
The English Lake District (United Kingdom) No 422rev

Official name as proposed by the State Party

The English Lake District

Location

North West England
United Kingdom

Brief description

Located in North West England, the English Lake District is a distinct mountainous area, which has been modelled into radiating valleys by the movements of glaciers in the Ice Age and subsequently shaped by a long-standing agro-pastoral land-use system which is still practiced today. The combined work of nature and human activities have produced a landscape of harmony and beauty in which the rugged mountains mirrored in clear glacial lakes, the delicate farming pattern of enclosed inbye and intake fields, the broadleaved woodlands and tree groups, and the settlement distribution form an evocative scenery. This landscape came to be appreciated from the 18th century onwards by the Picturesque and later the Romantic Movements, which celebrated it in paintings, drawings and words. These ideals were materialised in villas, gardens and parks purposely created to enhance the picturesque and romantic character of this landscape. Its popularity spread amongst the general public through several guidebooks, giving rise to early forms of tourism in England. The beauty of this landscape also inspired an awareness of the importance of beautiful landscapes for personal emotional enrichment and conservation, and triggered early efforts to preserve it that contributed to the formation of the landscape conservation movement.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *site*.

In terms of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (July 2015) paragraph 47, it is also a *cultural landscape*.

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List

27 January 2012

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination

None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre

25 January 2016

Background

The State Party submitted in 1986 the nomination of The Lake District National Park both as a cultural and natural property – a mixed site – for inclusion in the World Heritage List. The proposed area covered 2,280 square kilometres in the north-west of England. It was proposed under the following cultural criteria: (ii), (iv), (v) and (vi), as well as natural criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv).

The ICOMOS evaluation in 1987 recommended the property for inscription under the cultural criteria.

At its 11th session (CONF 005 VII.B.b., Paris, 1987), the World Heritage Committee adopted the following decision:

The Committee wished to leave open its decision on this nomination until it had further clarified its position regarding the inscription of cultural landscapes.

In 1989, the State Party submitted the revised nomination on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iii) and (v), and ICOMOS in its evaluation recommended that the property be inscribed on the basis of criterion (iii) only.

At its 14th session (CONF 004 VII. D, Banff, 1990), the World Heritage Committee adopted the following decision:

At the request of the authorities of the United Kingdom, the Committee re-examined the nomination of the Lake District to the World Heritage List as a cultural property, based on a recommendation by ICOMOS that it be so included. The Committee discussed this case in detail and, although many members showed great interest in including this property, no consensus could be reached. The Committee felt that it did not have sufficiently clear criteria to allow it to rule on this type of property. It was recalled that the lack of appropriate criteria for the examination of cultural landscapes had been a concern of the Committee for several years. The Committee therefore asked the Secretariat to develop such a criterion or criteria and to submit this proposal to the Bureau at its fifteenth session. This will enable the Committee to consider adopting this criterion or criteria at its next session and to examine the nomination of this property.

In 2016, the State Party presented a new nomination for the property, as a cultural landscape, on the basis of criteria (ii), (v) and (vi). This nomination is the object of the present evaluation report.

Consultations

ICOMOS has consulted its International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes and several independent experts.

Comments about the evaluation of this property were received from IUCN in November 2016. ICOMOS has carefully examined this information to arrive at its final decision and its March 2017 recommendation; IUCN also reviewed the presentation of its comments included in this

ICOMOS report. IUCN's will include the full comments as provided to ICOMOS in its evaluation book 41COM.INF.8B2.

Technical Evaluation Mission

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the property from 3 to 8 October 2016.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

ICOMOS sent a letter to the State Party on 17 October 2016 requesting additional information on infrastructure projects and particularly on a new high-voltage power line (NWCC).

The State Party responded on 11 November 2016 and the information provided is integrated into the relevant sections of this report.

Following the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel, an Interim Report was sent to the State Party on 16 January 2017, explaining the findings of the ICOMOS Panel and requesting further elaboration on criteria (ii) and (vi) and additional information on the development of the new nuclear power station at Moorside, on the NWCC planned for construction on the western edge of the property, on the protection measures of the setting of the nominated property, and on strategies to address tourism and conservation.

The State Party responded on 27 February 2017 and the additional information provided is integrated into this report.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

2 The property

Description

The English Lake District (2,292 sq km) is a distinct mountainous area in North West England. Despite its complex geology, the region exhibits a unifying morphology. The District comprises 13 narrow valleys radiating "like spokes from the nave of a wheel", as William Wordsworth described it, from the highest elevations at the centre of the region, hills and uplands, known as fells in the region, separating one valley from the other, and 16 lakes of glacial origin in the bottoms of the valleys.

A number of factors have been identified in the nomination dossier as responsible for the present character and values of the District. These are outlined below.

Natural factors

The topography and morphology of the English Lake District owe much to its geological history.

Most of the rocks forming the mountains of the Lake District are extremely ancient, dating back to 420–500 million years ago; they have withstood multiple folding,

faulting, shaping and erosion processes, the most significant for the present geomorphology of the region being the ice advance and retreat of glacial and interglacial periods within the Quaternary Age. Particularly, the late Devensian period (26,000–10,000 BP, with a peak at 22,000 BP) is responsible for shaping the current topography of the District and its valleys.

A number of features in the English Lake District clearly illustrate the landscape-shaping forces of the ice: glacier-scoured U-shaped valleys, upland corries (small rounded hollows; approximately 150 are found in the Lake District), arêtes (sharp, narrow mountain ridges or spurs) and craggy outcrops. The high and abrupt peaks, the uplands, are covered with low vegetation, while the lowlands present a much denser arboreal vegetation.

The climate of the region is rather wet, with one of the highest rainfalls in Britain; winters are milder and summers cooler than usual at this latitude.

Beside the lakes, which are the featuring elements of the District, tarns and pools are also found in the uplands, as well as rivers, streams and falls. Many of these bodies of water are home to important and rare species.

Geological and topographical variations, different orientation and exposition, as well as human activity, have contributed to shaping the particular character of each of the 13 valleys and to give rise to different ecological zones and a considerable diversity of landscape forms.

Landscape forms

Twelve landscape character types have been identified in the region. They are briefly described below, before a description is provided of the 13 valleys forming the property. These include: Estuary and marsh, Coastal margins, Coastal limestone, Lowland Coastal sandstone, Volcanic high fell, Slate high fell, Upland limestone farmland, High fell fringe, Low fell, Low fell fringe, and Lowland valley.

These landscape types can be encountered in zones exhibiting specific geological and geographical features throughout the District and are not necessarily confined to one or other valley, although some of them may be found only in confined areas. They form the basis for the monitoring of the conditions of the landscape of the nominated property.

