawkeshead Centre – Hub of original village
• Beatrix Potter gallery – visitor attractions
• Doctors/post office
• Sawrey – hotels, B& B’s
• 33 cars – not enough understanding about lack of car parking
• Castle Cottage – near Sawrey – books/paintings and landscape
• Hilltop – balance between conservation and access
• Windermere – erosion of lake shore – varying water levels – flooding of roads – changes in water levels may lead to diff. Vegetation/wildlife.
• Small roads/traffic
• More diverse groups – ethnic groups – more accessible and open
• One step across lake on ferry is wilder/inner city visitors “Transition Zone”
• Tranquil western shore
• Longsleddale Valley

Area H and I

• Remote, isolated, narrow valley with farms and houses dotted along the valley sides
• Pastoral farming (mainly sheep, some cattle)
• Stone walls dividing fields
• Lush, with many trees scattered on the valley bottom and sides
• Tranquil
• Grassy verges (with wildflowers) along the single track road
• Hedges with mature trees lining toad and stream
• Far reaching views in places
• Further in the valley stone walls replaces hedges, lining the road, in most places
• Idyllic far-reaching view part High House
• Wooded valley sides. Even valley floor has quite a few trees on it
• The higher (deeper) the more dramatic (steeper) and more rugged the backdrop becomes
• On rather heath lane now (south)
• Undulating cow land farmland – simple
• Pastoral, stone walls, sheep, X, hawthorn
• Fairly tranquil but noise from the AS91
• Woodland, goose, heath land. Trees lining roads (acer)
• Rocky outcrops, grassy verges, some cattle
• Parkland
• Rich mixture of trees.
• Hedges lining roads in south.
• Where it becomes more wooded, more hedges.
• Views on Whitharrow Scar
• Views of Black Coombe
• Wooded valley order of Dunnerdale
• View on Old man etc. from Birker Fell
• Wooded – Views to Muncaster Fell
• The landscape changes quite dramatically near Santon, more (pastoral farmland), tranquil with the hamlets of Santon Bridge
• Views of the fells
• Hedges
• Gosforth flat

Coastal Plain

• The west is less touristy, the farmers struggle a bit more (?). More rundown, more repairs needed in places, stone walls in less good a condition. Less NP feel.
• Wind turbines and Stubb Place visible from the car park. Also views on the rolling lowland farmland, the valley sides and Black Combe as a dramatic backdrop.
• Buildings are different in style (?)
• Caravan park south of Stubb Place.
• Hedges along the roads, and marking field boundaries.
• Land use predominantly pastoral, some arable. Subtle differences in topography.
• Rail track.
• Quite a lot of stone walls still, also fencing.
• Gorse everywhere, and heather on fell side (Black Combe).
• Cattle grids are common.
• MOD
• Beach less inviting
• Views on Sellafield power station in the north.
• Further north the views become more open, views on Muncaster fell with its wooded sides.
• Pylons also obvious.

Beach/Intertidal Flats

• Shallow, stony beach with grass at the top
• Relatively strong sense of tranquillity
• Houses overlooking the beach
• Some sand at seashore
• Black Combe Low Fells
• Fells as a background
• Wind Farm
• In-bye land is visible on fell sides
• Sheep Farmland with simple fences
• Coastal Path
• Gorse

The Coast

• Pebble Beach
• Coast Path
• Cliffs in the background
• Views restricted (wind turbines and Stubb Place not visible), Black Coombe as backdrop.
• Far reaching views over the sea.
• More simple landscape.
• Grassy bank divides sea from coastal plain.

Rolling Lowland Farmland
• Open views of Muncaster Fell etc. Dramatic wide panoramic views from the higher areas in the east, at the foot of/on the Low Fells, on the lower coastal plain and the sea beyond.
• Hedges along the roads, stone walls marking field boundaries. Land use mainly pastoral, cattle and sheep. Pylons. Settlement in the form of small hamlets and scattered farms.

Fells (Thwaites Fell etc)
•
• Open Fell landscape. More monotonous landscape, less variety in colour, more rugged, as are the stone walls (some in need of repair). Acidy, tussocky grass, heather, some gorse and bracken.
• Stunning views on the sea, and the valley in the east (Ulpha Park).

Area N

Borrowdale
• Seathwaite – relatively contained by valley sides – strong sense of tranquillity despite car parking/walkers
• Gushing noise of Soursmill Ghyll – dramatic landscape feature set against fell backdrop
• Fell is relatively wooded – deciduous – oaks/ash/birch
• Craggy at Fell top – grey BV and some scree
• Stone Wall strong pattern – with fences above wall
• Sheep farming in valley bottom
• Mature trees
• Sense of remoteness
• Campsites (x2)
• Some clear felling – woodland tends to follow path of ghylls
• Stone revetments along R. Derwent
• Lots of deposited rounded material in river beds
• Some dry ghylls
• Gushing, clear, trinkling water in beck’s
• Lack of settlement pattern in view
• Stone bridges over river
• Very much sense of a wooded valley
• Stonethwaite – small hamlet and pub
• Dramatic wooded backdrop/ B&B
• Looking W.-open fells
• Stone buildings – strong sense of tranquility
• Stone walls with fences on top –in-bye land visible – mature landscape structure
• Old Church and school and row of white houses (visible in landscape)
• Interaction between – quite compact – has everything in terms of features
• Fell, farmland, lakes, rivers, woodland –woodland component – one of most wooded valleys in Lake District
• Semi-nat./ancient woodland – one of best examples in Western Europe wood pasture
• Woodland and dev. woodland
• Woodland straining against cultural fabric
• If woodland not managed as woodland – continual deterioration - open
• Langstrath – was once wooded (big pollard trees) – 8-10ft ash trees – gradually deteriorated as land farmed more intensively
• Cultural vs. natural env. (designation) – no absolute value put on cultural
• Caerwent – SSS1/ SAC – unfavourable condition – revelments etc. – NE cannot now divert river
- Process started which will follow through – Catchment Flood Management Docs: low value agricultural land will be allowed to inundate.
- River not repaired – meadow land which – fabric will deteriorate
- Big floods every 2 months
- Bright green fields and stone walls – fells (woodland – future wet/rushy pasture deteriorating)
- Bottom fields critical to heating system – food/fodder for animals
- Seatoller Farm – direct impact on farmers – people move out/ loss of farming
- Green landscape will gradually deteriorate
- Upland fell – loss of sheep – more dwarf heaths – accretion of woodland
- Dwarf heaths heather/shrubs will spread
- Marboth fells/watend lath – predominantly Heather – a lot of fell landscapes will change – become more difficult to walk
- Remnants of dwarf heath reg. – watend lath catchment/ high spy – still a lot of heather
- Mosaic
- Bracken – top of line is controlled by frost – frost line will creep up (influenced by climate) as will bracken
- Was intensively managed at one time for bedding – now not resources to this – 2/3 yrs of cutting bracken will go
- Grazing – sheep can’t get to bracken – Derwent fells – bracken mgt. Plan – swards through
- Bracken – no winter grazing – is a pre-cursor to woodland
- Dynamically changing – ineduously – landscape has always changed.
- Mon’s impact – keeping as is/ or changing it
- Fell farms – labour farms have gone up – skeleton of what was formally – NT try to diversify/ manage for natural and cultural env.
- Look east valley as a whole unit: - natural/dynamic flux and flow, landscape has always been different and changed
- Stone axe factories and mining activity – was a busier industrial landscape
- What is precious = subjective?
- What landscape features are important? – whole valley plans – farm units – seatoller farms – is it “iconic L.D. farm” – fell/whitehouse/patterns behind
- * Rosthwaite – farms sat within villages – Yew tree farms
- How many farms would sustain valley? – which ones would fall by wayside?
- Rock with green “stuff” on top – green stuff fluxes and changes – timeless – underlying rock structure
- Sites between skidder slates & BV at jaws of Borrowdale
- Lake narrows and then opens again
- Stones and lava
- Bowderstone – geological story – coldbeck fells – Northern Fells – Mines – minerals, slate, copper, lead and zinc
- Connection with mining for a long time – rock – changes and not to be made into a museum
- Long term plans – forest plans – 100yrs/500yrs – can and can’t manage over this period?
- Iconic “ness” – microcosm – big natural – clean/ crystal clear waters – big lake with fell backdrops – latbells fells – association
- Mallets – grange/Rosthwaite/Seatoller
- Iconic farmhouses
- Ashnex farm – white – on fell side
- Road end/valley head – hardly changed since 1930’s (farms intensively managed) = Watendlath
- Farmed landscape – diversity – create hay meadows – why doing this? – flowers/insects etc – subjective?
- Why choose a particular period in time to re-create?
• Walls – perils in landscape – e.g. fences on fells – line of fence posts – reaction is you can see the old fence line boundaries – visible – if a fence line on fells – compartmentalising landscape will benefit a habitat “emotive reaction”
• Long Term: Catchment 40/50 ft deep
• Southern end of lake is silting up – shallow lakes
• Derwent – Bassenthwaite used to be joined
• Cultural env. – sediment is carried down by rivers (way they are engineering) rate of sedimentation would change
• Monastic times – river course was changed – discharge events – river will move – dramatic effects – big sediment movement
• “managed retreat”? – patch and mend – big event – step away
• Fabric behind river defences is not ready
• Land ownership limits plans for this – Balanced on river defences
• Water framework directive – how will this impact on habitats directive? N. eng’s – MO – multi-objective delivery in a catchment area
• Holistic management – policies have happened
• People: - hanging valleys and lots around Borrowdale – U-shaped valleys leading into Borrowdale – Rosthwaite was probably once a lake
• Grange: 70% holiday cottages
• Lots of visitors drawn to Borrowdale – “Chocolate Box” valley
• Can see whole valley from Berwent Water landings – Scafell Pike etc. – can sample everything – Bowderstone/Milligan’s cave
• Not changed very much v. “rural”
• Hotels which have been there a long time
• Traditional scale and grander hotels – Ladore hotels – artists and literary associations
• Focal Points – Scafell Pike – Great Cable – ascending from Seathwaite
• Cat Bells – very popular – known by children
• Mountaineering and climbing – Bently Bethem – historic connection – Shepherd’s crag – as much as any other valley
• Milligan Button – caves
• Just as busy in summer as winter
• Doesn’t rain a lot, but rains “proper” – huge amounts of rain – water discharge is dramatic – sourmilk ghyll – gushing sounds/ white water streams
• Not putting rods of iron there – has changed more dramatically in past when quarries were there – it was different
• Got to allow landscape to change and develop
• Just starting on a period of rapid change – real emphasis on protection of natural environment – Cultural landscape will fall apart – how can you keep someone farming if land not valuable? – no one wants to do it? – sing farm payments and habitats
• 4 permanent pasture in valley bottoms – farmers could step away - no control – could let it scrub up – grow woodland – not designated for its habitat
• Cultural attributes are not protected – if farming falling apart – stewards of natural env. – walls fall apart
• People who live and farm – not protected only there because of economic incentive
• Newlands – far more remote and inaccessible – no visitor attractions/ café’s - fells (sense of time) – this how it used to be and is there now
• – people don’t hang around just pass through – focal point for mining activity – Price Crag mines – evocative and isolates places
• Mines on cattbells (was once industrialised / Barrow Osica
• Little towns – “back of beyond” feeling
• Still a farmed landscape
• Keskadale Woods – taken out of grazing – good example of allowing change to happen
- Former mined landscape – little interaction between locals and visitors
- Residential or famed – Newlands church/school
- Big Changes in Swindeside Woods – dear felling etc
- V.P.
- Ashness Farm and Bridge
- Seathwaite
- Bowderstone
- Park at Barrowdale Gates and hill to west
- Stonethwaite – typical L.D. road – end hamlet – how it might have been
- Narrow section of river
- Rosthwaite
- Scafell Hotel – white building with black windows – estate railings/grassland
- White stone cottages
- Open sheep grazed farmland to S. of Jaus of Borrowdale – river side pasture
- Bowderstone Car Park
- High Green Fell – wooded at lower slopes – Grange fell (combination of smooth and craggy
- Trees on high fell (Grange Fell)
- Background birdsong and rushing water in Denvent
- Strong sense of enclosure at jaws of Borrowdale – dramatic ridge lines
- Noise associated with main road corridor
- Some bluebell understorey in spring
- Steelgill – dramatic views along Newlands valley to Boosenthwaite
- Views across Denvent water
- Keswick – wooded setting
- Borrowdale Hotel at Greenbank
- Watendlath – wooded character – narrow roads, trees/canopies overhang roads, beck etc.
- High stonewalls enclosing narrow road corridors
- Very strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity
- Newlands Valley
- Gorse, narrow roads
- Wooded knolls (coniferous) – lush valley floor – surrounded by high fells
- Stone walls with fences on top
- Strong sense of tranquillity
- Lower Reaches of R. Derwent: Setmurthy
- Parkland – mature landscape – veteran (?) trees
- Strong sense of tranquillity
- Coniferous woodland backdrop to north – patches of open fell, provide contrast
- Forest Commission – Big Wood – felling – open fell (Common? – behind)
- Some dairying on road to Bewaldeth
- Windfarm to north
- Dramatic views to Bassenthwaite Lake to South – views to Binsey moorland.

**Areas E and F**
- Ullswater
- Brothers water character area
- Boggy valley, reed, woodland, Ullswater
- Ullswater, quite a lot of beech, planted in Victorian days
- Lot of pollards (ash)
- Steep nibble ash
- Very popular with artists – amazing light! Changes constantly
- Very pleasing, picturesque with high fells
- Lots of NT estates
• Dockray, upland valley, views on the low fells
• Gorse! Just out of Dockray– roofless farm
• Towards Dacre –mature vegetation Lining road. Single track road
• Pastoral
• Vernacular!
• To forest plateau
• Up from Dacre, Pooley Bridge
• More lowland farmland, X land
• Eamont valley character area
• Fences and hedges, no stone walls (or hardly)
• Stopped at Barton Church
• Rolling hills
• Arable, some stone walls
• Lowther Castle – castle and park
• Helton in the middle of the (window colours)
• Haweswater reservoir
• Stone walls along the road
• Burbanks village built for waterworks in the 1930s
• Swinedale Beck
• Crags!
• Pastoral land, trees, farms, stone walls, isolated, remote, one track road
• Saw quarry (Thornhouse)
• Up to reservoir.
• Grazing cows
• All still same characteristics – lots of grass and rushes (clumps of forest)

Areas I and M

• Rydal Water – wooded/soft valley sides – High Fell backdrop
• Predominantly deciduous, some coniferous.
• Langdale – Chapel Site – shiny grey spoil heaps alongside Gt. Langdale Beck
• Dramatic water flow when raining – background noise.
• Ellerwater – River –wide/gushing – traditional white and lakeland stone cottages
• Exclusive timeshare/holiday homes complex (look up)
• Bluebell understorey woodland
• Green lanes – narrow and mossy with green character – trees overhanging road
• Coniston – NE modern, white semi-detached houses – not in keeping with vernacular/not screened from main rain corridor or landscape
• School – with parking associated – screened to east by mature trees/woodland
• W. Lakeshore –Windermere/Esthwaite – bluebell understorey to woodland and wild garlic
• Graythwaite Hall – very mature parkland trees – diff. char. Area?
• Cunsey Beck – needs to come out – as diff. area or part of Esthwaite
• Two dales going through centre of Grizedale Forest – these are different
• Hawkeshead – eastern approach to village – modern – 1970s (?) 80’s houses, church on hill – see notes.
• N.W. end Basenthwaite
• Planting – beeches/etc ornate – mature tree-lined roads/
• Oak and parkland – well maintained walk – copied beech in hedge – rhododendrons (rid)
• Lakeshore
• Big Hotels (Armathwaite Hall) and views to Skiddaw
• Deciduous Lines trees – low trimmed hedges – gorse – dairy farming
• Ireby Grange – estate houses
• High Ireby – mature avenues along roads – narrow – with stone walls
• Ireby Hall – white washed/ beige grey with coloured windows
• 1454 – hedgebank with pollarding
• Bassenthwaite – farms and council houses in village – traditional coloured windows
• Breshthwaite/ Bassenthwaite/Ulldale – high hedgerows along road corridor
• Derwent Valley – wooded parkland – mature landscape – halls