The agro-pastoral landscape

The most defining feature of the region, which has deeply shaped the cultural landscape, is a long-standing and continuing agro-pastoral tradition. The nomination dossier documents the early settlement of the area and the traces of the medieval agro-pastoral system that has continued until today. The farm pattern explains how the different features of the land were used and how the farming and grazing system developed over the centuries.

Pivotal to this agro-pastoral system are the communal grazing management of the uplands and the sheep breeds: the Herdwick, the Swaledale and the Rough Fell Sheep. All are well adapted to the local conditions, the most resistant among the three breeds being the Herdwicks, which also exhibit the instinct of keeping to a specific area (heft), thus making possible grazing over extensive areas without the need for fences or shepherds.

The rules of the agro-pastoral system have also distinctively shaped the physical environment.

A clear distinction between the valley floors, which were used for cultivating crops, hay and winter grazing, from the open grazing of the uplands, is still perceivable. Many stone walls divide the fields, known as 'inbye', in the valley bottoms, probably originating from the medieval ring garth – the walls separating the common fields at the bottom of the valley from the open grazing land on the hillsides. Land was progressively enclosed also on the slopes, developing a pattern of enclosures devoted to grazing, known as 'intakes', which are a key feature of the pastoral landscape of the Lake District.

The dry stone walls separate the enclosed from the common land, help control the movements of the sheep flocks, and provide shelters for them.

Traditional farmsteads usually encompass a farmhouse often directly connected to the cow house, above which a granary or hay loft was positioned; the pig sty was annexed to the complex at the furthest end of the cow house. Separate from the dwelling, other outbuildings included a threshing barn, a storage barn or granary and a two-storey multipurpose bank barn, which is a peculiar feature of the English Lake District farmsteads. Depending on exposure and location, the farmstead layouts may exhibit several variations.

Other functional structures that can be found in the fields include peat storage huts, hogg houses for sheltering young sheep and fodder, and vaccaries (cattle farms), which combine cow sheltering and dairy processing.

The uplands comprise the areas –largely moorland, heath, bog and rough grassland –beyond the limits of the enclosed farmland, which were used for communal grazing. The commons are a key element of the natural scenic beauty; they collect water in catchments, are important for wildlife, and are an archaeological repository.

To avoid overexploitation of the common land and unsustainable practices, a system of grazing rights has developed through the centuries, based on the grazing capacity of the inbye linked to the farms: these rights were associated with the farm holding and not to the farmer, so as to ensure the continuity of the system.

The picturesque and romantic appreciation of the landscape

From the mid 18th century onwards the English Lake District came to be highly appreciated by the Picturesque

and Romantic Movements for its distinctive dramatic views over a landscape shaped by natural forces and subsequently by pastoralism. This appreciation generated tourism, artistic interpretations and efforts to reinforce this character through a number of modifications, including the construction of villas with their own parks (Rydal Hall being a very early example) in different styles, often to the designs of renowned architects (e.g. the Art and Crafts Movement), of protected viewing stations, and the landscaping of notable features or areas.

The valleys are Langdale, Windermere, Coniston, Duddon, Eskdale, Wasdale, Ennerdale, Buttermere, Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite, Thirlmere, Ullswater, Haweswater, and Grasmere, Rydal and Ambleside. The specific features of each of them is described in detail in the nomination dossier and for each an explanation is provided on how they contribute to supporting and expressing the proposed justification for inscription.

Langdale

It is located in the central part of the nominated property. It is a classic example of a U-shaped valley; its steep sides and the rough aspects of the crags and rock outcrops provide a vivid contrast with the valley bottom, which features a smooth and green farming pattern. This is the only valley where the details of the chronology of the development of the farming landscape could be established thanks to the abundance of documents and field research. Early recognition of its qualities led to active conservation.

Windermere

It is located in the south east of the Lake District and the area includes the largest natural lake in England and a series of smaller valleys. Here, sharp contrasts can be found between the busy tourist town of Bowness-on-Windermere and the quiet and little-changed pastoral areas to the east, exhibiting a variety of farming landscape features and settlement patterns, including villas and designed landscapes and gardens. The valley represents the cradle of the conservation movement.

Coniston

It is located in the south of the Lake District running north-south and is dominated by the rugged glacial mountain landscape, including the linear homonymous lake. The traces of past mining and quarrying, of woodland industries and farming activities, provide a sense of a working landscape. Farming activity can be traced back to the Middle Ages, and open fields prevail here in contrast to the other valleys.

Duddon

The valley runs from the centre of the region towards the south, south west. The upper part of the valley is narrow, with high fells and little traces of frequentation, which altogether provide a sense of remoteness; the southern part is densely vegetated. The settlement pattern is sparse with only isolated farms and small hamlets. An agro-pastoral landscape character prevails. The stone

circles near Swinside are evidence of Neolithic occupation.

Eskdale

The valley is located in the western part of the region and is set apart by its rugged topography and isolation, combined with the impacts of agro-pastoralism since the Middle Ages. The pattern of stone-walled enclosures is still evident and several early farm buildings survive here. The valley is noted for Herdwick sheep farming. Evidence of pre-medieval activity includes the remains of the Hardknott and Ravenglass Roman fortifications as well as prehistoric sites. The absence of a lake reduced its attractiveness for general visitors but the valley was much appreciated by artists and writers.

Wasdale

Oriented from the centre of the Lake District towards the west, the valley is one of the most renowned for its spectacular lake landscape with mountains mirrored in Wastwater. The valley bears evident witness to the agro-pastoral system in the distinct pattern of walled inbye fields. Despite its beauty, this valley remained outside the main 18th and 19th century visitor routes, although it was celebrated by artists and writers.

Ennerdale

The valley is decidedly oriented from east to west and mainly rural in nature, with no major settlements. Large parts of the valley are occupied by upland grazing used by Herdwick and Swaledale sheep flocks. Landscape farming patterns include inbye land and intakes. Rich evidence of prehistoric occupation survives in this valley as well as of medieval facilities, e.g. the vaccary at Gillerthwaite. Due to its difficult access, the valley was not part of the 18th and 19th century itineraries, although it was well known to artists and writers of the time. Early conservation efforts were addressed to this valley against projects for the creation of a railway and afforestation schemes that reduced grazing areas.

Buttermere

The valley is located in the north-west part of the Lake District, running south-east to north-west. It is a typical U-shaped glacial valley containing two lakes: Crummock and Buttermere. The valley has been shaped by agro-pastoral activities for centuries, as attested by the well-developed patterns of inbye and intake enclosed fields. The scenic beauty of this agro-pastoral landscape attracted early visitors as well as artists, writers and intellectuals. This valley too witnessed early conservation actions under Wordsworth's influence.

Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite

This valley lies to the very north of the Lake District, its orientation being from the centre of the region to the north. The glacial lake of Derwent Water formed at the end of the valley, which features a strong agro-pastoral character in the evident pattern of inbye and intake fields and a field system that developed from the medieval ring garths. The valley is noted for the Swaledale sheep breed. Traces of Neolithic, Roman and medieval occupation are found. The

valley enjoyed early aesthetic appreciation and efforts for the conservation of its landscape qualities (battles against tree felling, railway construction).

Thirlmere

The valley took its name from the Thirlmere reservoir that was created there, leading to strong opposition and thus contributing to strengthening the conservation movement. It is located in the northern part of the Lake District with a south-north orientation. The valley still bears witness to the agro-pastoral system with its pattern of walled inbye and intake fields. Neolithic occupation is attested to by the famous stone circle of Castlerigg. The valley was particularly important for the Romantic Movement and became key for the development of a wider consciousness of the need for conservation of the landscape.

Ullswater

This valley is located in the north-east part of the region, with a curved orientation from the south-east to the north-east. The valley is dominated by the large lake and still exhibits the agro-pastoral pattern of inbye and intake fields. Neolithic and Roman remains survive in the valley, as well as medieval churches and traces of lead mining operations (ceased 1961). The sinuous lake was a major source of inspiration from the early Picturesque period and this stimulated the construction of several villas and parks. It also attests to early conservation and protection efforts.

Haweswater

This valley is located in the eastern side of the Lake District. In addition, this valley witnessed the creation of a reservoir, in 1935. Much of the agro-pastoral landscape was lost in the flooding; however, what survives represents strong evidence of the pattern of evolution of the farming landscape from the medieval period, which is the best represented period in this valley. Due to its remote location, the valley remained relatively little visited and no villas or parks were created here. The creation of the reservoir triggered subsequent campaigns to stop other similar projects in the region.

Grasmere, Rydal and Ambleside

The valley is located in the central part of the Lake District and displays attributes of the agro-pastoral landscape in the field walls, enclosures, and farmhouses. Traces of woodland use survive in the coppiced woodlands, as well as former industries. The valley also bears witness to early visitor appreciation and the efforts to improve the landscape to meet Picturesque or Romantic standards. The valley also attests to the early conservation movement through successful battles against the creation of the railway.

History and development

The landscape owes its current aspect to the living agro-pastoral traditions that have shaped the territory over the last millennium. However, earlier traces of human occupation survive, dating back to the Late Upper Palaeolithic period (11,000 BC).

During the Neolithic (4,000–2,500 BC) domesticated crops and animals were introduced, although settlements remained sparse and temporary. It is only with the Bronze Age (2,500–1,000 BC) that permanent settlement and agriculture grew in importance, with woodland and stone clearance.

Roman occupation is attested to by remains of forts and civilian settlements (at Ravenglass, Hardknott, Ambleside, Troutbeck).

The post-Roman era is not well documented but evidence suggests that human occupation did continue.

In the 10th century, Scandinavian settlers arrived in the Lake District, leaving important traces of their presence in place-names and language and possibly in pastoralism.

The Normans took control over the region in 1092 and the land was subdivided amongst members of the aristocracy, and large tracts of land were also given to monasteries, and the wool trade and the mining industry developed from this period onwards. A system of open fields was established, with the valley bottoms encircled by ring garths to separate these from the common grazing land. The current settlement pattern began to develop in this period.

The establishment of tenant-rights over formerly forested areas at the end of the 16th century, and the opportunity to pass them down as inheritance, after carrying out military service on the Scottish border, set the foundations for the establishment of generations of yeoman farmers, many of whom subsequently acquired prominent positions within a strongly independent community.

At the end of the 18th century, a small-scale farming economy had developed, based on sheep grazing on the open fells and on cultivation in the fields in the valley bottoms. Open grazing fields progressively disappeared with the creation of walled intakes outside the ring garth, and this led to the enclosure of the fields within the ring garth with the creation of inbye fields.

Major changes to the landscape occurred in the 19th century, following the Parliamentary general enclosure Acts, which led to the enclosure of large areas of the upland common land.

The improved economic and social conditions of the yeoman farmers brought in new architectural models and an improvement to infrastructure, as well as the development of the wool trade and of more efficient industries.

From the 18th century onward, this dramatic mountainous landscape and the people who created it attracted the attention of travellers, and Picturesque and Romantic artists, poets and writers were inspired by the region's majesty. They depicted in paintings and words the qualities of this landscape and the emotions evoked by its enjoyment. Early guidebooks directed visitors to specific spots to enjoy the vistas of mountains and lakes.

The fame of the region stimulated the creation of villas with gardens and parks, aimed at enhancing the picturesque and romantic qualities of this landscape, especially in the most accessible areas.

The beauty of the landscape, the understanding of the role of the shepherd community in maintaining the qualities of the landscape and of its importance for spiritual nurturing, as well as the threats deriving from development initiatives, including woodland felling, railway construction, and water reservoir creation, induced wealthy and influential people to acquire land to secure it for protection and public enjoyment, ultimately leading to the development of the National Trust movement, and to support battles for establishing forms of landscape protection and conservation. Protection efforts went beyond the visual and aesthetic qualities of the landscape, extending to the agro-pastoralism, threatened by afforestation projects in the early 20th century: land was purchased with the specific aim of reserving it for traditional farming practices.

The conservation movement which began in the 19th century and continued in the early 20th century, led to the creation of the Lake District National Park in 1951, through which conservation efforts have continued until today and will do so in the future.

3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity

Comparative analysis

The nomination dossier has developed the comparative analysis around other cultural landscapes, which can be compared to the English Lake District, that exhibit a similar combination of qualities.

The identified qualities to be compared correspond to the three intertwined themes around which the proposed justification for inscription has been developed: a landscape of exceptional beauty that has been shaped by persistent agro-pastoral traditions, that has inspired artistic and literary movements, generating ideas of global influence about the notion of landscape that have left physical marks, and a landscape that catalysed the development of landscape protection at the national and international levels.