Area I

Tarn Hows

• On top of the knoll.
• Quarrying visible and Black Crag
• Rich mosaic of different cultural landscapes in this part of the Park.
• Tarn Hows is artificial but naturalised
• Central Fell - mosaic of farms, walls, hedges and trees going up the fell side
• High Dam
• Tarn Hows is manmade (in the 1860s).
• Clear geological differences, Borrowdale Volcanics, then sharp (major geological fault) changeover in Coniston Dale to the Windermere more sedimentary rocks (not volcanic) – and Windermere super series
• Frozen standing wave of Coniston limestone which is very calcium rich
• Need to pick away at the layers of landscape to understand the place
• It all started with a blank canvas of hills and rocks
• Historic Evidence and Bronze Age relics
• Cultural landscape of farming and quarries which is still evolving
• Areas of designed parkland
• Strong culturally shaped landscape (farming, quarrying and forestry elements) interwoven with topographical and archaeological elements. A designed landscape superimposed over the topography.
• Landscape changes in terms of access (CRoW Act).
• This is an access landscape as a result of people and recreational activity
• Upland path work and recreational dimension – influencing tenant farmers to engage with ESA work
• Positive/ Conservation gains – husbandry and managed habitats
• Coniston and limestone
• Outside is a manicured and managed farmland
• Manages the Coniston and Windermere Lakes, up to the A591.
• Responsible for the upland pathwork, and influencing tenant farmers to work within the ESA Scheme.
• Management on creating or improving access.
• Visitor management etc.
• Land in hand managed by the NT, generally forestry. Mix of semi-ancient woodland, amenity woodland (coniferous and broadleaved).
• Creating views towards distinctive features (crags, Tarn Hows, Langdale pines…). Hold true to the principles of views, as it was 100yrs ago.
• Yew Tree Farm – NT – public access and detailed issues
• Semi ancient woodland on the east side of Coniston
• Amenity – mixed conifer and broadleaf woodland
• Iron Kell – more dense spruce and lark woodland which provide better views backdrop to Tarn Hows
• More open hillside previously
• Detailed planting and trees in the valleysides
• Spruce taken out about five years ago to provide views to Langdale Pikes
• Framed views
• Crags through gaps in trees – returning Tarn Hows to Marshall dynasty
• Water quality of the Udale Beck – Church Beck and Torver Beck from Coppermines – engaged in work with the E Ag; and S Cumbria’s rivers trust
• Wild fishery – trout and local fishing clubs
• Flood defence – ways of mitigating flood defence
• Habitat management – plantations – mixed amenity woodlands
• Forestry Commission provide timber
• Conifer woodland - grown to maturity and felling
• Wood pasture/ parkland – single trees and veteran trees in the landscape
• Some of the oldest alder at Boon Crag
• Relics of the wildwood
• Detailed and broader habitat management plans – valley and whole farm plans
• NT owns Yewdale Beck, Church Back (Copper mines…).
• Mentioned South Cumbria Rivers.
• Some pollution from minerals
• Also improve habitats, mitigate flooding, manage productive woodlands.
• Coniferous plantations planted 20yrs ago are now being converted for timber production. They do not encourage replanting pine trees but are changing it to broadleaved.
• At the head of Coniston Water, parkland type single trees in the landscape.
• JL mention they have the oldest Alder in the LD, England, maybe even Europe or the world.
• Also the highest chestnut.
• Still finding relics in the wild woods.
• A dramatic change in forest activity.
• Issues: fly(?) camping, wild parties etc. Not too bad in the Coniston Valley.
• Bottles – infrastructure and managing people
• TH: Countryside services team.
• There are 12 countryside rangers.
• They are now working with experts on rights of way, access etc…
• CRoW Access brought about access changes, opening up etc.
• They put in furniture and gates etc.
• New ProW improvement plan.
• Grizedale is being converted as well. Access and recreation, cycle routes etc. No money in timber anymore.
• Suggest routes
• Rights of Way network and open access land
• Off road routes – on that land
• Furness Fells - landowners
• Intense visitor pressure.
• Rangers expected to be jacks of all trades.
• Grizedale Forest planted in WWI.
• A LOT more wooded in this area of the LD.
• Economic engine for the LD is tourism.
• But logjam is the changes farmers need to take (to survive).
• Foot & Mouth Watershed, in 2001.
• 11 farms in area, tenants. Usually the husbandry and management is very good, some less.
• Central Fells are unique: common land on the tops, and farms at the bottom.
• Distinctive character which has evolved over centuries
• Dramatic changes in Forestry activity
• Visitor management – e.g; Tarn Hows
• One of the most difficult areas.
• People are migrating to towns, don’t want to take over their parents’ farms etc.
• Investment in local communities.
• New Environmental Steward Scheme, High Level, and ESA are allowing farmers to stay on the land.
• Farmers have to diversify and think more laterally.
• Farm Business Tenancy Rules. The landlord has generally less influence than the tenants, hoping that will change.
• Some life tenancies, some generation tenancies 90 Trust Farms.
• They do stock proofing, deer fencing, deer enclosures to start coppice production.
• Charcoal production, furnace fencing, hurdlers.
• Tourism is changing.
• Explosion in camping, 90% increase in the last 2yrs!
• Young people camping (alcohol and drugs)
• Quad bikes
• Lama tracks (Tilberthwaite)
• Many activities competing for the same resource, conflict of interests.
• More and more limited.
• Stone walling directly reflects the underlying geology.
• Esdale Granite, here slate.
• All field walls are built to a particular standard. Width of base half of height. Standard about 5ft6” high. An outer layer with infill, storms to keep the outer layers together. Copping stones on top.
• 4 main phases: clearance (for agriculture); establishment; in-bye/out-bye land; enclosure, from the Elizabethan period till nowish.
• Boundaries to segregate stock etc.
• Wasdale Head (?): good stones.
• Langdale stone Axe Factory.
• Flat dress stone about to be used for wall was found to be an axe.
• Usually flat dress(ing)? For parkland enclosure and stately homes usually.
• One m² of wall weighs about a ton so they would be built from locally sourced materials.
• On the west coast there is evidence of sandstone used in buildings, imported from other areas, an indication of wealth.
• Stone is being moved for the Fix the Fells project (last 25yrs). Upland path maintenance. Issue, the last 15-20yrs, is that some of the areas of stone may become exhausted, or lose their scree… character, as too many stones are being removed.
• Improve/enhance biodiversity.
• Big change – very closely driven by policy and strategy.
• Teaming up a lot more with other groups.
• Money is the biggest difference, a lot more money coming in.
• Compliance issues are major (they – the rangers – used to be able to do what they wanted re management).
• Health and Safety etc etc.
• Climate change and global warming of course.
• Restrictions on travel soon probably – issue?
• Provision of holiday cottages is saturated, an even minor decrease could marginalise many businesses.
• Yew Tree: Beatrix Potter.
• Balance amenities, businesses etc. Identifying where resources need to go.
• Penrith to Ravenglass → Roman Road, with Little Langdale at the centre.
• Making the LD background (history, geology etc) more accessible for people.
STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The project partners were keen to consult and involve a wide range of key stakeholder organisations in the project as possible. To facilitate this, the consultant team ran a series of workshops for stakeholders over the summer to brief them on the study and discuss the work:

- **Wednesday 28th February 2007 at the Brockhole Visitor Centre Lecture Theatre**
  This workshop was held for National Park Rangers and National Trust Property Managers. See workshop note for details.

- **Friday 25th May 2007 at the National Park Authority’s offices in Kendal**
  This initial workshop presented the emerging findings of the character assessment work and provided an opportunity to discuss the key drivers for change affecting the National Park’s landscapes. See workshop note below for details.

- **Tuesday 19th June at the National Park Authority’s offices in Kendal**
  This workshop will be held for Natural England, Friends of Lake District and National Park staff.

- **Thursday 19th July 2007 at the National Park Authority’s offices in Kendal**
  This second workshop will present the interim findings of the guidelines work and provide an opportunity to discuss how these can be used to inspire locally appropriate landscape management and inform the planning and development control process.

Stakeholders were also invited to provide their views by (i) completing and returning a Consultation Questionnaire or (ii) discussing the project directly with the consultants on a one-to-one basis.

These inputs are helping to inform the preparation of the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines.

**List of Key Stakeholders Consulted**

- Allerdale Borough Council
- Copeland Borough Council
- Country Land and Business Association
- Cumbria Association of Local Councils
- Cumbria County Council
- Cumbria County Council
- Cumbria Tourism
- Cumbria Vision
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust
- Eden District Council
- English Heritage
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission
- Friends of the Lake District
- Friends of the Lake District
- Friends of the Lake District
- Government Office North West
- Lake District Local Access Forum
- Lake District National Park Authority
- Lake District National Park Authority
- National Farmer’s Union
- National Trust
- Natural England
North West Development Agency
South Lakeland District Council
United Utilities
LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT & GUIDELINES

Notes of Workshop for
National Park Rangers and National Trust Property Managers

Brockhole Visitor Centre Lecture Theatre
Wednesday 28th February 2007

Attendees | Organisation | Job Title
---|---|---
Dominic Watkins | CBA | Director
Emma Clarke | CBA | Senior Landscape Planner
Andrew Herbert | LDNPA | Conservation Manager
John Darlington | National Trust | Area Manager
Chris Berry | LDNPA | Area Ranger
Ian Clemmett | LDNPA | Ranger (N)
Sue Thompson | LDNPA | Ranger (S)
Andrew Herbert | LDNPA | Conservation Manager
Shirley Muir | LDNPA | Ranger Manager (N)
Sara Spicer | LDNPA | Ranger Manager (S)
Richard Palmer | NT | Property Manager- Western Valleys
John Moffat | NT | Property Manager- Hawkshead & Beatrix Potter
David Wilkinson | NT | Property Manager- Grasmere and Great Langdale
Tim Ashberry | NT | Property Manager- Eastern Valleys
John Malley | NT | Property Manager- Borrowdale
Jamie Lund | NT | Regional Archaeologist
Sarah Woodcock | NT | Curator (Buildings and Landscapes)
Jim Loxham | NT | Property Manager- Coniston and Little Langdale
Nick Hill | NT | Regional Rural Surveyor and Landuse Adviser
Jeremy Barlow | NT | Lake District Strategy and Planning Officer

Purpose of the Workshop

To identify the following things for the National Park, using combined knowledge of the group:

- Landscape character units;
- Key issues and trends most affecting the current and future character/quality of the landscape character units;
- The key considerations for sustaining and/or enhancing the future character of the landscape character units.

Format of the Workshop

John Darlington (National Trust), Andrew Herbert (LDNPA) and Dominic Watkins (CBA) gave a short introduction to the workshop, detailing the aims and objectives of the project and the day. Attendees then split into four smaller groups (Team A-D) for discussion in Breakout sessions. The objectives, tasks and recorded notes from each discussion group are set out below:

Breakout Session 1 – Landscape Characterisation Mapping

Objective
On the maps provided, prepare a classification of discrete landscape character units for the whole Park using the combined knowledge of the group.

**Tasks**

- Identify, map and name ‘landscape character types’ – generic types which possess broadly similar patterns of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land uses;
- Settlement and field pattern in every area where they occur (e.g. river valley, lakeside forest, high fell, low fell, valley bottom, etc)
- Identify, map and name ‘landscape character areas’ – unique individual geographical areas within each landscape character type. They share generic characteristics with other areas of the same type, but also have their own particular identity

**Feedback Recorded from Discussion Groups (Teams A-D)**

Each discussion Group annotated an AO map to show Landscape Character Types (and in some cases – areas).

**Breakout Session 2 – Evaluation of Key Issues in the Landscape**

**Objective**

Identify the key issues and trends that you consider are most affecting the current and future character/quality of the landscape character units.

**Tasks**

- Highlight key landscape and visual qualities that are sensitive/vulnerable to change
- Highlight the main past and future drivers for change – e.g. potential effects arising from climate change, agricultural and land management change, and from development

**Key Issues – Team A**

- Significant Reduction of Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) payments (lack of income)
- Reduction in Agricultural Support (from payment per head to payment per acre)
- Cost of Housing- (lack of affordable housing, second home ownership, loss of community)
- Recreational Pressure (sheer quantity of people)
- Tourism Pressure (more demanding public)
- Accessibility and Communication (roads)
- Climate Change (flash flooding, sensitive upland environments/thin soils, flood management)
- Water Quality (watershed management)
- Tranquillity (quiet lakes policy, quiet area designations)
- Management for Biodiversity
- Plantation Management (timber)
- Allowing Natural Processes (Ennerdale-removal of conifers)
- Migration of young people (loss of skills)
- Loss of Habitat- Flora/Fauna
- Lack of understanding of countryside (high local food quality)
- Loss of Herdwick Sheep
- Pollution and Eutrophication (agricultural practices, conurbations, community waste)

**Key Issues – Team B**
Agriculture
- Sheep numbers - enclosure of commons
- Government incentives
- Fell grazing
- Pollution
- Lack of succession

Countryside
- Policy change
- Landuse - 10mph limit Windermere
- Access
- Recreation
- Government funding

Society Change
- More wealth
- More leisure

Infrastructure
- Traffic/roads
- Utilities
- Energy generation - phone masts, wind turbines

Development/ Re-Development
- Barn conversions
- Plastic windows
- Relaxation of planning controls
- Move towards native woodland
- Multi-purpose forestry

Upland Path Erosion
- Managing fells for recreation rather than agriculture

Loss of Tranquillity
- Wildness/habitat
- Water abstraction
- Large scale wind generation

Vernacular Character of Buildings/ Settlements and surrounding landscape
- Increase in developed land
- Coniferous - broadleaf/open fell
- Forestry economy and community

Key Issues – Team C
- Farming changes – subsidies
- Tourism - trends - global events
- Broad economic picture - landuse, farming subsidies
- Significant Landowners - aspirations
- Geo-politics and events
- Climate change
- Legal compliances
- Social values
- Demographics - ageing population, skills, housing needs, infrastructure, communities

Key Issues – Team D
• Changes in the farmed landscape- rural economic diversification- other than agri and tourism, loss of local skills and knowledge, attitudes to conservation, marginal economics (economy of land management), influence of agri-environment schemes/objectives on natural environment, extensive land cover/ vegetation change (bracken, dwarf heath, birch scrub, common grazing fell land, people- cultural assets/ traditions
• Climate change- adapting to consequences of -droughts, fire risk, vegetation change, soil erosion, floods
• Landscape quality- influence of agri-environmental schemes, , public access, sustain existing qualities, effects visitor numbers, public subsidy for environmental benefits
• Natural Process Management- space for wildlife, changing economics of commercial forestry/ sheep farming
• Visitor Economy- viability of key communities/ services, effects on tourism/ visitor numbers

Breakout Session 3 – Future Landscape Character Considerations

Objective

Using the combined knowledge of the group, identify what you feel should be the key considerations for sustaining and/or enhancing the future character of the landscape character units.

Tasks

• Identity key landscape sensitivities/ vulnerabilities
• Identify key considerations/guidelines for positive management of the landscape and sensitive development in the landscape

Key Landscape Sensitivities/ Vulnerabilities – Team A

• Ecological Value- lack of heather fells, significant increase in herb rich hay meadows and wetlands, Bilberry and Heather on open fell, huge areas of SSSI and SAC, loss of species related to habitat
• Walled Landscape- boundary management, separating stock, historic/aesthetical value
• Vernacular Buildings- farm barns, clusters of buildings- compact settlements/ hamlets/crofts/villages
• Commons- management
• Building maintenance- cost of maintaining slate roofs, stone walls
• Water bodies- recreational use
• Veteran Trees
• Designed Landscapes
• Cultural Identities- South Lakes-angle hedge laying, Coniston- mining town

Key Considerations/ Guidelines for positive management of the landscape and sensitive development in the landscape – Team A

• Farmers/ Land managers have to be given financial resources/ incentives to look after the important ecology/ built landscapes/ cultural landscapes/ historic landscape
• Increasing biodiversity in uplands
• Maintaining valley/fell pattern
• Successional vegetation- from valley to upland, heather fells
• Valleys
• Support into valley- head farms to protect central core of LD
• Sustainable Development- combining economy, environment and community (spatial planning)
• Controlled access to sensitive parts
• Woodlands- more natural woodlands opposed to plantations, opportunities for new woodlands, linking woodland blocks, sensitive management of conifer plantations
• Tennant farmers- most cost effective
• Ecology- wildlife corridors, and re-establishing hedgerows in valley bottoms
• Walls- working boundary walls

Key Landscape Sensitivities/ Vulnerabilities – Team B

• Vegetation change- changing land uses, horses, campsites etc
• Cultural Landscapes
• Land use pattern
• Loss of livelihood/ community
• Environmental qualities
• Vegetation change
• Flooding
• Drought
• Soil erosion
• Changes to visitor patterns
• Coastal Management- erosion
• Loss of open fell
• Loss of distinctive agricultural landscape zones
• River management
• “wetting up”- Lyth Valley
• Government agency resources
• Road Pricing- Park and Ride
• Access Management Infrastructure

Key Considerations/ Guidelines for positive management of the landscape and sensitive development in the landscape – Team B

• Whole park guidelines
• Landscape unit guidelines- need to contribute to whole park objectives not just local objectives
• A whole park vision and landscape units
• What are the distinctive qualities
• What is important in the landscape to keep non-negotiables
• Identifying what we want to change
• Not too prescriptive- but not too loosely written
• Maintain distinctiveness- including cultural heritage

Key Landscape Sensitivities/ Vulnerabilities and Key Considerations/ Guidelines for positive management of the landscape and sensitive development in the landscape – Team C

Lakes
• Water Extraction for domestic use
• Climate Change- Drought
• Water Quality- pollution, farming
• Lake shore development- appropriateness, quality
• Tourism- use of water- boats

Settlements
• Pressure for new housing
• Erosion of local character
- Cost of living
- Redundant farm buildings- change in practice
- Demographic infrastructure
- Living communities- wide age range, skills, education
- Transport- facilities/services, doctors
- Standard of living- expectations
- Communication facilities- masts, broadband
- Local living vs. Holiday homes
- Community spirit