The identified geo-cultural region is Europe, although a number of properties outside this region have also been compared with the English Lake District, namely West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou (China, 2011,

criteria (ii), (iii) and (vi)); Banff within the World Heritage property Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Canada, 1984, 1990, criteria (vii) and (viii)), Yellowstone National Park (United States of America, 1978, criteria (vii), (viii), (ix) and (x)), Yosemite National Park (United States of America, 1984, criteria (vii) and (viii)) as well as the Hudson Valley in the United States of America and Georgian Bay in Canada, both associated with painting schools. In Europe, 15 World Heritage properties, a further 11 properties – out of which four are in the Alps –, and finally 8 properties located in the British Isles have been examined. The nomination dossier concludes that, although a number of properties exhibit similarities with the English Lake District in terms of being the source of artistic or literary inspiration, only some, i.e. national parks in North America, have also inspired ideas about conservation of pristine nature. Sites in Europe and in the British Isles exhibit similarities under one aspect or another, but none is able to convey similarly intertwined values and qualities.

ICOMOS considers that, though the comparative analysis has been constructed to underline the uniqueness of the nominated property, the arguments presented are solidly grounded and demonstrate that the nominated property stands out among its comparators.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List.

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- A landscape of glacial origins, which has been shaped by persistent and distinctive agro-pastoral traditions which give it special character and exceptional beauty;
- A landscape which has inspired artistic and literary movements and has generated new thinking and ideas about landscapes that have had global influence and have also left their physical mark on it;
- A landscape, which has been the catalyst for key developments in the national and international protection of landscapes.

ICOMOS considers that the nomination dossier presents a convincing case for all three threads of the proposed justification, although with some reservations on the aspect of World Heritage working methods, further detailed in the discussion of the criteria.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The nomination dossier holds that the distinctive topography and the associated cultural attributes and features supporting key processes expressing the value of the site are all included within the boundaries of the nominated property. These include the composite agro-

pastoral landscape, the historic sites, gardens and parks associated with the Picturesque and Romantic Movements, and the rich heritage of the conservation initiatives and campaigns to preserve its qualities and sense of place.

These attributes exhibit a remarkable intactness and have been maintained through a combination of tradition, practices and conscious conservation efforts. In general, the nominated property is well maintained although there are identified vulnerabilities for which counteracting measures have been set up: extreme weather events and climate change, economic pressures and disease, can seriously threaten the agro-pastoral system. Further vulnerabilities may derive from the reduction or removal of grant schemes. Traditional buildings may suffer from deterioration, especially if not used, whilst archaeological sites are prone to erosion. The tourism industry may cause development pressures on certain areas.

ICOMOS generally concurs with the view of the State Party but highlights that the maintenance of the English Lake District's visual qualities is highly dependent on the sustainability of some 200 shepherding farm families and their herds of "hefted" Herdwick sheep. The system has to face crucial challenges of shifts in global markets, changing agricultural subsidies and schemes, particularly given the exit from the European Union, introduced diseases, and climate change.

Authenticity

The nomination dossier identifies as key attributes of this evolving cultural landscape the natural landscape, which has been profoundly and persistently shaped by a traditional form of agro-pastoralism, local industries and settlement patterns, which gave rise to an exceptionally scenic landscape, which has been further enriched by distinguished villas, gardens and designed landscapes influenced by the Picturesque and Romantic Movements. The resulting harmonious beauty has been a stimulus for artistic creativity, early ideas about landscape, early conservation efforts, and the tourism industry: the property encompasses a number of attributes bearing witness to the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS considers that arguments presented to support authenticity are pertinent and supported by attributes that convey credibly the proposed Outstanding Universal Value in its strands.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (v) and (vi).

Criterion (ii): *exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design;*

The nomination dossier holds that the harmonious beauty of the English Lake District lies in the vital interaction between an agro-pastoral system and the spectacular ice-shaped natural landscape. The qualities of this landscape were recognised and celebrated by the Picturesque Movement (18th cent.), rooted in aesthetic rules related to both Italian and Northern European landscape painting styles. These ideas were materialised in the form of villas and designed features intended to further augment the beauty of the English Lake District. The Picturesque appreciation of landscape was transformed into a deeper understanding of its significance and linkage with local society and place by the Romantic Movement. This inspired the development of powerful ideas, i.e. a new relationship between humans and landscape rooted in emotional engagement, and the value of scenic and cultural landscapes, which transcends normal property rights.

ICOMOS noted that the justification of this criterion could have been expanded by considering how the ideas developed about landscape in the Lake District were reflected in North American artistic movements and thinking. In its Interim Report, ICOMOS suggested the State Party further elaborate on this topic.

The State Party responded on 27 February 2017, providing additional arguments explaining how the Romantic idea of the capacity of scenic landscape to inspire and restore the human spirit underpinned the impetus for recreational experience in rural landscapes such as the English Lake District and urban parks, both in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. The interchange of ideas which resulted from this includes the concepts of protected areas, the value of outdoor recreation and the promotion, especially by Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. in North America, and others, of more democratic access to recreational experience. The State Party has also provided an updated version of the justification for this criterion.

ICOMOS concurs with the justification proposed by the State Party and considers that this criterion is justified.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion (v): *be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the English Lake District is an unrivalled example of a landscape shaped by a northern European upland agro-pastoral system based on the rearing of cattle and native breeds of sheep, adapted for over 1,000 years to their mountain environment. This land use continues today despite social, economic and environmental pressures. From the late 18th century and throughout the 19th century, a new land use developed in parts of the Lake District, aiming to augment its aesthetic qualities through the addition of villas and designed landscapes. Conservation land management in the Lake District developed directly from the early initiatives of the 18th and 19th centuries that were based on the early appreciation of the Arcadian and Romantic character of this landscape.

ICOMOS concurs with the justification proposed by the State Party and considers that this criterion is justified.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

Criterion (vi): *be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that many ideas of universal significance are directly and tangibly associated with the English Lake District: the recognition of the aesthetic qualities of this harmonious pastoral landscape through the Picturesque Movement; a new relationship between humans and landscape revolving around an emotional response to it, developed initially from Romantic engagement; landscape possesses a regenerating value and everyone has a right to appreciate and enjoy it and this landscape needs to be protected and managed. Three conservation models of international significance for the establishment of the international conservation movement have developed in the Lake District and are conveyed by tangible and intangible attributes: the origin of the National Trust Movement; the origin of the concept of legally-protected cultural landscapes including national parks; and influence on the creation of the World Heritage cultural landscape category.

ICOMOS considers that the outstanding association with the Picturesque and the Romantic Movements is demonstrated.

On the other hand, ICOMOS found that the statement that the idea of legally protecting cultural landscapes originated in response to the qualities of the English Lake District may hold true for English-speaking

countries but not necessarily for other countries based on different languages, cultural and rights traditions (e.g., particularly those based on Roman rights). Additionally, the reference in the justification for inscription to the development of the cultural landscape category within the World Heritage realm is not fully appropriate.

In its response to the ICOMOS Interim Report, the State Party provided additional arguments to support the role played by the nomination of the English Lake District as a pioneer test case and a model for the development of the cultural landscape category within the World Heritage system, although it is acknowledged that the debate on cultural landscapes was fed by several contributions. The State Party also provided a revised wording for the justification of this criterion.

ICOMOS is grateful for the clarifications submitted by the State Party. However, ICOMOS considers that the working methods and the debates within the Committee and the advancements on the application of the World Heritage Convention, although important within this realm, cannot be considered ideas of outstanding universal significance. In particular, ideas related to cultural landscapes and the need for their protection were already well developed outside the World Heritage Convention, as many legal systems in place within the State Party at that time clearly show.

Therefore, ICOMOS considers that this criterion appears justified with regard to the association with literary and artistic works and with the development of the early landscape conservation and protection movement that gave rise to the National Trust movement. However, ICOMOS also notes that other protection models exist in different cultural contexts, based on the idea that the public interest prevails over private rights, e.g. those systems rooted in Roman rights.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified for the association with the Picturesque and Romantic Movements, the development of the landscape conservation movement and of the National Trust. On the other hand, ICOMOS does not consider that the integration of the notion of cultural landscapes within the World Heritage Convention and its procedures can be considered an idea of outstanding universal significance.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criteria (ii), (v) and (vi) and conditions of authenticity and integrity.

Description of the attributes

The major attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value of the English Lake District include the agropastoral system with all related tangible and intangible aspects, traditional local industries, the settlement patterns of farms, hamlets, villages and towns, early tourism-related facilities, villas, gardens and formal landscapes, sites and collections associated with the Picturesque and

Romantic Movements, and sites associated with the early conservation movement.

The nomination dossier and volume 2 of its Annexes provide an extensive account of the attributes supporting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and represent, therefore, key baseline documents that need to be referred to whenever it is necessary to assess the state of conservation of the English Lake District.

In this regard, ICOMOS clarifies that it does not consider contemporary quarrying and mining sites as attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value, especially when they are on a large scale and under intensive exploitation. On the contrary, these activities may have negative impacts on the qualities of the landscape not limited to visual aspects but extending to hydrogeological processes.

4 Factors affecting the property

The property is prone to several factors that are outlined below.

An ageing farming population, tenancy changes, the changing nature of subsidies and the withdrawal of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) funds from the European Union will have unknown subsidiary effects on how farming manages the cultural landscape, as subsidies have remained farmers' main income basis.

The Lake District accounts for about 17 million visitors a year. This huge number of visitors has an impact on the property. Although new management measures and strategies are being implemented, the effects of tourism pressure can already be noticed. Most importantly, the rising prices of housing and land may prevent locals from acquiring their own residences. This might induce depopulation in the area.

The values and beauty of the Lake District are a very strong attraction for new development. This can severely affect the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value, where about 40,000 local residents compete with millions of tourists.

Flood risk is a permanent factor in the Lake District. Storm Desmond, in December 2015, caused great damage and was a challenge to the defence systems that proved to be insufficiently effective and the whole area was severely affected. Climate change is likely to increase the frequency of these extreme weather events.

Other threats may derive also from energy and communications supplies that are being implemented in the territory. New sources of energy are needed for sustainability, with the development of wind turbines and hydro-electric installations. Careful measures have been taken in order to avoid or reduce their negative impacts. However, two large-scale projects may negatively affect the nominated property: the new Moorside Nuclear Power Station, which will replace the decommissioned Sellafield

power station, and the high voltage power line to link the power station with the national electricity grid (North West Coast Connections - NWCC).

ICOMOS requested additional information in this regard in October 2016 and January 2017.

The State Party provided details on a number of large-scale projects authorized or planned within the nominated property.

In relation to the NWCC, the State Party explained the status and timeframe for the application as well as the planning consent procedure and informed that the National Grid intended to bury the power line underground and to remove 26 high pylons in place since 1950. An Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is planned to be developed, the scope agreed with the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA).

Updated information was provided in February 2017 on both Moorside and NWCC. The location of the new power station was chosen following a carefully controlled procedure, and is planned to be adjacent to Sellafield. The location has been chosen, taking into consideration professional opinions from Historic England and the LDNPA. The planning is at an early stage of implementation and the applicant will carry out an HIA, which will inform the details of the proposal.

The NWCC proposal, including the burying of the cables, was the object of a public consultation, which ended in January 2017. The submitted HIA was considered deficient and a new one has been planned based on a revised scoping. The results of this HIA are expected by April 2017 and will inform the details of the Development Consent Order (DCO) for the project.

ICOMOS welcomes the new information on both Moorside and the NWCC. The updated results of the HIA for NWCC and how they will be integrated into the DCO should be submitted for consideration by the World Heritage Committee. The same should be done in due course for Moorside.

In the past, overgrazing and other farming management practices threatened the environmental and natural values of the property. Although these practices have been corrected, there seems to be a certain imbalance in the consideration of the natural values favoured over the cultural values of farming practices. In the future, measures should be adopted that consider also the cultural values and benefits of the farming activities.

ICOMOS requested some additional information about quarrying activity within the nominated property in its Interim Report. The State Party provided detailed information on active quarries, their size and expiration dates of their concessions: out of 15 active quarries, two are more than 60ha, three are between 10-30ha, and the others are less than 6ha. However, ICOMOS notes that for two of them no size is given.

Although the region has traditionally played a role in quarrying, being rich in stone-types useful to the construction industry, ICOMOS considers that a progressive reduction of this activity within the nominated property needs to be considered by the State Party and limited to the extraction of materials that may be needed to ensure the maintenance of the attribute-related features within the property.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are tourism and vulnerability of the agro-pastoral system versus global economic trends and the disappearance of subsidies, flooding, and infrastructure development. Some rebalancing between environmental and cultural value considerations seems necessary to support the farming community. Impacts from large-scale energy projects seem at this stage to be under control. However, ICOMOS considers that updated information on the results of the HIA and how they will inform planning or development consent for NWCC and Moorside should be submitted for consideration by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. Progressive reduction of quarrying activity should also be considered.

5 Protection, conservation and management

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The boundary of the proposed World Heritage nomination coincides with the boundary of the English Lake District National Park, which was established in 1951. About 40% of the park's boundary line follows Parish boundaries and the other boundary demarcations are roads, railroads, rivers, and coastlines.

The boundary of the Lake District National Park is drawn around the distinctive topography of the region's high fells, narrow valleys, lakes, and the agro-pastoral farming landscape, in full coherence with the rationale underlying the nomination of the English Lake District.