Upland Fell
- Development- mast, windmills
- Farming practices- grazing, subsidies, crop type change, boundary walls, fencing, wilding, erosion- paths and access, economic vulnerability, signage, rubbish, health and safety, fickle market, management- values and tensions, landscape choices and protection, compliance e.g. water framework directive, climate change- social values, quarries- demand for materials

Valley Bottom- link with upland fell- management unit
- Farm development pressure- new builds, new use, intensification
- River management- naturalisation
- Recreational use- campsites, bed and breakfast
- Tourism more vulnerable- demographics, social values, expectations
- Economic drivers- grant aid
- Shift in emphasis to nature conservation
- Sheep sheds- animal welfare
- Compliance regulations
- Economics of farming

Key Landscape Sensitivities/ Vulnerabilities – Team D
- Communal grazing
- Sustainable grazing levels and types
- Number of fell farms and flock
- Re-wetting of agri-land (Lyth Valley)
- River corridor flood management changes- water framework directive
- Floodplain character changes- wetter, water meadows replacing in – bye, enclosure patchwork change

Key Considerations/ Guidelines for positive management of the landscape and sensitive development in the landscape – Team D
- ‘Principles’ useful criteria to evaluate management options

Workshop Summary
This valuable local knowledge gained from the workshop will provide a key source of information to feed into the characterisation and evaluation process. All attendees kindly offered to meet the Field Survey Team in the Park later in the process to further contribute to the process.
NOTE OF STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

Held on Friday 25th May 2007 at the Lake District National Park Authority Offices, Kendal

Participants

Carole Hodgson Country Land and Business Association
Jenny Wain Cumbria County Council
Richard Newman Cumbria County Council
Chris Hoban Eden District Council
Judith Nelson English Heritage
Richard Hatch Environment Agency
Jack Ellerby Friends of the Lake District*
Jan Darrall Friends of the Lake District
Andrew Forsyth Friends of the Lake District
Charles Flanagan Lake District Local Access Forum
Chris Greenwood Lake District National Park Authority*
Andrew Herbert Lake District National Park Authority*
Helen Little National Farmer’s Union
Jeremy Barlow National Trust*
Susannah England Natural England*
Paul Phillips United Utilities

Dominic Watkins CBA
Keith Rowe ADAS

* Members of the client commissioning group

Organisations Invited but Did Not Attend

Allerdale Borough Council
Copeland Borough Council
Cumbria Association of Local Councils
Cumbria Tourism
Cumbria Vision
Cumbria Wildlife Trust
Forestry Commission
Government Office North West
North West Development Agency
South Lakeland District Council

Purpose of the Workshop

The Client Commissioning Group is keen to consult and involve a wide range of stakeholder organisations in the project as possible. To facilitate this, the workshop aims to:

• Brief stakeholders on the study
• Present the interim findings of the character assessment mapping work
• Obtain stakeholder’s views on key drivers for change affecting the National Park’s landscapes and the need for/scope of the landscape guidelines

Format of the Workshop
Chris Greenwood (Landscape Architect, LDNPA) welcomed everyone to the workshop and gave a short introduction to the project, explaining the need for and commissioning of the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines. Chris introduced the Client Commissioning Group and the project consultants Chris Blandford Associates (CBA).

Dominic Watkins (Director, CBA) provided an outline of the study’s objectives, process and outputs. He explained that the work started in January 2007 and was being undertaken in two stages: the character assessment work is Stage 1, which runs to the end of June, and Stage 2 comprises the preparation of the guidelines to be completed by the end of September 2007.

Dominic then presented the draft maps of proposed Landscape Character Types (13 no.) and Areas of Distinctive Character (currently 71 no.), explaining how they fitted with the existing classification hierarchy provided by the national level Character of England Map and the county level Cumbria Landscape Classification.

Details of the above points are set out in the PowerPoint presentation which can be downloaded from the Lake District National Park Authority’s website at www.lake-district.gov.uk.

The workshop participants were divided into three groups (A-C) to identify the key issues/drivers for change affecting the National Park’s landscapes, and to discuss the scope of the management guidelines.

A record of the key issues from each discussion group is set out below.

**DISCUSSION GROUP A**

**Agricultural Change**

- Agricultural macro-economics are a major driver
- The continuation of public subsidies to support hill farmers is key
- Agricultural diversification/other forms of economic development options can be reduced by planning policy constraints
- Need design guidelines for agricultural buildings (conversions/reuse)
- Farm amalgamation is leading to a loss of traditional land management skills
- Potential conflicts between low intensity land management initiatives and cultural landscape conservation objectives

**Climate Change**

- Fell landscape changes - moorland habitat change/species movement/extended ranges
- More intensive upland erosion (winter storms/drier summers/more visitors?)
- Water quality protection/water supply issues/more reservoirs?
- Landscape-scale changes (eg. grassland to crops?)
- Abandonment of agricultural landscapes presents opportunities for low intensity land management

**Recreation**

- Footpath erosion/scars, although scale of impacts is relatively limited and appropriate management/resources in place
• Visitor transport/traffic – widespread tranquillity effects
• Infrastructure capacity – key influence on levels of use/patterns
• Honey pot site management issues (eg. Tarn Hows)

**Settlements**

• Use of vernacular/distinctive building materials/forms/designs
• Sense of community within settlements – demographic changes/second homes/affordable housing/employment/key services (including online access)
• New housing supply/type/design – impact on existing settlement character
• Demand for private swimming pools

**Tourism**

• Meeting tourist needs in settlements (new build/change of use for hotel accommodation; public realm investment/infrastructure – visitor centres/car parking – eg. Keswick Masterplan)
• Barn conversions/farm B & B’s

**Energy/Infrastructure**

• Sustainable and small/domestic-scale local energy generation options (eg. wood/coppicing; hydropower; and micro wind energy generation/single turbines)
• IT networks – cables/masts
• A590 road widening pressure
• Penrith to Keswick Railway Line
• Morecambe Bay bridge/barrage
• Positive management of forestry land

**Summary of Key Issues**

• The natural environment is the Lake District’s “USP”
• Need to conserve health of the natural environment in the round as it underpins landscape condition/character/quality
• Adopting a long-term sustainable approach to land management is key
• Maintaining distinctiveness of buildings and landscape (including designed landscapes), whilst allowing positive changes that support a prosperous/vibrant economy which is needed to maintain the landscape (and visa versa)
• Identify opportunities/risks for positive/negative change in specific places to reflect local differences/distinctiveness

**DISCUSSION GROUP B**

**Agriculture/CAP Reform**

• Market response issues (HFA replacement by Upland Environmental Stewardship funding levels dependent on access to scheme)
• Lamb prices
• “Rewilding” in High Fells as a result of low stocking rates by commoners – management of change in landscape without animals is key issue
• Managing the transition between end of ESA and eligibility issues and lower payments of ELS creating an income gap for farmers
• HLS targeting is a key issue
• Pressure for ‘away wintering’ (low sheep numbers over winter) leading to increased sheep sheds in valleys with associated planning issues

Water Management

• Water Framework Directive impacts on agri-environmental schemes
• New catchment policies under consultation – due to kick in within 12 months?
• River Basin Management Plans/catchment management plans

Climate Change

• Increased moorland fires
• Coastal erosion
• Change from freeze/thaw leading to increased gully erosion
• Storm events
• Other water related issues such as provision of drinking water drawdown on reservoirs
• Opportunities for bio fuels in the Low Fells
• Improved management of blanket peat to reduce carbon release/preservation of paleo-archaeology
• Varied impacts on the historic environment – eg. designed landscapes
• “Rewilding” in Ennerdale may affecting wider character; acceptability and understanding nature of change and potential impacts; positive visual/biodiversity benefits of move to deciduous woodland from commercial forestry
• Coastal Management Plans – managed retreat/realignment options

Telecommunications

• Phone masts
• Next generation connections – no lines?

Energy Generation and Transmission

• Onshore/offshore wind turbines/transmission lines
• Domestic generation and use
• Biomass - woodchip generators/transport; small-scale generation/ community led; historical generation from waterpower; wood (coppiced) or Miscanthus?
• Nuclear – new build/transmission issues
• Gas/water pipe lines - under-grounding (archaeological issues); challenge for High Fells

Tourism

• Increased tourist infrastructure demands/pressures – including:
  * Sewage network
  * Water supply
  * Waste streams
  * Roads (better quality – replace not replicate)
  * General transport
• Tourism type/sectors - promotion of affluent tourism (tranquility as driver)
• Sustainability issues - e.g. off-roading
• Need for sensitive/small scale development
• Drive to encourage visits from urban areas - lack of understanding of need for sustainable transport mode choices
• Not more but better quality infrastructure
• Increase stays needs to be balanced with day trips

**Economic Development**

• Regeneration schemes (transport, infrastructure, focus on cash and jobs)
• Management of pressure points/development control
• Partnership working in economic development sector/promote holistic approach

**Retaining and Maintain Traditional Buildings**

• Policies and funding needed to retain maintain traditional buildings
• Socio-economic impacts
• ESA was the key driver – need to diversity potential funding drivers to keep this going

**Potential World Heritage Site Inscription**

• Benefits of Inscription?
• Spin off effects?
• Development/planning considerations?
• Agri-environment funding benefits?
• Need to signpost opportunities

**Legislative Changes**

• Energy
• Planning
• Waste Management
• Heritage Protection (White Paper)

**Demographic Changes**

• Age structure changes (lack of affordable housing caused by second homes/holiday homes pricing younger generation out of local housing market)

**Minerals**

• Planning
• Small-scale/local development and use
• Reuse former quarries

**Waste**

• Increase efficiency
• Managing fly tipping
• Promote incentives for recycling/reuse

**Forestry**

• Changing management practices
• Management of landscape change
• Increase biodiversity

DISCUSSION GROUP C

Agricultural Public Funding and Viability

• Stock Rates – need balance of numbers and types to deliver multiple objectives
• Labour/skills levels – retention of upland skills
• Products/markets – added value for products connected to local landscape distinctiveness
• Farm holding restructuring/social and cultural change – encouraging new products and appropriate locations and maintain a critical mass of workers to maintain/restore traditional important landscape features
• Farm diversification – vernacular and modern buildings need to be appropriate to local landscape character in terms of materials/scale/design

Climate Change

• Weather patterns
• ‘Carbon locking’ within peat bogs and woodland
• Visitor trends – management of water flows/vegetation to minimise footpath erosion
• Vegetation and biodiversity – monitoring impacts to feed into land/visitor management policies
• Energy (including transport and design) – need to be appropriate to local landscape character in terms of materials/scale/design

Economic Development

• Effects of increased or decreased tourism patterns/levels on landscape character
• Link visitor use/developments to the distinctive character of its locality (eg. openness, tranquillity, lack of man-made structures. etc)

Traffic/Transport

• Avoiding clutter and standard ‘urban’ design solutions that do not reflect vernacular materials
• Road improvements and parking pressures
• Tranquillity effects
• Traffic management

Access & Recreation

• Manage the impacts of large/frequent recreation events on the landscape
• PROW/access for all
• Manage access/use to respect local landscape character
• New activities – expectations?
• Tranquillity effects

Public Attitudes to Countryside

• Education drive needed to promote respect for landscape/wildlife and other people – locals and visitors
SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP FROM THE PLENARY SESSION

- Changing agricultural economics and public subsidy support/eligibility/viability are the key drivers of change in the National Park
- Common forces for change affect different parts of the National Park in different ways (e.g. the effects of climate change on the character of the coastal landscape in relation to the high fells)
- Different landscape resources have different resilience or sensitivity to different forces for change (e.g. historic parklands and standing stones)
- The targeting of agri-environmental land management schemes informed by landscape character information is critical to future management of the National Park's landscapes
- A sound evidence base is needed for monitoring landscape change – this is a key use for the Landscape Character Assessment
- Refer to low intensity land management not ‘re-wilding’
- The Guidelines need to be framed in a way that balances priorities/needs for the management of all aspects of the landscape (natural and cultural) within a specific type/area, and makes choices explicit
- Functional ecosystems underlie the health of the natural environment and the character of the landscape, and this should be reflected in the Guidelines
- It was suggested that the term “Guidelines” should be replaced with “Opportunities for Managing Change” to better reflect the aims of the study and its intended use

Next Steps

Chris Greenwood thanked everyone for attending the workshop and for providing their views, which will be invaluable for informing the preparation of the study.

Dominic Watkins explained that the consultant team were currently preparing a Stage 1 interim report for completion during June that will set out the draft findings of the Character Assessment work.

A further workshop for stakeholders will be held on 19 July 2007 at the National Park Authority’s offices in Kendal. The purpose of this workshop is to present the interim findings of the character assessment work; present the proposed scope of the guidelines/opportunities for managing change; and to discuss with stakeholders how these can be used to inspire locally appropriate landscape management and inform the planning and development control process.

In the interim, Dominic encouraged all stakeholders (including those unable to attend the workshop) to provide their further views by completing the Consultation Questionnaire sent out with the workshop invitation, or by contacting him directly to discuss the work in more detail (tel. 01825 891071/dwatkins@cba.uk.net).
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In line with the Project Brief, a questionnaire-based survey method was used to engage the public in the project.

A questionnaire was prepared, and advertised in the local press and media. The questionnaire was made available through the Lake District National Park Authority website at www.lake-district.gov.uk/character, at Tourist Information Centres and by email/post on request.

The survey period ran for 10 weeks from 4th May until 13th July 2007. The results of the consultation are fed into the Character Assessment and Guidelines as appropriate.

A copy of the questionnaire is provided below.
The future Lake District landscape – we want your views

What do you value about the character of the Lake District?

How are changes in the landscape adding to or detracting from this character?

What changes would you like to see happen to the Lake District landscape?

This is your chance to take part in a special survey to inform a project to find out just what makes the Lake District so unique and what needs special attention when looking at ways of managing the National Park.

Please take the time to read this note, and fill out and return the attached questionnaire by 13th July 2007.
The project

Your response to this survey will help to develop a Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines for the Lake District. This project will promote a deeper understanding of what makes the Lake District’s spectacular landscapes distinctive and unique. It will also provide an inspirational source of ideas and guidance to help encourage locally appropriate management and use of the landscape that conserves valued features of the landscape.

Information gathered through this survey will be added to consultations, field surveys and research to provide a reference document for everyone with an interest in the future management of the Park – including residents, businesses and visitors, students, national and local agencies, farmers and other land managers. The study will form a baseline of data against which proposals for change can be judged in an objective and transparent way.

What is ‘character’?

The character of an area – be it a field or a village or a whole mountain – is how it ‘looks and feels’, what makes it distinctive and different from somewhere else. For instance, you may value certain distinctive features of an area, such as:

- Geology and shape of landscape, e.g. craggy pikes, u-shaped valleys
- Unique mix of waterbodies - lakes, tarns and rivers
- Native woodlands or individual trees
- Patterns of walls and hedges
- Local breeds of sheep e.g. herdwick
- Specific wild plants and animals e.g. wild daffodil, peregrine falcon
- Sounds e.g. the cry of a buzzard and smells e.g. heather in bloom
- Tranquility, e.g. no road noise
- Opportunities for quiet enjoyment, e.g. walking, painting, climbing
- Open nature of the high fells
- Rich archaeology e.g. stone circles
- Settlement character, e.g. locally distinctive townscape and buildings
- Celebrated social and cultural traditions, e.g. associations with artists or poets, agricultural shows or hound trailing
- Memorable views and landmarks or particularly beautiful places
- Apparent wildness

The character of an area is very important because it contributes to people’s feeling of belonging, sense of place and well-being.
What is making or could make the landscape change in the future?

The Lake District National Park Partnership wants to ensure that future change retains and enhances the special characteristics of the landscape that are valued by residents, businesses and visitors within a prosperous economy. Through good planning and management we need to ensure that the Park can meet the changing needs of its communities and stay economically viable.

The Lake District, like many upland areas in the UK, faces a number of challenges that may present both opportunities and threats for conservation of the National Park’s unique landscapes. Some examples include:

- Ensuring change strengthens the local distinctiveness of the National Park;
- Adapting to the effects of climate change when looking after the Park’s cultural and natural features, habitats and wildlife;
- Promoting innovative and high quality design which takes inspiration from its surroundings;
- Improving the quality of the built environment that people enjoy or use;
- Enabling people to connect with nature and landscape by improving access, understanding, enjoyment, education and health.
- Encourage the retention of the best of local farming skills and techniques which have shaped this special landscape.

Questionnaire

About you...

Please tick the following box that most applies to you:

- [ ] Resident in National Park .................................................................
  (please specify town/village name)

- [ ] Resident in Cumbria or North Lancashire .............................................
  (please specify town/village name)

- [ ] Business owner (please specify business type) ........................................

- [ ] Farmer (please specify if owner or tenant) ...........................................

- [ ] Visitor (please specify home town) ..................................................

- [ ] Other (please specify) .........................................................................
How often do you come to the Lake District for work or recreation?

Please tick the box which most applies to you:

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Yearly
- Less than yearly

Tell us your views…

1. Thinking about your knowledge of the Lake District, what aspects of the Park’s character do you value and why? For instance, are there specific geographic areas that you particularly cherish, and what makes them so special to you (please indicate approximate locations on the map overleaf)?