A buffer zone is not proposed for the property. The nomination dossier states that when the boundaries for the Park were established, they were of sufficient size to serve as a buffer zone. As a National Park, the Lake District is provided with additional statutory protection under the Environment Act of 1995. This requires adjoining local authorities to consider the impact on the National Park when making any land use decisions. Additionally, some of the landscapes adjacent to the Park or in the Park's view-shed have been designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This designation brings additional protective requirements, thus protecting the setting of the Lake District.

In its Interim Report, ICOMOS requested additional clarification with regard to the absence of a buffer zone. The State Party replied on 27 February 2017, providing

details about planning policies and mechanisms in place through local plans and the current legal framework that guarantee that local authorities in the vicinity of the property develop planning objectives and provisions consistent with the protection of the property and its setting.

ICOMOS considers that the explanations provided by the State Party as to why no buffer zone is proposed are satisfactory and in line with the requirements of paragraph 106 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property are adequate, and the reasons given by the State Party to explain why no buffer zone is provided are satisfactory.

Ownership

Considering the size of the property, there is a wide range of both public and private ownership. Almost 40% is owned by members of the 25 organisations forming the Lake District Partnership, 20% is owned by the National Trust, most of which is considered inalienable, and a significant proportion of the land that is held in private/other ownership is owned by estates, conservation bodies and trusts. Some 28% of property is Common Land, that is, its use is subject to the rights over it of commoners. Its primary purpose is to be used as communal grazing.

Protection

Several laws, acts and policies are in place to ensure the protection and the legal basis for proper management conditions. Below, only the key ones are mentioned; however, the nomination dossier and its annexes provide the baseline data also with regard to the legal, planning and policy frameworks for the protection and management of the property.

The National Trust Act (1907) allows the Trust to make its land inalienable and for entering into covenants to protect land owned by others. The Commons Act (2006) and the Commons Registration Act (1965) protect the rights of commoners and reconfirm the protection of agro-pastoral farming systems, protected since the 19th century (Commons Act 1876). The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979 - as amended) ensures the protection of designated cultural heritage. The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) made possible the designation of the Lake District National Park in 1951.

Also, several international designations intervene in the property, providing further protection levels and instruments (see nomination dossier for details).

There are several key legal instruments for planning.

The Environment Act (1995) gives a statutory obligation to local authorities to pay regard to the purposes of National Park designation when exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in the

National Park: in case of conflict of purposes, preference should be given to conservation.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) provides for the elaboration of local development schemes that need to set out local policies to preserve the quality of the built environment and its features.

The Planning Act (2008) makes the National Park Authorities statutory consultees for nationally-significant infrastructure projects as well as for national policy statements.

The Localism Act (2011) provides for communities to draw up neighbourhood plans, which may establish additional planning policies for a community area; when approved, they become part of the Local Plan.

Further to legal acts, there are national planning policy and guidance, recently consolidated into two documents, the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and the Planning Practice Guidance (2014).

The Planning Practice Guidance states that each Local Planning Authority, which includes the Lake District National Park Authority and neighbouring District and County Councils, are required to produce a Local Plan, which sets out local planning policies and identifies how land is used. Development should be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework. As such, each Local Plan that lies within a World Heritage Site, or may affect the setting of a World Heritage property, should apply the principles outlined in the National Planning Policy and the Planning Practice Guidance in order to be approved by the Planning Inspectorate.

The Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) has statutory responsibility for land-use planning, preparing planning policies, and determining planning applications for development proposals, including mineral workings, mining and quarrying. In addition to the Management Plan, the LDNPA prepares a National Park Local Plan which contains a set of documents including planning policies, guidance and land use. Policies address several issues and are consistent with the aim of transmitting the Lake District, its value and supporting attributes, to future generations.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the legal and planning protection in place is adequate. ICOMOS considers that the protective measures for the property are adequate.

Conservation

Inventorying and recording are ongoing activities, but much research has already been done on the key attributes of the property and their historic development, as well as on the Landscape Character Types.

Although conservation in general is quite satisfactory, ICOMOS considers that more attention should be paid to conservation of landscape, defining features such as land-use patterns, structures such as shelters, dry stone walls,

hedgerows; to vernacular architecture in general, and Victorian buildings in the urban areas, and more effective control of architectural details, not only in designated Conservation Areas but in the whole property.

Moreover, active conservation measures are ongoing after Storm Desmond hit the eastern coast of the country in 2015.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that more attention should be paid to the proper conservation of the landscape's defining features and to architectural details.

Management

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes

The key body of the management structure is the Lake District National Park Partnership (LDNPP), established in 2006 by the LDNPA. 25 bodies from public, private, community, and voluntary sectors, including bodies with statutory responsibilities, adhere to the Partnership, which operates under a Memorandum of Understanding agreed by all members. Its responsibilities include the development and implementation of the Management Plan. Four partnership subgroups, a World Heritage Coordinator, a coordination and a monitoring team complete the management structure. Since 2015, the LDNPP has taken over management responsibilities.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

The key instrument for the management of the property is the Lake District Partnership's plan. This has been informed by a strategic Heritage Impact Assessment. This plan builds upon the competencies of different managing bodies and instruments and takes into account the role of other planning instruments.

The 2010-2015 Management Plan was produced by the LDNPP and was adopted by the LDNPA. The second cycle of management planning covers the period 2015-2020 and integrates the World Heritage and the National Park Management Plans. The Plan for the National Park identifies its Special Qualities which should steer decision making: these qualities cover also many attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value. The 2015-2020 National Park Management Plan is a statutory document.

It is based on strategies that follow on from objectives related to the key attributes of the property. These are identified in a detailed manner in the nomination dossier annexes.

Despite the system in place to cope with disasters, the effects of recent storms made clear the need to strengthen the risk management strategies and responses.

Due to the sheer numbers of visitors, in its Interim Report, ICOMOS requested additional information on tourism management. The State Party responded in February 2017, explaining that the nominated property receives 13 million day visits and some 4 million staying overnight visits. Considering the size of the property, a study on carrying capacity was not seen as necessary; however, the seasonal pattern of visitation has been examined. Actions have been undertaken for managing visitors in the most frequented locations and to encourage transportation systems as an alternative to private vehicles. Key to this process are the review process of the Local Plan and the Access and Travel Main Issues Paper, which will form the basis for the Plan policy revision.

ICOMOS considers the response satisfactory; however, ICOMOS recommends that mechanisms are set up to ensure that economic benefits from tourism are increasingly shared also with shepherds and farmers, recognizing the important ecosystem and management services they provide in maintaining the landscape.

While several activities promoting visitation opportunities in the nominated property exist, ICOMOS notes that a proper interpretive planning for the Lake District that is based on its cultural values is missing. While this does not affect visitation numbers, without an interpretive plan, the National Park and its partners are missing an opportunity to educate visitors about the Lake District's World Heritage values and build support for their future conservation.

IUCN raised concern over tourism pressure and potential adverse impacts from tourism that may affect the balance of culture-nature in the Lake District, in particular erosion produced by heavily impacted walking trails in forested areas. IUCN reinforced the need for the State Party to implement long-term monitoring of tourism impacts (among other threats to the cultural landscape and specifically its natural components).

Involvement of the local communities

Local communities seem to have been involved for a long time in the management of the property, as demonstrated by the Lake District National Park Partnership. The State Party provided additional information in February 2017 explaining the initiatives undertaken to involve inhabitants and visitors in the nomination process over many years.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the management system for the property is overall adequate; however, special attention is needed to ensure that impacts of tourism are reduced, and economic benefits from tourism go more directly to the agro-pastoral sector. Strategies and funding schemes to support shepherds and farming remain crucial to ensuring that the agro-pastoral system is sustained and does not decline further under global economic trends and competing activities, primarily tourism. The management system should be expanded to develop strategies that prevent

depopulation, including affordable housing, neighbourhood shops and promotion of local products, strengthen the disaster risk strategies and incorporate into them local knowledge, and develop interpretive plans based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property so as to assist visitors' understanding.

6 Monitoring

The LDNPA has monitored the nominated property through its State of the Park Report, which collects several data every five years, amongst which many are relevant also for the conditions of a number of attributes. The 2008 Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) records the conditions of various landscape types in the nominated property. The Management Plan foresees for the review of this assessment. Other monitoring programmes exist that can provide information on the nominated property's attributes. The Management Plan identifies a series of indicators, both already measured and new ones, to monitor the conditions of the property. These have been conceived so as to allow comparisons with the results of the LCA.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the monitoring system appears adequate for its purpose.

7 Conclusions

ICOMOS welcomes the submission of the nomination of the English Lake District. This nomination has a long history as the property has already been presented several times, and it has been at the centre of important debates such as the establishment of the cultural landscapes category in the *Operational Guidelines*. Many years of nomination history have proved to be useful in many respects: this is a very solid nomination in all of its aspects, thanks to the collaboration of a multiplicity of experts in different fields; and in the sense of the involvement of all stakeholders, who are now entirely in favour of and committed to the nomination.

The Lake District forms a huge mountainous region with 13 different valleys within which a strong community of farmers has practiced most aspects of the traditional agro-pastoral system, including the hefting of heritage breeds of sheep in the common uplands. This activity has shaped the evocative natural environment through the centuries into an exceptionally beautiful landscape: both Picturesque and Romantic Movements were attracted by it and prominent artists and writers settled in the region, and landowners built gardens and villas to improve the aesthetic qualities of the landscape. The result is an extraordinarily beautiful and harmonious landscape that inspired some of the most important ideas in the conservation movement, such as the creation of National Parks and the National Trust or the Lake District Friends and has attracted tourists and nature lovers since the 19th century.

The community is strongly committed to its traditions and supported by the local, regional and national authorities.

However, despite consciousness of the challenges and all efforts put in place, the key issues are how they will manage such a complex property in the face of changes to and reduction of the currently available agricultural subsidies in the future, climate change and environmental issues, and tourism pressure. The size and complexity of the landscape subjects the region to many risk factors; however, the commitment of the managing agencies and, most importantly, the people who live there to conserving the landscape offer opportunities to develop new and innovative responses to the threats that many cultural landscapes around the world have to face.

The Lake District National Park Partnership has already begun its first steps, perhaps the most difficult ones, but has started on the path towards strong cooperation and understanding amongst the different interests and perspectives involved in caring for the property. Its work should be enhanced and fostered by the National Park Authority as well as by other government organisations. The English Lake District is an exceptional example of ancient but living traditional agro-pastoral practices with added values such as appreciation of landscape, early tourism, and the formation of the conservation movement, and deserves inscription on the World Heritage List, also for the long-lasting efforts to preserve its beauty and the processes that support it.

8 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that The English Lake District, United Kingdom, be inscribed on the World Heritage List, as a cultural landscape, on the basis of **criteria (ii), (v) and (vi)**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief synthesis

The English Lake District is a self-contained mountainous area in North West England of some 2,292 square kilometres. Its narrow, glaciated valleys radiating from the central massif with their steep hillsides and slender lakes exhibit an extraordinary beauty and harmony. This is the result of the Lake District's continuing distinctive agro-pastoral traditions based on local breeds of sheep including the Herdwick, on common fell-grazing and relatively independent farmers. These traditions have evolved under the influence of the physical constraints of its mountain setting. The stone-walled fields and rugged farm buildings in their spectacular natural backdrop, form an harmonious beauty that has attracted visitors from the 18th century onwards. Picturesque and Romantic interest stimulated globally-significant social and cultural forces to appreciate and protect scenic landscapes. Distinguished villas, gardens and formal landscapes were added to

augment its picturesque beauty. The Romantic engagement with the English Lake District generated new ideas about the relationship between humanity and its environment, including the recognition of harmonious landscape beauty and the validity of emotional response by people to their landscapes. A third key development was the idea that landscape has a value, and that everyone has a right to appreciate and enjoy it. These ideas underpin the global movement of protected areas and the development of recreational experience within them. The development in the English Lake District of the idea of the universal value of scenic landscape, both in itself and in its capacity to nurture and uplift imagination, creativity and spirit, along with threats to the area, led directly to the development of a conservation movement and the establishment of the National Trust movement, which spread to many countries, and contributed to the formation of the modern concept of legally-protected landscapes.

Criterion (ii): The harmonious beauty of the English Lake District is rooted in the vital interaction between an agro-pastoral land use system and the spectacular natural landscape of mountains, valleys and lakes of glacial origins. In the 18th century, the quality of the landscape was recognised and celebrated by the Picturesque Movement, based on ideas related to both Italian and Northern European styles of landscape painting. These ideas were applied to the English Lake District in the form of villas and designed features intended to further augment its beauty. The Picturesque values of landscape appreciation were subsequently transformed by Romantic engagement with the English Lake District into a deeper and more balanced appreciation of the significance of landscape, local society and place. This inspired the development of a number of powerful ideas and values including a new relationship between humans and landscape based on emotional engagement; the value of the landscape for inspiring and restoring the human spirit; and the universal value of scenic and cultural landscapes, which transcends traditional property rights. In the English Lake District these values led directly to practical conservation initiatives to protect its scenic and cultural qualities and to the development of recreational activities to experience the landscape, all of which continue today. These values and initiatives, including the concept of protected areas, have been widely adopted and have had global impact as an important stimulus for landscape conservation and enjoyment. Landscape architects in North America were similarly influenced, directly or indirectly, by British practice, including Frederick Law Olmsted, one of the most influential American landscape architects of the 19th century.