Please feel free to use the list in the ‘What is character’ section above as a prompt, but do not feel you can only comment on these headings - we are interested in what you think contributes to the character of the area.
2. What concerns, if any, do you have about how the character of the Park or the part of it that you know well, has changed in the past?
3. What specific environmental, social and/or economic factors do you think may significantly affect (positively or negatively) the future character of the Park landscape and how?
4. Can you suggest any positive changes for conserving and improving the landscape? Are there any specific locations where these apply?

5. Do you have any other comments about the character of the Lake District’s landscapes and the way we look after them in the future?
Thank you for contributing your views…

Please send completed questionnaires by 13th July 2007 to:

The Lake District National Park
Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines Project
c/o The Lake District National Park Authority
Murley Moss
Oxenholme Road
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 7RL

If you have any questions about the survey and the project, or would like to receive an electronic version of this questionnaire, please contact:

Chris Greenwood
Landscape Architect
Lake District National Park Authority
(address as above)
Tel: 01539 792618
Fax: 01539 740822
E: chris.greenwood@lake-district.gov.uk

The questionnaire is also available to download from www.lake-district.gov.uk

The Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines project is being carried out by a partnership of organisations comprising the National Park Authority, Friends of the Lake District, the National Trust and Natural England in conjunction with landscape consultants Chris Blandford Associates (www.cba.uk.net). The project began in January 2007 and is due to run until the autumn.
GLOSSARY

(TBC)

Clear felling

County Wildlife Site (CWS)

Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)

Fell

Heaf

Hefted flocks

Herdwick sheep:

Hogg house

In-bye

Infield

In-take

National Nature Reserve (NNR)

Outfield

Out-gang

Packhorse Bridge

Peat house

Shielding

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Special Protection Area (SPA)

Statesmen

Transhumance
APPENDIX I
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER
TYPE SUMMARY DESCRIPTIONS
Anciently Enclosed Land

Historic Landscape Types considered under the Anciently Enclosed Land Type include:

- Enclosure of Uncertain Origin
- Single Ancient Farm
- Assarts
- Intakes
- Medieval Crofts
- Regular or irregular piecemeal enclosure
- Ancient closes

Enclosed land of all types forms the largest land use type within the Lake District National Park. Around 117,150 hectares of land, or just over 50% of the Park, is covered by some form of enclosure. Of this area, around 69,200 hectares can be considered to have been ‘anciently enclosed’, that is land enclosed prior to the late-eighteenth and nineteenth century planned enclosures. This is around 59% of all enclosed land, and 30% of the total area of the National Park. Thus it can be seen that, outside the areas of the extensive wastes and commons dominating the uplands, the rest of the Lake District National Park was an enclosed landscape by at least the seventeenth century and probably earlier.

This picture of the farmed landscape as one of ancient enclosures is well-known and well-established. The area falls within what Oliver Rackham termed ‘Ancient Countryside’, which applied to much of upland England, the western regions, to the south east of England and parts of East Anglia. His description of Ancient Countryside, although generalised, is not unfamiliar to the landscape of the Lakeland valleys and rolling hills on the periphery of the central fells - ‘The land of hamlets, of medieval farms in hollows of the hills, ... of immense mileages of quiet minor roads, hollow-ways, and intricate footpaths ...’.

The origin and evolution of many of these field systems can be difficult to discern, and the impression is often given of a landscape little changed over time. Many are thought to date back at least to the late medieval period, but some may also be based on older, perhaps early medieval or even late prehistoric fields. During the survey of the Haweswater estate, prehistoric field clearance cairnfields were recorded near Shap Blue Quarry, on the eastern boundary of the National Park, and the existing and former enclosures relating to Swindale Foot farm in Swindale east of Haweswater, were identified as medieval assarting with a farm established at its centre. Further prehistoric field clearance cairns associated with relict field boundaries were also identified on Stockdale Moor. The principal visible evidence for earlier field systems is limited to the discrete, although sometimes extensive, earthworks remains of boundaries and cairnfields to be found on the open moorland, but which generally do not seem to relate to existing field patterns. The quality of these earthworks is reflected in the large number of which are protected as scheduled ancient monuments.

Planned Enclosure

Historic Landscape Types considered under the Planned Enclosure Type include:

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1 Williamson 2003, 1
2 Rackham 1986, 161
3 Belonging to North West Water, now United Utilities
4 Lancaster University Archaeological Unit 1997, 54, 56
5 Quartermaine 1989
• Parliamentary Enclosure
• Planned Private Enclosure
• Unknown Planned Enclosure
• Isolated Enclosure

The processes behind planned enclosure are well understood and have been studied in some detail, both in the uplands\textsuperscript{6} and in the lowland mosses\textsuperscript{7}. A significant proportion of the enclosed landscape of the Lake District was enclosed in this way, resulting in fields laid out according to a preconceived geometry usually by a professional surveyor. Because the resultant field patterns often ignore topography or pre-existing boundary patterns planned enclosures sometimes have been termed ‘mindless’ systems\textsuperscript{8}. In total, an area of around 48,000 hectares of land within the National Park was enclosed under planned systems, comprising 41\% of all enclosed land.

Within the area of the Lake District National Park planned enclosure was almost entirely made up of former common waste. Given the dominance of moorland and fell within the National Park, inevitably most planned enclosure took place in the uplands, though there were areas of lowland moss on the periphery of the National Park which were also enclosed at this time.

The vast majority of land subject to planned enclosure in the Lake District National Park was upland. Out of a total area of 47,950 hectares of planned enclosures within the National Park, just over 44,000 hectares, or 92\% can be considered upland, that is it lay outside the Lakeland valleys, the better agricultural land and the lowland mosses on the fringes of the National Park. This includes not only the fells and higher moors, but also the low rolling commons with poor soils and numerous rocky outcrops in the south east of the Park between Kendal and Coniston. The remaining 8\% of planned enclosures lay either within the areas of cultivatable land or in common waste on wetland. A very small proportion of planned enclosure was of either open field or common meadow, covering 1,195 hectares. Most open fields had been fully enclosed in a piecemeal manner, through the consolidation of strips into blocks of land, usually demarcated by hedges. This had been a continuing process since the medieval period, carried out through private agreements between tenants and the manorial courts.

The distribution of planned enclosures is concentrated on the east and the north-west sides of the National Park, with smaller pockets on the moorland to the south-west and the lowland mosses on the south. The central massif remained unenclosed, as much of it was too steep and too poor in quality to enclose and improve. Even around the central valleys very little land was subject to planned enclosure, probably because all the viable land for improvement on the lower fellsides, had already been enclosed as intakes, and what was left was considered unimprovable or uneconomic. Thus there were small areas of planned enclosure around the edges of the higher fells, in places such as Eskdale, Santon Bridge and south of Keswick, but within the narrower valleys further enclosure was very limited. In Great Langdale, for example, the only planned enclosure was of a small area of former common field in the valley bottom\textsuperscript{9}.

Contributing towards the historic character of the planned enclosure landscape are the various landscape elements including scattered farmsteads and barns, stone gateposts, quarries, sheepfolds, bields, small-scale planting of trees and roadways surveyed into the landscape at the time of enclosure. Within the walls are also a number of historic features such as hogg-holes, water smoots, wall heads and styles. Modern farming techniques mean that many of these elements are now redundant, including gate posts or stoops, often discarded while modern gates are inserted in different locations. Farms and barns are often subject to change of use from agricultural to domestic and through time this can have long term effects on landscape character if the enclosed land is no longer

\textsuperscript{6} Whyte 2003
\textsuperscript{7} Hodgkinson et al 2000
\textsuperscript{8} Rackham 1986, 155-6, who defines mindless field systems as being laid out without any regard to terrain
\textsuperscript{9} See Langdale case study
grazed. The introduction of plantations over some of the enclosures has obscured the logical field patterns.

**Unenclosed Land**

Historic Landscape Types considered under the Unenclosed Land Type include:

- Wastes and Commons
- Wastes and Commons (Green)
- Open Fields
- Meadow closes/ common meadow

Unenclosed land forms the largest single category of landscape type within the National Park, covering 87,390 hectares and comprising around 38% of the total area of the park. The overwhelming majority of the unenclosed land is in the uplands, with only around 160 hectares of lowland moss and just over 27 hectares of other unenclosed lowland. The only significant area of unenclosed land outside the uplands is the stretch of coastline between Drigg and Silecroft on the west coast. Upland which has reverted from some form of enclosure back to unenclosed land covers around 4,800 hectares, forming a small but significant category and accounting for some 5.5% of all unenclosed land, reversion is limited to discrete areas.

**Unenclosed Lowland**

Almost all the lowland mosses within the National Park have been enclosed and drained. The only unenclosed area of lowland wetlands are on the north shore of the estuary of the River Kent at Meathop. This area is made up of mudflats and saltmarsh, and the raised bogs at Meathop Moss and Foulshaw Moss. This is the vestige of a once widespread landscape type, which up until the mid-nineteenth century covered large areas of river valley floodplains on the northern fringes of Morecambe Bay. The area has been reduced through the cutting of peat for fuel and the improvement of land through enclosure and drainage. Areas of reclaimed wetlands were planted up with conifers in the twentieth century. One such area is Foulshaw Moss, now forming part of the unenclosed wetlands at Meathop. Both Foulshaw and Meathop Mosses are SSSIs, and are at the centre of plans to recreate a large area of wetland. To this end, the coniferous plantation at Foulshaw has now been cleared. This landscape type represents a small element of the Lake District, however Foulshaw Moss is not only one of the largest remaining areas of lowland raised bog in Cumbria, but also one of the largest in Britain. Meathop Moss is also one of the best remaining examples of a raised mire in southern Cumbria and was one of the first nature reserves to be set up in the country. Meathop, Foulshaw and Nichols Moss were once interconnected but peat cutting, forestry and drainage have fragmented them. Farming activity, particularly in the 1950s and 60s resulted in many raised bogs becoming drained throughout the UK and Europe and so this landscape type has a high rarity value. The mosses clearly have national importance as a landscape type and this is reflected in their status as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and also as a Special Area of Conservation. Most mosses are therefore protected for nature conservation reasons, although their potential value as an archaeological resource is not reflected in their designations. Positive forces for change are therefore derived from existing management regimes developed by nature conservation bodies.

**Coastal Land**

The Lake District National Park has around only 20km of coastline, extending from Drigg in the north to Silecroft in the south. It forms part of the West Cumbrian plain which stretches in a narrow band from St Bees Head southwards to Haverigg in the Duddon Estuary. The coastal landscape type

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10 Harpley 2005
11 www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cumbria/Reserves/FoulshawMoss.htm
12 www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cumbria/Reserves/MeathopMoss.htm
13 Hwww.jncc.gov.uk/protected Hsites
includes mudflats, sand and shingle, saltmarsh and dunes, with a small area of coastal crags, and covers an area of 1,652 hectares. The northern part of the coastline is dominated by the small estuary of the River Esk, on either side of which are sand dunes with sand and shingle banks. On the seaward side of the sand dunes, and extending southwards along the entire coastline, are extensive mudflats down to the low water mark. In general, the coastal plain comprises a low lying landscape, dominated by gently undulating ridges made up of glacial deposits. Behind the coastline mosses developed, such as Williamson’s Moss near Eskmeals, all forming part of the coastal landscape. Further south other mosses, such as that at Silecroft, have been reclaimed, and only small areas survive, for example The Mosses at Whitbeck. Here, too, is the only area of coastal cliff or crag, stretching for a distance of around four kilometres though only a few metres high.

The research strategy for the North West\textsuperscript{14} acknowledges that the coastal landscape type is one of the least understood and least assessed. The high archaeological potential combined with the high threat of damage through natural processes combine to make this landscape type a high priority for further research.

**Moorland and Fell**

By far the largest single category of unenclosed land is in the uplands, that is land over ??m. Out of a total of 87,380 hectares, 50,530 hectares has been classified as moorland, and 31,306 hectares as fell, including 16 hectares of limestone pavement. Large parts of the unenclosed uplands are designated as Special Areas of Conservation for the mosaic of dry and humid grassland, heath, bogs, marshes, and inland rocks and screes\textsuperscript{15}. Other areas are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest for their geological (Langdale Pikes) and botanical (Troutbeck) interest\textsuperscript{16}. In general the moorlands are dominated by acidic grasslands, particularly *Festuca-Agrostis*, with remnants of heather and bilberry, and *Nardus* or mat grass on less steep slopes where waterlogging can occur. Mosses are also plentiful on waterlogged ground. In many places, however, bracken has invaded and in some areas replaced some of the species-rich grassland\textsuperscript{17}. This has occurred through changes in land management, such as the decline of hill cattle and the cessation of bracken-cutting\textsuperscript{18}, and more recently in over-grazing by sheep which has weakened the grass swards. Some indication of the extent of bracken cover on the unenclosed uplands can be gained from information gathered for the Monuments at Risk Survey, a condition survey of scheduled ancient monuments undertaken by English Heritage. Out of a total of 275 scheduled ancient monuments within the National Park on all types of land, 42, or just over 15%, are infested by bracken, and most of these are situated on unenclosed land.

Visible landscape features within moorlands consist of sheep folds, historic trackways and boundary walls. Despite being unenclosed land discrete sections of walls can be found in areas such as Great Langdale\textsuperscript{19} which appear to have been used for guiding livestock away from precipitous crags, or possibly on to their own heath/pasture. Walls of this type appear near the Stake Pass, to the east of Tarn Crag and below Raw Pike. These features should be protected from deliberate destruction, although it may not always be possible to conserve extensive fellside walls which can run for miles across open moorland and steep fells. The lack of intensive farming and development on this landscape type has resulted in excellent survival of prehistoric remains and these should be conserved.

An accidental fire resulting from heather burning at Fylingdales in the North York Moors National Park\textsuperscript{20} exposed a wealth of hitherto unrecorded archaeological remains on the peat surface. This emphasised the high potential for buried remains on moorland. There has recently been a move away from heather burning, however in the event that burning was to take place within the Lake District National park moorlands, a site walkover survey will often result in new discoveries. Buried remains

\textsuperscript{14} [www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/liverpoollife/archaeology/arf](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/liverpoollife/archaeology/arf)
\textsuperscript{15} [www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection)
\textsuperscript{16} [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)
\textsuperscript{17} Halliday 1997, 54-5
\textsuperscript{18} Winchester 2000, 6-7
\textsuperscript{19} Lund and Southwell 2002, 45
\textsuperscript{20} Blaise Vyner pers comm
within peat beds can be well preserved and any newly exposed peat beds or actively eroding areas of peat should be monitored.

**Woodland and Water**

Historic Landscape Types considered under the Woodland and Water Type include:

- Plantation
- Ancient woodland

**Woodland**

Aside from the moorlands and fells, two of the key characteristic features of the Lake District are water and woods. It is the relationship of the lakes, rivers and woodlands with the fells, farmland and valleys that give it value as one of the finest landscapes in Europe\(^{21}\). For the eighteenth century tourist interested in the Picturesque, the lakes, rivers and cascades were an essential part of the scenery, particularly juxtaposed with the high fells\(^{22}\). Indeed, the mountains could be seen as a backdrop to the lakes and shores, which formed the focal point of described views. Thomas West, for example, provided ‘Stations’ or viewpoints around the lakes, which could be compared with one another\(^{23}\), for example his description of Station 1 at Coniston Water - *‘From the rock, on the left of the road you have a general prospect of the lake upwards. … On the opposite shore, to the left, and close by the water’s edge, are some stripes of meadow and green ground, cut into small enclosures, with some dark coloured houses under aged yews. Two promontories project a great way into the lake; the broadest is terminated by steep rocks, and crowned with wood’*\(^{24}\).

Woodland and ancient trees were another important element in Picturesque idealisation. William Gilpin saw the essential Englishness of our landscape as being a combination of the peculiar ‘intermixture of wood and cultivation’, English oak, clear skies and atmosphere, embellished gardens and park scenes and ruined abbeys. His perception of landscapes in France, Italy and Spain was that the areas of cultivation and woodland were separated – trees grew in ‘detached woods; and cultivation occupies vast, unbounded fields. But in England, the custom of dividing property by hedges, and of planting hedge-rows, so universally prevails, that almost wherever you have cultivation, there also you have wood. Now although this regular intermixture produces often deformity on the nearer grounds; yet, at a distance it is the source of great beauty’\(^{25}\).

The English oak was considered to have particularly scenic values, and at a distance was considered to form itself ‘into beautiful clumps, varied more in shape; and perhaps more in colour, than the clumps of any other tree’\(^{26}\). Gilpin found his views marred, however, when the woodlands were economically exploited, especially when used as coppice. When Gilpin visited Buttermere he noted the woodland on the eastern side of the lake, but it did not coincide with his concept of picturesque beauty as it was ‘periodically cut down, and was not in perfection, when we saw it’\(^{27}\).