Criterion (v): Land use in the English Lake District derives from a long history of agro-pastoralism. This landscape is an unrivalled example of a northern European upland agro-pastoral system based on the rearing of cattle and native breeds of sheep, shaped and adapted for over 1,000 years to its spectacular mountain environment. This land use continues today in the face

of social, economic and environmental pressures. From the late 18th century, a new land use developed in parts of the Lake District, designed to augment its beauty through the addition of villas and designed landscapes. Conservation land management in the Lake District developed directly from the early conservation initiatives of the 18th and 19th centuries. The primary aims in the Lake District have traditionally been, and continue to be, to maintain the scenic and harmonious beauty of the cultural landscape; to support and maintain traditional agro-pastoral farming; and to provide access and opportunities for people to enjoy the special qualities of the area, and have developed in recent times to include enhancement and resilience of the natural environment. Together these surviving attributes of land use form a distinctive cultural landscape which is outstanding in its harmonious beauty, quality, integrity and on-going utility and its demonstration of human interaction with the environment. The Lake District and its current land use and management exemplify the practical application of the powerful ideas about the value of landscape which originated here and which directly stimulated a landscape conservation movement of global importance.

Criterion (vi): A number of ideas of universal significance are directly and tangibly associated with the English Lake District. These are the recognition of harmonious landscape beauty through the Picturesque Movement; a new relationship between people and landscape built around an emotional response to it, derived initially from Romantic engagement; the idea that landscape has a value and that everyone has a right to appreciate and enjoy it; and the need to protect and manage landscape, which led to the development of the National Trust movement, which spread across many countries with a similar rights system. All these ideas that have derived from the interaction between people and landscape are manifest in the English Lake District today and many of them have left their physical mark, contributing to the harmonious beauty of a natural landscape modified by: a persisting agro-pastoral system (and supported in many cases by conservation initiatives); villas and Picturesque and later landscape improvements; the extent of, and quality of land management within, the National Trust property; the absence of railways and other modern industrial developments as a result of the success of the conservation movement.

Integrity

The English Lake District World Heritage property is a single, discrete, mountainous area. All the radiating valleys of the English Lake District are contained within it. The property is of sufficient size to contain all the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value needed to demonstrate the processes that make this a unique and globally-significant property. The boundary of the property is the English Lake District National Park boundary as designated in 1951 and is established on the basis of both topographic features and local government boundaries. The attributes of Outstanding

Universal Value are in generally good condition. Risks affecting the site include the impact of long-term climate change, economic pressures on the system of traditional agro-pastoral farming, changing schemes for subsidies, and development pressures from tourism. These risks are managed through established systems of land management overseen by members of the English Lake District National Park Partnership and through a comprehensive system of development management administered by the National Park Authority.

Authenticity

As an evolving cultural landscape, the English Lake District conveys its Outstanding Universal Value not only through individual attributes but also in the pattern of their distribution amongst the 13 constituent valleys and their combination to produce an over-arching pattern and system of land use. The key attributes relate to a unique natural landscape which has been shaped by a distinctive and persistent system of agro-pastoral agriculture and local industries, with the later overlay of distinguished villas, gardens and formal landscapes influenced by the Picturesque Movement; the resulting harmonious beauty of the landscape; the stimulus of the Lake District for artistic creativity and globally influential ideas about landscape; the early origins and ongoing influence of the tourism industry and outdoor movement; and the physical legacy of the conservation movement that developed to protect the Lake District.

Protection and management requirements

As a National Park, designated under the 'National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949' and subsequent legislation, the English Lake District has the highest level of landscape protection afforded under United Kingdom law. Over 20 per cent of the site is owned and managed by the National Trust, which also has influence over a further two per cent of the site through legal covenants. The National Park Authority owns around four per cent of the site, and other members of the English Lake District National Park Partnership, including the Forestry Commission and United Utilities Ltd, own a further 16 per cent. A substantial number of individual cultural and natural sites within the English Lake District are designated and have legal protection. The Lake District National Park Partnership has adopted the bid for World Heritage nomination. This provides long-term assurance of management through a World Heritage Forum (formally a sub-group of the Partnership). The National Park Authority has created a post of World Heritage Coordinator and will manage and monitor implementation of the Management Plan on behalf of the Partnership. The Management Plan will be reviewed every five years. A communications plan has been developed in order to inform residents and visitors of the World Heritage bid and this will be developed and extended.

The Management Plan seeks to address the long-term challenges faced by the property including threats faced by climate change, development pressures, changing agricultural practices and diseases, and tourism.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party gives consideration to the following:

- a) Providing assurances that quarrying activities within the property will be progressively downsized and extraction volumes limited to what is needed for carrying out conservation of the assets supporting the attributes of the property,
- b) Formally committing to avoiding any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value and related attributes of the property from the NWCC energy transportation facility being currently planned; and informing the World Heritage Centre about the results of the Heritage Impact Assessment, and how these will be integrated into the planning consent and in the development consent order (DCO),
- c) Informing about the timeframe of the integration of World Heritage consideration into the local plans and policies,
- d) Developing proactive strategies, including alternative national farm-supporting policies, with the farming community, to address the issues that threaten the viability of the shepherding tradition that maintains many of the landscape's significant attributes; recognising and financially compensating farmers for their heritage services in caring for the cultural landscape, as well as values such as genetic diversity of herds and food security,
- e) Rebalancing programs and funding dedicated to improving natural resources with the need to conserve the valuable cultural landscape that the Lake District is by acting on its key attributes and factors,
- f) Strengthening risk preparedness strategies for floods and other disasters that incorporate local knowledge on how to cope with recurrent disastrous natural events,
- g) Developing convincing programs to prevent depopulation, including
 - a) develop affordable housing for new households and for local retirees,
 - b) ensure that communities have a mix of commercial outlets that serve the local community,
 - c) further develop and market local products that benefit residents and local farmers,

- h) Developing an interpretation strategy at the landscape level which communicates the different strands of the Outstanding Universal Value by using the documents put together for the nomination dossier,
- i) Ensuring that careful attention is paid to conservation of landscape-defining features such as land-use patterns, structures such as shelters, dry stone walls, hedgerows, and also to vernacular architecture and Victorian buildings, not only in designated Conservation Areas, but in the whole property,
- j) Submit by 1st December 2018 a report on the implementation of the above recommendations to the World Heritage Centre and to ICOMOS;