Gilpin and his fellow travellers admired the fells, crags, woods and water as ‘natural’, wild and untamed elements of the landscape, as opposed to the farmed landscape of enclosures and artificial woodland plantations. To a large extent, the scenes described and the pictures they painted of a wild, untamed landscape were done to portray a particular set of ideas and ideals, rather than being an expression of their true observations. Indeed, the rivers, lakes and woods had been intensively exploited and managed for hundreds of years, and it is likely the woodlands would not have survived without having considerable economic value. ‘Our ancient woods are quintessential features of these

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\(^{21}\) Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food nd, 2  
\(^{22}\) Nicholson 1955, 79  
\(^{23}\) See case study on Derwentwater  
\(^{24}\) Nicholson 1955, 57  
\(^{25}\) Gilpin 1788, 7-8  
\(^{26}\) Gilpin 1788, 9  
\(^{27}\) Gilpin 1788, 222-3
much loved landscapes, irreplaceable, living historic monuments, which inspire us and provide us with a sense of place and history.

The management of the woodland pattern is critical to the character of the Lake District National Park. It can provide clues as to the shape and size of planting and with some enhancement can also identify woodland features which should be protected from planting.

**Water**

Water is one of the main topographic attributes of the Lake District landscape, indeed as it name implies it helps to define it. The plentiful rainfall feeds the numerous fast-flowing water courses which form part of the drainage system of the central mountains. This has created a radiating pattern of deep glaciated valleys with extensive lakes, tams, rivers, streams and waterfalls. As well as an essential element of the Picturesque landscape, water was a key element in the area’s development. Although little is known about pre-Conquest territorial units, in many cases both medieval administrative and ecclesiastical boundaries followed natural features such as lakes, rivers and watersheds, and may have earlier origins. The boundaries of the wards and deaneries certainly seem to be based on such natural divisions, and their names, ‘Allerdale’, ‘Kendale’, ‘Lonsdale’ also indicate the importance of topographical units in early territorial formation. Although the counties of Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire were not defined until the later twelfth century, their boundaries also used rivers and lakes in many places as natural divisions. The northern boundary of Lancashire, for example, followed the River Duddon along its length, over the watershed at Wrynose, and then through the Little Langdale Valley along the River Brathay to Windermere, and then down the River Leven to Morecambe Bay. The River Duddon was also the Cumberland boundary as far as the Wrynose watershed. From there, the boundary separated Cumberland from Westmorland. It continued along watersheds across the high fells to Helvellyn, following the ridge as far as the source of Glencoyne Beck. The boundary then followed along the centre of Ullswater, and continued along the Eamont River.

The presence of the picturesque lakes were one of the major factors leading to the popularity of the Lake District to tourists, while the creation of the reservoirs led to the growth of the conservation movement that ultimately led to the creation of National Parks and The National Trust. Their character is therefore vital to the continuing popularity of the National Park landscape and culture.

**Settlement**

Historic Landscape Types considered under the Ornamental Parks and Recreation Type include:

- Squatter settlement

**Nucleated Settlements**

Cumbria had relatively few towns in the medieval period, it was thinly populated and, outside of Carlisle, underdeveloped economically in comparison to other areas of England. What towns there were, were small and many lacked all the urban characteristics that might be expected in boroughs in lowland England. This was especially true of the area covered by the Lake District National Park, where the landscape is dominated by marginal and uncultivable land. Indeed, the only successful

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28 Rural Affairs Minister, Jim Knight in Keepers of time: a statement of policy for England’s ancient and native woodland. Forestry Commission
29 The equivalent to hundreds or wapentakes, and were the administrative structure used in Cumberland and Westmorland; Winchester 1987, 13
30 Winchester 1987, 16
31 Yates 1786
32 Donald 1774; Jeffreys 1770
33 Winchester 1987, 121; Newman 2004
medieval borough within the National Park is Keswick which, from its street plan was clearly planned, with burgage plots laid out on either side of the main street and market place. Burgage plots are documented\(^{34}\), and it was granted a market charter in 1276\(^{35}\). Failed attempts were made to establish towns elsewhere\(^{36}\), for example a market charter was granted for Pooley Bridge in 1216, and nine burgesses were documented there in the sixteenth century, though it seems never to have grown beyond a village. Bootle appears to have had a little more success, following the granting of a market charter in 1347, and was described as a market town in the late eighteenth century\(^{37}\), though it was probably never more than a village with a local market function. Further north, Ravenglass, too, was granted a charter for a market and fair in 1208 and, although it never developed into a town, it functioned as a successful port, trading cattle and other commodities with Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man until around 1800\(^{38}\). Other market charters were granted in the medieval period to Staveley, Hesket Newmarket and Ireby\(^{39}\), and although they succeeded as central places for trading in an area where travel was difficult, the population levels were too low to support true urban functions. Apart from Keswick, therefore, the settlements that did succeed as towns all lay within the lowlands surrounding the fells, and outside the boundaries of the National Park, such as Kendal, Penrith and Cockermouth\(^{40}\) which were deliberately excluded from the Lake District National Park.

It is not until the post medieval period that other settlements began to exhibit urban functions, with the growth of Broughton in Furness, Ambleside and Hawkshead. These all became small market towns from the early seventeenth century with the expansion in the wool and woollen cloth trade\(^{41}\). Hawkshead especially, following the granting of a market charter in 1608, became the main wool market for the Furness Fells, acting as a gathering point before transferring goods onto the larger trading centre at Kendal. Ambleside, too, became a trading centre for the wool trade from the early seventeenth century. The markets in Hawkshead and Ambleside failed along with the decline in the woollen cloth trade, and both came to rely on income from the tourist trade, with Hawkshead remaining a rural community, and Ambleside expanding into a favoured tourist destination. The success of the market in Broughton in Furness, however, continued into the second half of the nineteenth century, with wooden tools, baskets, hoops and other byproducts of the area’s extensive coppiced woods replacing wool as the chief commodity. The large, formal market square surrounded by terraces of town houses, is now the chief reminder of Broughton’s past as a busy market centre, as it was overtaken at the end of the nineteenth century by the rapidly expanding iron towns of Barrow and Millom\(^{42}\).

**Dispersed Settlement**

The dominant settlement pattern across the Lake District National Park is one of dispersion, comprising mostly individual farms or small groups of farmsteads or cottages. The dominance of a dispersed farming pattern is to be expected in an area of extensive agriculture, dependent on pastoralism, where there was less competition for land. The division of the primarily dispersed settlement pattern from areas of mixed nucleated and dispersed settlement can be seen even on a national scale, where the cattle and sheep rearing of the Lake District and other Cumbrian uplands, is distinct from the more mixed farming of the northern Cumbrian lowlands and Solway Plain\(^{43}\). Looking more closely at the pattern there is no settlement at all across most of the high fells as might be expected, but there are scattered farms on the lower fell sides. The main areas of settlement are in the valleys, low fells and lowlands surrounding the central massif. The greatest densities of dispersed

\(^{34}\) Winchester 1987, 122  
\(^{35}\) Whellan 1869, 342; Millward and Robinson 1970, 213  
\(^{36}\) Winchester 1987, 122-4  
\(^{37}\) Nicolson and Burn 1777, 16  
\(^{38}\) Millward and Robinson 1970, 211-12  
\(^{39}\) Millward and Robinson 1970, 214-15  
\(^{40}\) Millward and Robinson 1970, 205-10  
\(^{41}\) Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 379  
\(^{42}\) Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 401  
\(^{43}\) Roberts and Wrathmell 2002, 60
settlement are on the west coast south of Ravenglass, and across the low fells of the southern Lake District, particularly along the A591 Kendal to Keswick route, in the valley of the River Rothay, around Hawkshead, and in the area between Kendal and Windermere. Larger individual holdings in the valley of the River Rothay, between Windermere and Ambleside, and also around Keswick, mainly date to the nineteenth or early twentieth century, and reflect the popularity of the Lake District as a tourist destination, and the growth in villa development around both Lake Windermere and Derwent Water. In most cases these were built as large houses with extensive grounds, and many are now hotels.

50% of dispersed settlements were definitely in existence by the late eighteenth century, as they are shown on the county maps of Donald, Jeffreys and Yates\(^44\), and many are named. These maps would have depicted only the more significant farms and dwellings, however, and at least some of the smaller farms and cottages known to be extant by the time of the Ordnance Survey first edition maps of the mid-nineteenth century, were probably much older. Altogether, 86% of dispersed settlement was in existence by around 1865, and it can be assumed that a large proportion of this pre-dates 1770. This, along with the dominance of ancient enclosures across most of the field systems of the Lake District, demonstrates that the pattern of farming and settlement across much of the Lake District National Park is what Rackham termed ‘Ancient Countryside’\(^45\). The pattern is more mixed in the low fells between Kendal and Windermere, where there was a greater degree of planned enclosure from the late eighteenth century onwards. Here a larger number of early nineteenth century dispersed settlement was noted, at least some of which would have been established following the enclosure and improvement of the extensive common wastes. This area, too, has the largest concentration of orchards. The orchards contain mostly Westmorland Damsons, and are thought to have been grown and sold in Westmorland since at least the early 1700s\(^46\). Most orchards are small, and are attached to a farmstead. Their greatest concentration is along the Lyth and Winster valleys, and particularly the upper end of those valleys between Bowland Bridge, Crosthwaite and Underbarrow.

The historic character of settlements, in particular nucleated settlements, is examined in more detail in the Extensive Urban Surveys funded by English Heritage and carried out within the Lake District National Park and Cumbria.

The historic settlements and buildings within the National Park are valuable catalysts for conservation-led economic prosperity. The attraction of these villages and towns lies in their historic character and if this is lost through inappropriate development, the vital income derived from tourism will reduce. It is therefore important that any proposals which may affect the character of historic buildings and settlements should be assessed before a decision is made. Such assessments should be careful to explore the contribution buildings and smaller historic features such as finger posts, milk churn stands and shop fronts make to the wider historic character and not confine themselves to the potential impact on archaeological remains.

The erosion of historic character within a settlement can take place in a number of ways. The replacement of traditional windows and doors with modern plastic versions will erode the character of individual houses, and will also ultimately lead to the loss of character over a larger area. In Conservation Areas, the National Park Authority has the power to withdraw permitted development rights which will provide an opportunity to control this loss of character. If this control is not used, there are very few remaining reasons to create Conservation Areas.

**Ornamental Parks and Recreation**

Historic Landscape Types considered under the Ornamental Parks and Recreation Type include:

- Ornamental Parkland

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\(^{44}\) Donald 1774; Jeffries 1770; Yates 1786  
\(^{45}\) Rackham 1986, 4-5  
\(^{46}\) www.lythdamsons.org.uk
- Medieval Deer Park

Recreation

Recreational areas cover only 674 hectares, and comprise urban parks and cemeteries, golf courses, camp sites and caravan parks. It also includes part of the site of the former Kendal race course, which lies on the lower slopes of Helsington Barrows. Half the race course lies outside the National Park, and it is divided by the Park boundary, which follows the line of a parish boundary. There are only four golf courses within the National Park; at Underbarrow, Embleton, near Cockermouth, Threlkeld, and Cleabarrow near Windermere, all of which are modern establishments. Urban parks and gardens were mapped in Keswick and Ambleside only. In Keswick public parks were recorded around the northern shore of Derwent Water and at Fitz Parks on the north of the town. In Ambleside two urban parks were recorded, at the head of Lake Windermere at Waterhead, and at Rothay Park where there is also a cemetery.

The remaining recreational sites are either caravan parks or permanent camp sites, and these are concentrated around the central valleys between Bowness-on-Windermere and Ambleside, around Ullswater and near Keswick. Temporary accommodation such as camping and caravans provide an important source of budget accommodation for visitors to the Lake District National Park, with 22% staying a tent, static or touring caravan. In general, camping and caravan sites are the result of the diversification of farm land, and have been established either within existing farms or on the edge of urban areas.

Ornamental Parks

Ornamental parkland covers 2,110 hectares of the Lake District National Park and comprises mainly late eighteenth and nineteenth century designed landscapes, and represent the efforts of numerous wealthy landowners to enhance the natural beauties of the landscape and the vistas across it. This did not generally involve hard landscaping, but the enhancement of the countryside, with the scattered planting of trees in the agriculture landscape and the beautification of existing features. This process, known as ferme ornée, not only allowed those with fewer means to create ornamental landscapes, but encouraged followers of the Picturesque movement to perfect their concept of ideal beauty. In some areas, for example around Ullswater and Windermere, the designed landscapes do not relate to a specific house or park, but are an enhancement of the vistas around the lakes. This practice of informal planting and landscape enhancement is difficult to map, and so the total area recorded is an underestimate of the total area of ornamental parkland, particularly around lakes such as Windermere and Derwent Water. Elsewhere, however, landowners have created pleasure grounds around their own villas and country houses. This phenomenon was not restricted to the properties of visitors to the Lake District, as the creation of landscape parks grew rapidly across the country in the eighteenth century, and many were the results of local landscape gardeners or the landowners themselves.

Registered Parks and Gardens in the Lake District National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belle Isle</td>
<td>II*</td>
<td>15ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackwell</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>11ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brockhole</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>13ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalemain</td>
<td>II*</td>
<td>109ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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47 Lake District National Park 2006, 32
48 Williamson and Bellamy 1987, 196-7
49 Williamson and Bellamy 1987, 145
50 Except where specified, the following information is taken from the Register of Parks and Gardens, maintained by English Heritage
The character of ornamental parklands varied according to the tastes of the owners, although generally they used exotic species, created vistas and eye catchers and managed the surrounding land to create fine swards. The character of modern urban parks and cemeteries varies again, although there is an increasing recognition of the important wildlife value of cemeteries, while golf courses and caravan parks would seem to have little in common with 18th century parkland. It is therefore not always possible to define this landscape type generally and the character of individual sites needs to be determined on a case by case basis.

Parks and gardens which are included on English Heritage’s ‘Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England’ are given no statutory protection, but are a material consideration in the planning process. The current list excludes the highly designed landscape around Derwentwater and on the islands in Derwentwater, despite its associations with the picturesque movement, the growth of tourism and the conservation movement and its links with Beatrix Potter and her inspiration for Peter Rabbit and Squirrel Nutkin. This exclusion from the list perhaps needs to be revisited although the scale of design is such that it may simply be too large for the register. Derwentwater is a designed landscape rather than a designed parkland.

Communications

Roads

There is little evidence for the nature and extent of the road system in the Lake District before the medieval period. In the Roman period, parts of the courses taken by a few roads linking forts across the Lake District are known, but in many places the routes are more speculative. The road from Alauna, the fort at Watercrook near Kendal, to Galava, the Ambleside fort, for example is largely unproven, whilst the route from Galava to Glannaventa, the fort at Ravenglass, via Hardknott fort is only certain where it is confined by its passage through the Wrynose and Hardknott passes. Likewise, the road from Galava to Brovacum, at Brougham is confirmed only where it runs over High Street and the spine of high ground to the north. Both these Roman roads are scheduled monuments where their routes are known. The road from Brovacum, Brougham, to Moresby, on the west coast, however, is much more speculative, and its course has been confirmed in only a few places. As forts were established across the Lake District, roads would have had to be developed to allow garrisons to access the hinterlands. It is likely, given the limitations to movement imposed by the terrain, that the Romans took advantage of waterways, such as Lake Windermere to move goods to Galava at Ambleside, where there was a large vicus, or civilian settlement, and storage facilities.

As traffic increased in the post medieval period, there was an imperative to improve the road conditions, particularly the major routes. The burden of road repair and upkeep lay on the parishes, who found it difficult to raise adequate funds and maintain roads in a suitable condition. The concept of raising funds by charging road users with tolls was first put forward in the seventeenth century, and the first turnpike act was passed in 1663 on the Great North Road. Road repair had always been a local responsibility, therefore the turnpike system grew through the establishment of local groups with an interest in improving individual sections of road. The early turnpikes tended to improve existing routes, though later new stretches of roads were sometimes incorporated into road improvements.

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51 See the HLC case study “Through a glass darkly”.
52 Hindle 1984, 13
53 Allan 1994
54 Shotter 1996, 52
55 Hindle 2001, 92
The next stage of road improvements came with the planned enclosures of the common wastes in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, particularly parliamentary enclosure. Within the Lake District, this does not seem to have led to the creation of a large number of new roads, but the improvement of existing routes which had run across formerly open moor 56. The road from Lindale to Cartmel Fell, for example, was improved and straightened in places. A minimum width of twelve feet, and the type of road surface was stipulated, but it largely appears to follow its traditional route along the back of Newton Fell 57. The Crosthwaite Enclosure Commissioners, too, provided for considerable road improvements, completing 15 public highways in 1848 58. It was in places such as the Lyth Valley where most new roads were built, in order to provide access to the newly drained mosslands which would have been inaccessible previously. A large expense in the improvement of roads through the newly enclosed land was the provision of bridges and culverts, not just for former lowland mosses such as the Lyth Valley, but also in the uplands where there were large expanses of upland moss 59. Where new roads were built, however, they are starkly different from the old roads, even where they were straightened and improved. This is most clearly seen on the minor road which marks part of the northern boundary of the Lake District National Park between the A66(T) west of Penruddock north to where it crosses the Gilcambon Beck south-east of Hesket Newmarket. The road passes through the extensive planned enclosure of Greystoke Forest, which had small islands of isolated enclosed farms and hamlets. The road cuts across the area, clearly set out by a surveyor, with blocks of fields laid out in relation to it.

**Railways**

The development of a railway network within the Lake District was always going to be limited, because of the restrictions posed by the topography. The first railway to be built in the Lake District was the Windermere branch line from Lancaster to Carlisle railway at Oxenholme in 1846 60. This railway had stirred up considerable opposition, including from William and Mary Wordsworth, to the disruption to the peace and beauty of the Lakes that they thought the railway would bring 61. The second railway, opened in 1848, linked the Furness Railway with the Maryport and Carlisle Railway, running parallel with the west coast through Muncaster, Eskmeals and under the slopes of Black Combe, down to Silecroft and Millom 62. The Furness railway line, completed in 1857, provided access to the southern Lake District for many tourists, and its potential as a mineral line was realised two years later, with the opening of the Coniston branch line in 1959 by the Coniston Railway Company. It was formed largely to transport copper from the mines above Coniston, but its tourism potential was also exploited. Its function as a mineral line ceased after around 1890, but it continued to carry passenger traffic up to its closure in 1957 63. Between 1862 and 1864 the Penrith to Cockermouth line was built as a mineral line to link Workington in the west to Durham in the east, connecting at Penrith with the cross-Pennine line to the Darlington area. At its western end, it linked to the Cockermouth and Workington Railway at Cockermouth. The line carried only goods traffic at first, but in 1865, it opened to passenger traffic, bringing in growing numbers of tourists.

**Industry**

Historic Landscape Types considered under the Industry Type include:

- Reclaimed Industrial Land

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56 Hindle 1984, 164
57 Whyte 2003, 74
58 Williams 1975, 86
59 Whyte 2003, 74-5
60 Davies-Shiel and Marshall 1969, 187
61 Joy 1983, 196
62 Joy 1983, 103
63 Millward and Robinson 1970, 243-4
Industry had a major role in shaping parts of the landscape of the Lake District from prehistory. The extensive Neolithic stone axe production sites of the central Cumbrian Fells form the earliest industrial landscape in Cumbria, but most early industries were limited in scale and direct landscape impact. In the medieval period, the Lake District’s abundant supplies of minerals, water and woodland were exploited by manorial lords and provided by-employment for their tenant farmers. Many of these industries, which carried on into the post medieval period were small-scale, individual enterprises and as such, they tended to take place within existing settlements or in woodland at little, discrete sites. Later in the post-medieval period when some industries, such as paper making and bobbin production, were undertaken on a larger, commercial basis, most industrial sites remained limited. Even gunpowder manufacture, which usually occupied extensive areas for safety reasons, was not mapped, as the industry comprised individual sites spread across areas of woodland. A summary of the key industries undertaken within the area of the Lake District National Park is contained in Table 00.

Many of the Lake District’s most historically important industries were already widespread in the medieval period, and the production of woollen cloth is well-documented, with spinning and weaving undertaken as a cottage industry in many homes, and serviced by a number of water-powered fulling mills from the thirteenth century. Potash manufacture was also common at this time, as it was used to make soap to cleanse the cloth in the fulling process. All the woodland industries were certainly well developed in the medieval period, even though the products would have been for local use only. Iron mining and processing is also known to have taken place from the medieval period, though largely in Low Furness outside the Lake District National Park. Exploitation of the main Lake District iron deposits was in Eskdale, with smaller deposits in the central fells around Langdale and Coniston, and in Emmerdale, although archaeological evidence for mining is slight. Much of the early extraction is thought to have been through the exploitation of surface outcroppings, and amongst the nineteenth century workings of Nab Gill mine, at Boot in Eskdale, are narrow grooves representing earlier workings where ore was picked from surface veins. Unlike the large-scale iron mines and processing sites of Low Furness, however, iron mining in the Lake District has had little direct physical impact on the landscape. Nab Gill mine had five adits, linked to mine buildings in Boot by three inclined planes and a track system, extending up the fellside with spoilheaps along Whillan Beck. Even so, the rock-fast nature of the fellside, and the restriction of remains to the valley sides, means that very few of the mining remains are visible on modern Ordnance Survey maps. Although little is known about the early extraction of iron ore, there are a large number of known bloomery (smelting) sites in the Lake District National Park. The extensive woodlands of High Furness provided plentiful material for charcoal, which fuelled the bloomeries. The large quantities required meant it was more efficient to transport the ore than the charcoal, thus the bloomeries were located in woodlands close to the fuel supply. Radiocarbon dates recently acquired from a number of bloomery sites have provided date ranges from across the medieval period up to the seventeenth century.

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<th>Lake District Industries</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mining</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
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<td>Lead</td>
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<td>Iron</td>
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<td>Graphite</td>
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<td>Tungsten etc</td>
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<td><strong>Metal processing</strong></td>
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<td>Bloomeries</td>
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<td>Bloom smithies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blast furnaces</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

64 Winchester 1987, 117-19
65 Bowden 2000, 6, 12
66 Bowden 2000, 16-18
67 John Hodgson pers comm
Traditional industrial processes have left their mark on the Lake District landscape, either as active or relict sites or through the growth of settlements, reservoirs and railways. Many of these sites are now recognised as being nationally important archaeological sites and can also be home to a number of rare plant species such as metallophytes (metal tolerant plants) including leadwort which is are able to grow on the poisonous remains of lead mining sites. Disused mine shafts also provide a habitat for bats. Such traditional industries are still a valuable part of the Lake District economy with active slate quarries at Elterwater, Broughton Moor, Kirkstone, Honister and intermittent work at Bursting Stone, Brandy Crag and some additional small workings. It is important for the future maintenance of historic buildings within the National Park that traditional building materials, such as slate, remain accessible. The loss of slate quarries could ultimately lead to a loss of local distinctiveness within settlements. Most of the existing quarries pre-date the planning process and so environmental controls and restoration schemes may not be to the level required by new permissions, however these can be reviewed under the Minerals Review process. The screening of industrial sites, often required as part of the planning process, can result in a change of landscape character.

<table>
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<th>Forges</th>
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<tr>
<td>Quarrying</td>
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<td>Limestone</td>
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<td>Slate</td>
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<td>Granite</td>
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<td>Woodland crafts</td>
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<td>Hoop making</td>
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<td>Cooperage</td>
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<td>Tools</td>
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<td>Swill baskets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brushes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other woodland industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bark peeling (for tanning)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potash manufacture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charcoal production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water-powered industry</td>
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<td>Bobbins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gunpowder</td>
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<td>Flax retting</td>
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<td>Fulling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Textile production (Cotton, wool and linen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spinning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weaving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dyeing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Industry</td>
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<td>Reservoirs</td>
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CUMBRIA HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION (HLC) PROGRAMME – LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

Following the definition of landscape types, a map was created in which the relationship of the different types was analysed. The combination of enclosure types, woodland and water, settlement, communications and industry onto one map revealed patterns which suggested discrete character areas across the Lake District National Park. The aim in defining these character areas was to use the HLC landscape types alone, and to ignore other factors where possible, such as topography and personal knowledge. The process, however, was subjective and although the general extent of each character area was based on the relationship between the landscape types, subjective elements are implicit in the fine adjustments made to their boundaries.

Brief comparisons were made with other existing landscape character assessments, including the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) landscape types, the Countryside Character Areas and, where applicable, Cumbria County Council landscape classification, though this does not extend into the National Park. The criteria used to define these other landscape classifications were very different from the HLC mapping process. The ESA landscape types were based on topography, land cover and agricultural use, whilst the Cumbria landscape classification is largely topographical and geological. The Countryside Character Areas are based on a complex analysis of many different variables, including geology, topography, ecology, land cover, field patterns and settlement patterns amongst others. These were combined and analysed on a national scale to produce character areas for the whole of England. Other information, specifically on field boundaries, was gathered from Cumbria County Council’s aerial photographic collection.

The HLC landscape types produced a total of 19 character areas, and these are described below.

**Crosthwaite and Underbarrow Low Fells**

This area lies in the south-east quadrant of the National Park, between Kendal and Lake Windermere. Its eastern edge is defined by the Park boundary and the western edge by the towns of Bowness and Windermere. To the south lies the Allithwaite and Witherslack Low Fells, and to the north the Eastern Fells. This area is characterised by a patchwork of enclosure types with a largely dispersed settlement pattern. The field systems comprise blocks of ancient enclosures, amongst extensive former common waste, which were enclosed systematically in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The only nucleated settlement of any significant size is Staveley, which grew in the nineteenth century as a result of industrial expansion. Small patches of plantation woodland are scattered amongst both ancient and planned enclosures, whilst there are a number of small tarns in the former common waste. There is only one significant group of ancient woodlands, on the lower slopes leading up to Scout Scar, north of Brigsteer. Field boundaries are mixed in this area, with stone walls dominating the planned enclosures of the common waste, and hedgerows on the more anciently enclosed land.

The patchwork nature of this area is reflected in the ESA landscape types, which are made up of enclosed and wooded fell sides, with craggy pastures and woodland with pastoral land. The upper end of the Lyth Valley, marked as planned enclosure by the HLC, is well-defined under the ESA landscape types as valley plain. In the County Council landscape classification, the Lyth Valley is marked out as a main valley, and the zones of pastoral land, craggy woodland and enclosed fells continue to the east as coastal limestone and upland fringes. This character area lies mostly within the Countryside Character Area of the South Cumbria Low Fells, which is described as a pastoral

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68 MAFF 1994
69 Countryside Commission 1998
70 Cumbria County Council 2003
71 MAFF 1994, 1
72 Countryside Commission 1998, 9
landscape with substantial woodland, ‘forming a rich mosaic of textures, patterns and colours’\textsuperscript{73}. It also includes a small part of the Morecambe Bay Limestones, around Brigsteer.

**Allithwaite and Witherslack Low Fells**

The area of low fells around Allithwaite and Witherslack lie to the south of the Crosthwaite and Underbarrow Low Fells. It is bounded to the east and south by the Park boundary, and to the west by the Furness Fells. The landscape is dominated by large blocks of planned enclosure, much of which are covered by large plantation woodlands. These planned enclosures include both former common waste in the low fells, and reclaimed wetlands around the Kent Estuary. Smaller patches of anciently enclosed land follow the long narrow valleys, running north-south, and there are extensive former common fields in the south, in the lowland below Newton Fell. Field boundaries are mixed; stone walls and hedges, but there is a predominance of hedgerows in the anciently enclosed land around the planned enclosures of the reclaimed mosslands. Stone walls tend to be restricted to the planned enclosures of the low fells, and the anciently enclosed land lying next to it. The settlement pattern is dispersed, mostly amongst the ancient enclosures, but with a few later farms in the the drained mosslands.

Woodland, associated with either enclosed fellsides, craggy pastures and parkland, is a dominant feature of this area under the ESA landscape types. There are clear distinctions between the different landscape types, with significant portions of pastoral land around the edges of the higher land. The ESA landscape types also delineate the strong line of the north-south valleys of the Lyth Valley and Winster Valley, which form part of the extensive planned enclosures in the HLC. Overall, the ESA landscape types enhance the topographical differences in this character area more strongly than the HLC types. The low fells continue outside the boundaries of the National Park, where they are characterised as coastal limestone by the County Council landscape classification. Most of this area also comes under the Morecambe Bay Limestones in the Countryside Character Areas\textsuperscript{74}, as well as the part of the South Cumbria Low Fells. The Morecambe Bay Limestones include low undulating pastoral farmland, and conspicuous limestone hills with cliffs and scree above low-lying pastures and wetlands. Both parkland landscapes and scrub and broadleaf woodland are also considered features.

**Furness Fells**

The Furness Fells lie on the southern boundary of the Lake District National Park, south of Grizedale Forest, west of the Allithwaite and Witherslack Low Fells, and east of the Dunnerdale and Broughton Low Fells. Its western boundary has been drawn along the River Crake, the eastern bank of which is heavily wooded. Part of the eastern boundary includes the southern section of Lake Windermere. The character if this area is distinguished by extensive ancient woodland, most of which was coppiced to serve various woodland industries, such as iron processing, gunpowder manufacture and bobbin making. Ancient woodland occurs across the area, but the greatest concentration is in the eastern half, between the Rusland Valley and Lake Windermere. The Rusland Valley down to the Leven Estuary is made up of planned enclosure of reclaimed wetland, and the less well-wooded eastern half is anciently enclosed land, with some intakes. The field boundaries are a mix of stone walls, generally in the more upland and anciently enclosed land, and hedgerows, in the low-lying planned and ancient enclosures. Settlement comprises a number of small nucleations, particularly along the Leven Valley, around Haverthwaite and Backbarrow, where iron and gunpowder industries developed, followed by the construction of the railway and the growth of this area as a key tourist route into the Lake District.

The heavily wooded nature of this character area is reflected in the ESA landscape types by the extensive craggy pasture and woodland, and enclosed and wooded fellsides. In addition, pastoral land is numerous, the Rusland Valley is picked out as valley plain and the Crake Valley as valley bottom.

\textsuperscript{73} Countryside Commission 1998, 64
\textsuperscript{74} Countryside Commission 1998, 69
The predominance of ancient woodland is not brought out by the ESA landscape types, as woodland is included in wider landscape types. As with the Allithwaite and Witherslack Low Fells, this character area continues outside the boundaries of the National Park as coastal limestones, and in the Countryside Character Areas, it is defined as part of the South Cumbria Low Fells, where substantial woodlands are a key characteristic.

Grizedale Forest

Grizedale Forest lies between Coniston Water and Lake Windermere. To the south it is bounded by the Furness Fells, and to the north by the Central Fells. The whole of Coniston Water and the northern half of Lake Windermere are included within the character area, which also includes Esthwaite Water. It is dominated by woodland plantation, much of which is contained within Grizedale Forest Park. The woodland was planted from the late eighteenth century onwards within intakes and planned enclosure, and much of it is still coniferous. There is a small patch of open fell, Bethecar Moor, on the southern edge, overlooking Coniston Water. The valleys and lower lying ground, mostly in the northern half, are less wooded, and comprise former common field in the valleys, around which are ancient enclosures, with intakes on the higher ground. The woodland in this area is more fragmentary, and appears to be a mix of ornamental and commercial planting from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, for example at Wray Castle. The northern limits of the area are defined by the valley of the River Brathay, where the landscape comprises a patchwork of ancient enclosures and irregular plantation woodland. Field boundaries are a mix of hedgerows and stone walls, with hedgerows dominating the ancient enclosure. The settlement pattern, too, is mixed, with dispersed farms and small nucleations, often associated with industry.

The woodland plantation within the Grizedale Forest character area are defined as enclosed and wooded fellside in the ESA landscape types, with small portions of valley bottom land around Satterthwaite and the upper end of the Rusland Valley, where the HLC recorded ancient enclosures and small former common fields. The more mixed nature of the land in the northern half, where the HLC recorded ancient enclosures and small nucleated settlements, is defined as pastoral land, craggy pasture and woodland and parkland. Parkland also predominates along the western shore of Windermere. The entire character area is included within the Countryside Agency’s South Cumbria Low Fells, which is noted for the rugged nature of much of its landscape, its well-wooded character and well-managed pastoral landscapes with parkland character.

Windermere, and the Rothay and Brathay Valleys

This long, narrow character area follows the valleys of the Rivers Rothay and Brathay, and extends down the eastern shore of Lake Windermere. It contains the largest area of urban development within the Lake district, including Bowness, Windermere, Ambleside and Grasmere. The built-up character is a reflection of this area’s status as one of the key destinations for visitors to the Lakes, and it contains a number of hotels, holiday cottages and other places to stay. Both within the urban environs, and along the A590 Kendal to Keswick road which runs through the area, are a large number of nineteenth century villas and country houses, many with extensive landscaped gardens. It is well wooded, and many of the trees are exotic species, introduced for their landscape value. The northern part of the area is less developed, and north of Ambleside the landscape is more rural in character. Even here, however, there are popular visitor attractions, such as the village of Grasmere, and Wordsworth’s homes at Dove Cottage and Rydal Mount, as well as the smaller water bodies of Rydal Water and Grasmere.

The well-developed character of this area, with its large gardens and landscaped estates is reflected in the dominance of the parkland and woodland in the ESA landscape types, which cover the whole of the lake shores, and the Rothay and Brathay valleys. Around the edges are small pastoral areas, plus

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55 Countryside Commission 1998, 64
56 Countryside Commission 1998, 64
some valley bottom land and enclosed and wooded fellsides. Most of this land falls within the Cumbria High Fells Countryside Character Area, apart from the strip running along the eastern shore of Windermere, which forms part of the South Cumbria Low Fells. The Cumbria High Fells is extensive and includes a variety of landscape types. The Windermere, and the Rothay and Brathay Valleys includes the relatively formal lakeshore landscapes of managed grassland, broadleaf woodland and parkland, as well as some farmland and sheltered valley landscapes.

**Dunnerdale and Broughton Low Fells**

Bounded by Coniston Water to the east, and the Central Fells to the north and west, like the Allithwaite and Underbarrow Low Fells, this area is characterised by significant areas of woodland, across low fells which were subject to planned enclosure in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It is dominated by the valley running from the Duddon estuary up to Coniston Water, with Coniston village at the north end and the market village of Broughton-in-Furness at the south end. Running north-south from Broughton is Dunnerdale, the valley of the River Duddon. Ancient woodland running along the sides of both valleys, but there are also significant blocks of coniferous plantation woodland, often contained within zones of planned enclosure. The eastern half of the area is dominated by open low fell, farmed as common and now largely infested with bracken. Settlement is primarily restricted to the valleys, and is mainly dispersed in nature, and surrounded by ancient enclosures; apart from Coniston and Broughton at the northern and southern ends respectively. Field boundaries are mixed, with hedgerows predominating within the areas of ancient enclosure, whilst stone walls were used for planned enclosures. Like the Furness Fells, this was an area of woodland industry, and the ancient woodland produced coppiced wood for craft industries such as the making of swill baskets and tool handles. The valleys were also important communications routes for the slate and metal ore extractive industries around Coniston, Torver and the Langdale Valleys.

Enclosed pastoral land, valley plain and craggy pasture and woodland are the main ESA landscape types in this character area, with a band of high and low fell across the eastern half marked as open fell in the HLC. Small portions of valley bottom mark the Black Beck and Dunnerdale to the west. The adjacent areas, lying outside the National Park are characterised as either coastal margin or upland fringes, on the County Council landscape characterisation, reflecting the juxtaposition of the valley bottoms and low fells. In the Countryside Character Areas, much of the Dunnerdale and Broughton Low Fells are contained within the Cumbria High Fells character area, which includes sheltered valley landscapes at lower altitudes, with extensive blocks of ancient woodland

**West Cumbrian Coastal Plain**

The coastal plain is markedly different to most of the other character areas. It comprises a strip of low-lying land to the west of the Central Fells, plus the Wicham Valley to the south, which stretches inland as far as Halthwaites. At the northern end are the extensive stretches of mud and sand dunes of the Esk estuary, which are part of an internationally important natural habitat. The area contains very little woodland, and is characterised by large former common fields, surrounded by ancient enclosures and blocks of planned enclosure. The field boundaries are mainly hedgerows, with fencing where hedges have not been maintained. The settlement pattern is mixed, with dispersed farms spread across the whole character area, and the small nucleated settlements of Silecroft, Bootle and Hyemoors sited next to their associated former common fields. Two further common fields appear to relate to Annaside and Corney, which can be considered agglomerated settlements, that is a loose nucleated settlement, where dwellings may be widely spread, but clearly grouped.

The lower lying coastal strip lies outside the Lake District ESA, and is therefore not covered by its landscape classification. At the southern and northern ends of the area, are valley plains, covering the Esk and Wicham Valleys, with narrow bands of pastoral land on the sides of the Wicham Valley.

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77 Countryside Commission 1998, 31-2
Pastoral land is the only landscape type defined for the district between these two valleys, lying between the coastal low lands and the unenclosed fells. Its reflects the open landscape of ancient and planned enclosures with very little woodland. This character area does fall within the West Cumbria Coastal Plain character area, which is much more extensive and runs from Barrow-in-Furness in the south to Maryport in the north. The character of the HLC area is clearly reflected in the Countryside Character Area, however, which includes open coastlines of mudflats, shingle and sand dunes of national and international importance, with open agricultural landscapes with extensive views to the fells. Whilst the National Park boundary extends to the coast in this area, the Cumbria landscape classification to the north reflects a similar landscape, with estuary and marsh, fringed by coastal margins, and then lowland leading up to the fell edge.

**Gosforth and Muncaster Lowlands**

An area of mixed landscape types on the western edge of the Lake District National Park, bounded to the south by the West Cumbrian Coastal Plain, to the north by the Western Fell edge, and to the east by the Central Fells. The southern boundary is marked by the valley of the River Esk, on the north side of which is a well-wooded ridge of low fell forming the grounds of Muncaster Castle. The northern edge partly follows the edge of Calder Abbey park. The area comprises a mix of landscape types, with former common fields, ancient enclosures, small patches of intakes and blocks of planned enclosures. There are also large blocks of plantation woodland, with fragments of ancient woodland. The pattern of distribution of these landscape types relates to topography, with the former common fields situated on the low-lying western side of the area, and the planned enclosure plus much of the plantation woodland, on the higher ground rising to the Central Fells. Between are zones of ancient enclosure interspersed with blocks of planned enclosure, some intakes and scattered ancient woodland. Hedgerows are the dominant type of field boundary, with stone walls restricted largely to the planned enclosures of the fell edges. Muncaster Castle, on the southern edge of the area, is a mixture of ornamental parkland, plantations and open fell. As with the West Cumbrian Coast, the settlement pattern is a mixture of dispersed and nucleated settlement. The two main nucleated settlements are the villages of Ravenglass and Gosforth, both of which have clearly defined associated former common fields, although that belonging to Ravenglass lies on the far side of the River Mite. Between the two, are the former common fields of Irton and Santon, which are largely dispersed settlements. The nucleated settlement of Eskdale Green, at the northern end of Muncaster Castle grounds, is a largely post medieval settlement, the growth of which can be attributed to mining and tourism.

Pastoral land, with parkland and woodland, are the dominating ESA landscape types in the Gosforth and Muncaster lowlands, with enclosed and wooded fellsides on the slopes leading up to the high fells. The presence of parkland and woodland is particularly marked around Santon and Irton, whilst the extensive lands around Muncaster Castle, are characterised as enclosed and wooded fellside. The pastoral landscape type is made up of ancient and planned enclosures as mapped by the HLC, and the parkland and woodland, and enclosed and wooded fellsides, are distinguishable as intakes and planned enclosures with large blocks of woodland. The dominance of lowland pasture is continued to the west, in the Cumbria landscape classification, whilst the Countryside Character Areas include the Gosforth and Muncaster lowlands in the Cumbria High Fells. Included within the Cumbria High Fells area are farmland and valley landscapes at lower altitudes, with woodland, copses and dry stone walls and hedgerows. This reflects the HLC characterisation of significant areas of woodland, both ancient and plantation, particularly along the lower fell slopes.

**Western Fell Edge**

The Western Fell Edge is a small area on the lower slopes below the Central Fells, to the east of Egremont and Cleator Moor. Its northern edge is bounded by Ennerdale. It comprises mostly lower fells, dominated by intakes and ancient enclosures which probably represent late medieval assarts.

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78 Countryside Commission 1998, 26
79 Countryside Commission 1998, 31
Settlement, which is mainly dispersed, include a number of ‘thwaite’ names, such as Farthwaite and Sillathwaite, indicating that they were established from clearings in the common waste. The dispersed farms at the northern end may have older origins, as they are spread along the south side of the River Ehen, at the base of Ennerdale, and appear to have had a small common arable field, anciently enclosed, around Meadley Reservoir. Field boundaries are mainly hedgerows, with stone walls restricted to the intakes, and around the edges of ‘thwaite’ farms.

The Cumbria landscape classification defines this area as upland fringes, whilst the ESA landscape types show enclosed and wooded fellsides, with some pastoral areas, mirroring the areas of ancient enclosures mapped by the HLC. As with the Gosforth and Muncaster lowlands, the Western Fell Edge also falls within the Cumbria High Fells Countryside Character Area, and it also contains farmland with valley landscapes, woodland, copses, dry stone walls and hedgerows.

**Ennerdale**

North of the Western Fell Edge, and south of the North Western Lowlands is Ennerdale. Its eastern boundary is shared with the Central Fells, and its character is defined by upland topography. The southern part comprises Ennerdale Water and its valley, whilst to the north are the Loweswater Fells. Apart from a very small patch of ancient enclosure, near Lamplugh, this area is characterised by planned enclosure and plantation woodland. Most of the area was enclosed in the nineteenth century, with very large irregular stone-walled enclosures, typical of the higher fells. In many cases, these enclosures have not been maintained, and much of the district around Ennerdale is reverting back to open moorland. The large blocks of coniferous woodland were planted by the Forestry Commission in the twentieth century. Ennerdale is the subject of a rewilding scheme, and expanses of former plantation will be managed to allow the regeneration of native plant species.

The character of this well-defined area is not reflected particularly well in either the ESA landscapes types, which defines it as largely enclosed and wooded fellsides with small areas of valley bottom, around the lake and valley of Ennerdale plus high and low fell to the north. Although this includes woodland within the definition of the enclosed fellsides, it does not convey the picture of heavily forested hillsides which dominate this area. Neither the ESA landscape types nor the Countryside Character Area show a picture of the history of planned enclosures on the fells, as neither classification was intended to portray the history of land development.

**North Western Lowlands**

The North Western Lowlands occupy the valleys of Bassenthwaite Lake, the River Derwent and River Cocker, and some of the surrounding low fells. It is bounded by the Park boundary to the west, the Caldbeck, Uldale and Ireby Lowlands to the north, the Skiddaw Range to the east and Wythop and Thorntwaite Forest to the south. The land is mostly low-lying, but with low fells at the northern and southern ends. The settlement pattern is mostly dispersed, with some small hamlets, and the area is distinguished by several country houses and ornamental parks, such as Armathwaite Hall, Higham Hall and Isel Hall, to the east of Cockermouth. The field systems are based around a number of former common fields, which tend to be larger than those found elsewhere in the Lake District, probably because of fewer topographical restrictions and better quality agricultural land. These former common fields are surrounded by ancient enclosure. Apart from a small number of intakes, the remainder is largely made up of planned enclosures. The planned enclosures are within former common waste, for example Setmurthy Common and the low fells such as Binsey and Mosser Fell, but they also include the privately planned enclosure of extensive parks, such as that belonging to Isel Hall. Hedgerows dominate the field boundaries, with some stone walls around planned enclosures on the higher ground. There are also some stone walls around the former enclosed common field south of Low Lorton in the Lorton Valley. They occur in one block within the former common field.

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80 Countryside Commission 1998, 31
suggesting that they were enclosed in a systematic manner in one episode. The area is not well wooded, and there are only a few fragmentary ancient woodlands. Plantation woodland is largely confined to planned enclosures, particularly Setmurthy Common, and around Isel Hall, where they reflect the ornamental nature of the landscape in this area.

The ESA landscape types reflect the HLC types fairly closely, although in a simplified way. The area is dominated by pastoral land, which includes zones of both ancient and planned enclosures, with a large area of parkland and woodland extending from Blindcrake eastwards and along the southern shore of Bassenthwaite. HLC mapping shows a predominance of planned enclosure and woodland in this area, mainly relating to ornamental parks such as Isel. South of Bassenthwaite, the area is made up of valley bottom and lakeshore. Other zones of planned enclosure, such as the former Binsey, Setmurthy Common and Fellbarrow, are shown as enclosed and wooded fellside, or as high and low fell. The mixed topography is also reflected in the Cumbria landscape classification, where the district immediately south of Cockermouth is lowland, with some upland fringe to the east of Cockermouth, whilst most of the area abuts a belt of higher limestone. The entire area falls within the Cumbria High Fells character area, being defined by the farmland and sheltered valleys landscapes at lower altitudes. Although an attribute of this type is woodland and copses, here that is restricted largely to the enclosed parkland and former commons.

**Wythop and Thornthwaite Forest**

South of the North Western Lowlands, and north of the Central Fells is a small portion of fell which would have formed the common waste to the low lands of Bassenthwaite and Lorton Vale. This was enclosed systematically in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, although it also contains small patches of intakes. There is also a small zone of lower lying land around Wythop Mill, which is anciently enclosed. One of its main characteristics, however, is the large coniferous woodland plantation, which was begun in the nineteenth century, but greatly extended by the Forestry Commission in the twentieth century. Like Grizedale, this is now a forest park with large portions accessible to the public. The unwooded fell is divided by stone walls into very large, irregular enclosures.

Like Ennerdale, this area is dominated by planned enclosures and forestry plantation, but the ESA landscape types differentiate only between enclosed and wooded fallsides and high and low fell. Indeed, many of the forest plantations are within the high and low fell. The extensive plantation woodlands are a feature of the Countryside Character Area of the Cumbria High Fells.

**Caldbeck, Uldale and Ireby Lowlands**

Lying at the northernmost point of the National Park, the Caldbeck, Uldale and Ireby Lowlands is a long, narrow strip north of the Skiddaw Range. Its landscape is dominated by the former common field systems of the three villages of Caldbeck, Uldale and Ireby, though the latter lies just outside the National Park boundary. These former common fields are larger than average for the National Park. Around these are ancient enclosures, and beyond these, to the north are some intakes and then open commons which extend beyond the Park boundary. There are only a few small patches of planned enclosures, on the edges of the former common fields around Caldbeck and Ireby. In addition to the villages of Caldbeck, Uldale and Ireby, there are a number of dispersed farms, which tend to be scattered across the ancient enclosures, and in Caldbeck follow the fell edge. This area has almost no woodland, apart from a small plantation on its south eastern boundary, and some ancient clough woodland along Stock Ghyll and the River Caldew. The field boundaries are almost all hedgerows, however, and contain large numbers of standard trees.

The ancient enclosures are characterised as pastoral land by the ESA landscape types, and the zones of intake and open common as high and low fell. Continuing outside the National Park boundary, the Cumbria landscape classification has defined this area as high limestone, whilst it forms part of the
Cumbria High Fells under the Countryside Character Areas, thus forming part of the same landscape type as the North Western Lowlands, the Western Fell Edge and the Gosforth and Muncaster Lowlands.

**Skiddaw Range**

An area of high, open fell surrounded by lowland, with Keswick and the Greta Valley to the south. The area is made up unenclosed land almost in its entirety, apart from a small patch of intakes around Lonscale Fell in the south and the narrow Mosedale Valley to the east. The range includes two of the Lake District’s highest fells; Skiddaw and Blencathra, and the area was known for its copper and tungsten mines in the post medieval period. In particular, the Carrock Fell Tungsten Mine is considered to be of national importance and is a scheduled ancient monument. The mines, which were distributed around the southern and western flanks of the range, are of limited extent in themselves, but their remains can be found along a number of routes into the fells, and thus have a dramatic local physical impact on the landscape.

High and low fell covers most of this area in the ESA landscape types, with small areas of enclosed and wooded fellsides on the fringes, with a narrow finger of valley bottom along the Caldew. It is part of the Cumbria High Fells Countryside Character Area, forming a distinctive group of fells, characterised by steep, generally smooth-sided mountains.

**Keswick and Derwent Water**

South of the Skiddaw Range, and north of the Central Fells, is the area around Derwent Water and the town of Keswick. Like the Windermere area, this is one of the key destinations for visitors to the Lake District National Park, and its character partly reflects this, taking in Keswick and the lake, and the approaches to it from the east. Around Derwent Water the countryside is largely wooded, with plantations but also significant patches of ancient woodland. The town of Keswick forms the largest nucleated settlement in the north of the Lake District National Park, and is a ‘honeypot’ for visitors to the northern half of the Park. The urban environs and the northern shores of Derwent Water, therefore, have a number of camping and caravan sites and public recreation spaces. West of Keswick is an area of ancient enclosures, and south of Derwent Water is the head of Borrowdale with its former common field. Immediately north of Keswick is are numerous intakes, at Latrigg and Ormathwaite, with plantation and ancient woodland, which formed an important part in the itinerary of the eighteenth and nineteenth century traveller interested in the Picturesque. The landscape of the valley to the east of Keswick is centered on the village of Threlkeld, which had a small former common field, though the landscape comprises mostly ancient enclosures with some intakes. This approach to Keswick from the east is now dominated by the A66 trunk road and the bypass to the north of Keswick. Although the eastern part of this area is not well wooded, the Greta Valley has ancient woodland, and the field boundaries comprise hedgerows with numerous standard trees. In addition, there have been substantial programmes of eighteenth and nineteenth century ornamental planting, designed to enhance the Picturesque view around Derwent Water and the lower fells north of Keswick.

This mix of ancient enclosures, intakes, ancient woodland and ornamental planting is reflected in the ESA landscape types for the area around Keswick and Derwent Water. The land adjacent to Derwent Water is almost all parkland and woodland, incorporating the town of Keswick, plus the landscaped grounds and ornamental planting around the lakeshore. Beyond this to the north, the low-lying land comprises pastoral land, with enclosed and wooded fellsides rising up to the Skiddaw Massif. South of the lake, the upper end of Borrowdale is made up of valley bottom, surrounded by enclosed and wooded fellside. This landscape is typical of the pattern of glaciated valleys which form part of the Cumbria High Fells, with relatively formal lakeshore landscapes, extensive ancient woodland, with semi-improved and improved pasture on the sheltered farmland north of the lake.

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81 Countryside Commission 1998, 33
82 Countryside Commission 1998, 31-2
Thirlmere

The area of Thirlmere forms a small but distinct character area, defined by the reservoir and its surrounding woodland. At the northern end is a small area of ancient enclosures around Legburthwaite, which includes limited areas of ancient woodland. Before the construction of the reservoir in the 1890s, Thirlmere comprised two small tarns, linked by a narrow neck of water. Around its shores was a narrow band of enclosures, with scattered farmsteads. Following the enlargement of the lake, large expanses of coniferous woodland were planted on the slopes surrounding it, to act as a filter for water running onto the lake. Many of the individual settlements were lost as the area was planted up. The Manchester Corporation, who were behind the construction of the reservoir, attracted a great deal of criticism for the large expanses of coniferous plantation, which was considered gloomy and dark. The original planting still survives, and indeed has been extended.

Like Ennerdale, this area is dominated by forestry plantation, but this is not reflected well in the ESA landscape types, which defines most of the area as enclosed and wooded fellsides, leading up to high and low fell. At the northern end, the area of ancient enclosure mapped by the HLC is defined as either valley bottom and lakeshore, or as parkland and woodland. Within the description of the Cumbria High Fells character area, direct reference is made to the plantations around Thirlmere.

North Eastern Lowlands

In the north eastern quadrant of the National Park, extending from Mosedale in the north to Shap in the south, is an area of lowland lying between the Central Fells and the National Park boundary. The character of the area is similar in type to the North Western Lowlands, and is a patchwork of enclosure types, with comparatively large areas of former common fields, ancient enclosures and planned enclosure. There are few intakes, mostly confined to the fell edges. Country houses and their associated ornamental parks, such as Glencoyne, Dalemain and Lowther, are a feature of this area, along with groups of ornamental tree planting around the northern shores of Ullswater. Elsewhere coniferous plantation has been carried out in areas of planned enclosure on former common waste, around Matterdale. As with many of the other low lying areas, hedgerows predominate as field boundaries, with stone walls in the higher zones of planned enclosure, but also with some fencing on low lying lands. Settlement is generally dispersed across the anciently enclosed land, and around the edges of the former common fields, with a concentration of farms and houses around the northern end of Ullswater.

Not all of the North Eastern Lowlands are covered by the ESA landscape types, as Lowther Park, Dacre, Penruddock and Hutton all lie outside the ESA. Where it is covered by the ESA, the landscape types are a mixture of pastoral land, and enclosed and wooded fellsides, reflecting the mix of former common fields and ancient enclosures with large areas of planned enclosures. Around the shores of Ullswater there is parkland and woodland, marking the lakeside ornamental planting. According to the Cumbria landscape classification, the character of this area continues outside the park as high limestone, whilst the Countryside Character Area defines it as part of the Cumbria High Fells. Like the North Western Lowlands, the key elements of the Cumbria High Fells include farmland and sheltered valleys landscapes at lower altitudes, with woodland and copses restricted largely to the planned enclosures.

Eastern Fells

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83 Countryside Commission 1998, 31
84 Countryside Commission 1998, 31
The Eastern Fells lie to the north of the Crosthwaite and Underbarrow Low Fells and the Windermere, and the Rothay and Brathay Valleys. The park boundary forms its eastern edge, with the Central Fells to the north and west. Its character is defined by expanses of post medieval enclosures, both intakes and nineteenth century planned enclosures which extend onto the high moorland. The enclosures are large, and irregular in shape, defined mainly by topography, and in many places enclosure boundaries have not been maintained and the character is reverting back to open moor. On the moorland, most enclosure boundaries comprise dry stone walls. Penetrating into the moorland are a number of narrow valleys. The main valleys are Troutbeck, Kentmere and Longsleddale on the southern side, plus smaller valleys such as Bannisdale, the upper end of Borrowdale, Wetsleddale and the top end of Patterdale. The valleys contain almost all of the woodland within this character area, with concentrations of ancient woodland in Patterdale and Longsleddale. The western valleys of Patterdale, Troutbeck and Kentmere, have a more nucleated settlement pattern, and more extensive former common fields. In Kentmere, parts of the common arable fields were not enclosed until the nineteenth century. Longsleddale, and the other smaller valleys, are dominated by dispersed settlement and ancient closes, with only limited areas of former common fields.

The pattern of planned enclosures of the high moorland, whether maintained or not, is not shown up by the ESA landscape types, which show most of the area as high or low fell. Around the edges of this area significant areas of enclosed and wooded fell sides, which mirror the intakes and planned enclosure of lower altitudes. There is little woodland on these enclosed fell sides, however, except around the valley sides. The valleys themselves are characterised as valley bottom. The ESA extends eastwards, well beyond the boundary of the National Park, where the landscape types reveal the same pattern of high and low fell, with enclosed and wooded fell sides above narrow valley bottoms. This area is being considered as an extension to the Lake District National Park, and the ESA landscape types suggest a very similar landscape to land within the National Park. This was also reflected in the HLC mapping, and the Cumbria landscape classification records the adjacent area as either high limestone or fells and scarps. All this area, including the high land to the east of the Park boundary, is included in the Cumbrian High Fells character area.

Central Fells

The most extensive character area is the Central Fells, covering the open, unenclosed moorland and fells of the central massif. This area is dominated by unenclosed land, and along with the large water bodies, is seen as one of the key features of the Lake District. As with the Eastern Fells, the area is punctuated by a number of narrow valleys, such as Eskdale, the Langdales, Grisedale and Glenridding, Borrowdale, Buttermere and Wasdale. The valleys are dominated by dispersed settlements spread along the valley sides, with ancient closes along the valley bottom and areas of ancient woodland at the base of the fell slopes. From the late medieval period, the enclosed areas were extended up the lower fell sides through intaking, and in the post medieval period the intakes became extensive where topography allowed, providing cow pastures. Common fields were usually small in these valleys, and were enclosed at an early date, apart from a small portion in Great Langdale where part of the field survived was commonable until the nineteenth century.

Within the ESA landscape types, the Central Fells are, inevitably, dominated by the high and low fell landscape types. Around the edges of the narrow valleys, which protrude into the high fells and are characterised as valley bottom, are limited areas of enclosed fellside and woodland, mostly marking the areas of intakes mapped by the HLC. Land around the lakes is either enclosed fellside and woodland, or valley bottom, although there is also a small patch of parkland and woodland around Ullswater. The entire area falls within the Countryside Character Area of Cumbria High Fells, with its range of features from spectacular and rugged mountains, a radiating pattern of deeply glaciated valleys, and farmland and sheltered valley landscapes85.

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85 Countryside Commission 1998, 31
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KEY HABITAT SUMMARY DESCRIPTIONS

K1.1 Broadleaved woodland and scrub

Upland oak woodland is the most common woodland in the high fells area of the Lake District. The canopy is commonly dominated by sessile oak with some birch. Due to the high rainfall in this area many of these woods are important sites for ferns, mosses and liverworts, including a large number of Atlantic species. Upland oakwoods also support red squirrels and a distinctive bird assemblage including redstart, wood warbler, and pied flycatcher.

Upland ashwood is characteristic of the limestone areas of the Lake District, such as around Morecambe Bay. These often have species-rich shrub and field layers including a number of scarce species such as red helleborine and mezereum. Yew is a frequent component of these woods, forming small groves. Where coppiced it forms a valuable habitat for butterflies, notably the high brown and pearl-bordered fritillary.

Wet woodland is scarce on floodplains in the Lake District, although small areas exist within valley side woodlands. The canopy tends to be dominated by willow, alder and birch, and the ground flora is very variable, depending on hydrology, soil type and management.

Scrub exists in a range of localities within the National Park and provides valuable habitat for a range of species including many birds and invertebrates. The Lake District is one of the strongholds in the north of England for juniper scrub, a BAP species.

K1.2 Heath

Upland heath is dominated by heathers, with smaller amounts of bilberry and other species. It supports a distinctive range of bird species including red grouse, hen harrier, merlin, curlew and golden plover. Although upland heath is still relatively widespread in the Lake District, it is widely recognised to be in long-term decline as a result of overgrazing. This has been particularly acute in recent years as a result of high stocking rates supported by agricultural subsidies.

Montane heath occurs on the highest mountain tops, and characteristically contains a high abundance of mosses, especially *Racomitrium lanuginosum*, and lichens, such as *Cladonia* species. It has proved particularly vulnerable to the overgrazing of recent decades, and widespread reductions and losses have been reported.

K1.3 Bog and Mire

Many of the upland areas of the Lake District are too steep for the development of thick layers of peat and blanket bog. However, some areas of this habitat are present in parts of the National Park with a gentler topography, for example in the northern Skiddaw fells and the lower Eskdale-Duddon moors. When in good condition they are characterised by the presence of *Sphagnum* bog mosses, as well as species such as cotton grasses, deer sedge, heathers and bilberry.

Areas of flush bog and poor fen are present on some upland valley sides where lateral water movements lead to seepage at the surface. Some of these areas contain relatively rich floras.

In the southern fells, and around Morecambe Bay, are areas of valley and lowland raised mire. The areas of lowland raised mire are some of the most extensive in England, and although many of them have been damaged, restoration work is taking place.

K1.4 **Unimproved Grassland**

Extensive areas of the upland fells are covered with species-poor acid grassland of relatively low conservation value. Historically this habitat has increased substantially as a result of overgrazing, mainly at the expense of heath.

Purple moor-grass and rush pasture is found in wetter areas around the periphery of the National Park, as well as on valley sides and adjacent to many of the lakes. In such locations it often occurs as part of large and ecologically diverse habitat mosaics. The flora is characteristically species-rich and it is an important habitat for devil’s-bit scabious, the food plant of the rare marsh fritillary butterfly.

Most calcareous grasslands within the National Park are found on the Morecambe bay limestones. They are species-rich, and most are of a characteristically northern type, dominated by blue-moor grass. They also support important communities of invertebrates, including many butterfly species.

A few very small areas of neutral hay meadow and pasture remain within the National Park.

K1.5 **Bracken**

Large areas of the lower fell sides, on deep dry soils are dominated by bracken. It is thought that a reduction in cattle grazing may have led to some spread of this species in recent decades. It has some conservation value for birds and butterflies, and a range of woodland plant species can persist under its canopy.

K1.6 **Rocky habitats**

A range of rocky habitats exists in the National Park, including crags, screes and limestone scars and pavement. In the high fells, ledges on crags inaccessible to grazing animals contain some of the least modified communities in the country, and in some places include examples of rare relic arctic and alpine species. Similar habitats exist in some of the gills, where the humid atmosphere makes ferns and mosses abundant in places. Parsley fern is very characteristic of areas of scree.

Extensive areas of limestone scars and pavement are present in the Morecambe bay area. A very distinctive flora has developed in the joints, or grikes, of the pavements, containing elements of both wooded and more open habitats. Limestone pavements have been damaged or destroyed in the past in order to supply a demand for water-worn limestone for gardens. Despite being legally protected since the 1980s some damage is still taking place.

K1.7 **Aquatic Habitats**

The National Park is of course rich in lakes, including both large valley lakes and smaller mountain tarns. Their biological characteristics depend to a great extent on the nature of the underlying geology, and they vary from acid and nutrient poor, such as Wastwater and Ennerdale Water to moderately base and nutrient-rich, such as Bassenthwaite Lake. They support valuable communities of plants, invertebrates and birds, and nationally important populations of fish species, including the arctic char and schelly, and the only British populations of vendace. Nutrient enrichment, which is damaging to the biodiversity of the lakes, has become a problem in some cases, for example at Esthwaite Water and Bassenthwaite Lake.

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88 Shattered Stone, an investigation into the sale of water-worn limestone in the UK. Countryside Agency, 2005.
The gills, streams and rivers of the Lake District are also of high quality and remain relatively unmodified. This is reflected in the fact that a large proportion of the rivers are SSSI designated. Many of them also retain important areas of associated riparian habitat.

**K1.8 Coastal Habitats**

In the south and south west, the National Park includes areas of coastal habitat such as inter-tidal saltmarsh and sand/mud flats in Morecambe Bay, and extensive dune systems at Drigg coast SSSI. There are also nationally important populations of natterjack toad, a BAP species.
HABITAT ACTION PLAN TARGETS

The Habitat Action Plan targets for management, achievement of favourable condition and habitat creation related to habitats found in the National Park are:

Upland Oak Woodland
- Achieve favourable condition in 50% of total resource by 2010.
- Expand the area of upland oakwood.

Upland Mixed Ashwood
- Achieve favourable condition in 70% of SSSIs and 50% of total resource by 2010.
- Initiate restoration and re-creation of 1600ha. Complete over half by 2010 and all by 2015.

Wet Woodland
- Achieve favourable condition for 70% of SSSIs and 50% of the total resource by 2010.
- Restore and re-create 380 ha of wet woodland by 2020 with half of this area complete by 2010.

Blanket Bog
- Introduce management regimes to improve the condition of designated bogs.
- Achieve favourable condition of 55% by 2010 and 75% by 2015 of restorable area.

Upland Heathland
- Achieve favourable management on all upland heathland SSSIs by 2010, and achieve demonstrable improvement of at least 50% of upland heathland outside SSSIs by 2010.
- Achieve favourable management of all areas of upland heath adjacent to montane heath, blanket mire and upland oak woodland.
- By 2010, seek to restore heathland on 500ha where dwarf shrubs have been reduced or eliminated.

Lowland Raised Mire
- Achieve favourable condition for all active or potentially active sites.

Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture
- Initiate rehabilitation management for all significant stands within SSSIs with the aim of achieving favourable condition by 2010.
- For all other sites, secure favourable condition as near to 100% as possible by 2015.

Hay meadows and Lowland Pastures
- Within SSSIs, initiate rehabilitation management for all significant with the aim of achieving favourable condition by 2010.
- For all other sites, secure favourable condition as near to 100% as possible by 2015.
- Attempt to re-establish 10ha (Cumbria Fells and Dales NA) of hay meadows of wildlife value by 2010.

Calcareous Grassland
- Within SSSIs, start rehabilitation management to achieve favourable condition where feasible
- Start rehabilitation management to achieve favourable condition of non-SSSI sites: lowland: 100% by 2015, upland: 75% by 2010.
- Attempt to re-establish 25ha of lowland and 10ha of upland calcareous grassland of wildlife value by 2010.

Limestone Pavement
- Achieve appropriate management - 90% by 2010.
Reedbed
- Promote appropriate management of existing reedbeds.
- Rehabilitate sites as appropriate.
- Create at least 270 ha of new reedbed.
- Promote small-scale reedbed creation (<10ha).

Rivers and Streams
- Maintain and enhance water quality to defined standards.
- Ensure future drought events are managed effectively, whilst not compromising river dependent wildlife and ecology.
- Ensure that current and future water abstractions do not compromise river dependent wildlife and ecology.
- Increase local habitat diversity within flood plains.

Mesotrophic Standing Waters
- Identify and implement effective remedial actions to address impacts on current mesotrophic lakes, and restore, where appropriate former mesotrophic lakes.
- Identify current threats, and agree plan of action to address them.
- Reduce threat posed by alien plant species.
- Reduce the threat posed by fisheries management.

Coastal Habitats
- Review management of existing European Marine Sites, and identify and secure additional measures needed.
- Encourage positive management for wildlife conservation of other statutory and non-statutory coastal sites.

Honeycomb Worm reefs
- Ensure that the value of honeycomb worm reefs is integrated into the management of the coast and coastal resources.

Cities, Towns and Villages
- Enhance the value of areas in the built environment through management and information and advice.
- Enhance the potential of the built environment to support biodiversity.
- Increase and enhance the involvement of people in action for biodiversity in their homes and local environment.

SPECIES ACTION PLAN TARGETS

The Species Action Plan targets for the protection of existing sites/populations, surveying and monitoring of populations, the management of relevant habitats, and for the expansion of populations, both in terms of size and number, related to species found in the National Park are:

Mammals
- Bats (Chiroptera)
- Red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)
- Water vole (*Arvicola terrestris*)
- Increase the number of sites where water voles occur to 1970 levels by 2010.

Birds
- Barn owl (*Tyto alba*)
Song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)

**Amphibians**
Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)
- Restore populations to two unoccupied sites each year for the next 5 years.
Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*)
- Reintroduce to at least 1 site.

**Fish**
Vendace (*Coregonus albula*)
- Investigate potential sites for the establishment of a new population.

**Butterflies and Moths**
Marsh fritillary (*Eurodryas aurinia*)
- Establish 2 habitat networks around existing colonies and ensure the spread of marsh fritillaries within them.
- Establish 5 self-sustaining populations in the long term, in at least 3 more habitat networks
High brown fritillary (*Argynnis adippe*)
Pearl bordered fritillary (*Boloria euphrosyne*)
Netted carpet moth (*Eustroma reticulata*)
- Increase the number of moth populations to a minimum of 5 populations in each core area by 2005.

**Dragonflies**
White faced darter (*Leucorrhina dubia*)
- Restore habitat at previously occupied sites, and re-introduce the species when conditions are suitable.

**Water beetles**
A water beetle (*Hydroporus rufifrons*)

**Caddis flies**
A caddis fly (*Glossosoma intermedium*)

**Vascular plants**
Juniper (*Juniperus communis*)
- Restore appropriate management to permit the regeneration of all sites within SSSIs and any site under direct conservation management by 2010, or of all stands over 5h outside SSSIs or sites under direct conservation management by 2015. Expand stands where appropriate.
- Expand existing populations or restore or introduce juniper by the following extents by 2015 (including expanding representative tree-line juniper populations in the Cumbria Fells and Dales NA to 3 sites) - Cumbria high fells (2ha), South Cumbria low fells (1ha) and Morecambe Bay limestones (½ha)

**Mosses**
Slender green feather moss (*Hamatoucalis vernicosus*)

**Lichens**
A lichen (*Lobaria amplissima*)
- Seek to enhance populations at known sites.