Lake District National Park

Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Approved

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Director
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FINAL
CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION
1.1 Background
1.2 Purpose of the Assessment
1.3 Approach and Methodology
1.4 Structure of the Report

2.0 EVOLUTION OF THE LANDSCAPE AND FORCES FOR CHANGE
2.1 Introduction
2.2 Physical Influences on Landscape Character
2.3 Human and Cultural Influences on Landscape Character
2.4 Forces and Opportunities for Change

3.0 THE LAKE DISTRICT CHARACTER ASSESSMENT – AN OVERVIEW
3.1 Introduction
3.2 National and Regional Landscape Context
3.3 County Landscape Context
3.4 The Lake District Landscape Typology
3.5 Defining Areas of Distinctive Character in the Lake District

4.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES
4.1 Introduction
4.2 Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Guidelines

5.0 AREAS OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER
5.1 Introduction
5.2 Areas of Distinctive Character Descriptions and Guidelines

6.0 MONITORING LANDSCAPE CHANGE
6.1 Introduction
6.2 The National Approach to Monitoring Landscape Change
6.3 Monitoring Landscape Change in the National Park

APPENDICES
A. The Project Brief
B. Acknowledgements
C. Methodology
D. Sources of Information
E. Field Survey Notes
F. Record of Stakeholder Consultation
G. Record of Public Consultation
H. Historic Landscape Character Type Summary Descriptions
I. Historic Landscape Character Area Descriptions
J. Key Habitat Summary Descriptions
K. Biodiversity Action Plan Targets within the National Park
L. Glossary
Contents

FIGURES

1.1 The Study Area
1.2 The Study Process
2.1 Geology
2.2 Topography & Drainage
2.3 Agricultural Land Classification
2.4 Nature Conservation Designations
2.5 Archaeology, Designed Landscapes & Built Heritage
2.6 Historic Landscape Character Types
2.7 Historic Landscape Character Areas
2.8 Parishes within the National Park
2.9 Land Use
2.10 Major Land Ownership
2.11 Access & Recreation
2.12 Tranquillity
3.1 Character of England Map – Joint Character Areas
3.2 Cumbria Landscape Classification
3.3 The Lake District Landscape Typology
3.3a The Lake District Landscape Typology Sub-Types - North
3.3b The Lake District Landscape Typology Sub-Types - South
3.4 Areas of Distinctive Character in the Lake District
3.5 Areas of Distinctive Character and Landscape Character Types
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 In 2007, a partnership of organisations (The Lake District National Park Authority, Friends of the Lake District, The National Trust and Natural England) commissioned Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines for the Lake District National Park.

1.1.2 In line with good practice, the Lake District Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines are distinct elements of a single document. The Character Assessment seeks to capture baseline information about the character of the Park’s landscapes in a value free way. The Guidelines involve making judgements about the inherent sensitivities of the different landscape character units, their capacity to accommodate change and future management needs.

1.2 Purpose of the Assessment

1.2.1 The Assessment 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 Assessment is intended to be a reference document for everyone with an interest in the future management of the Park – including residents, businesses, 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 Assessment 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 Assessment are:

Character Assessment

Aims

- 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; and

1 Details of the Project Brief and individuals involved in the preparation of the Study can be found in Appendices A and B.
To provide baseline data to facilitate future monitoring.

Objectives

- 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; and
- To assess the sensitivity to and capacity for change, for each defined landscape character unit.

Guidelines

Aims

- 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

- To provide planning, management and design guidelines, integrated with the Local Development Framework and the National Park Management Plan, for each landscape character type and area of distinctive character; and
- To suggest indicators for monitoring landscape change.

1.2.4 Specific applications of the assessment and guidelines are to:

Land Management

- Provide essential information and guidance to land owners and managers;
- 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;
- Provide guidance for anyone implementing projects/work on the ground; and
- Inform option choices for agri-environment schemes related to attributes of a locally distinctive nature.

Planning

- 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;
- Act as an information resource to our partners and customers from national agencies to students and visitors;
- 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;
- Provide a framework for Parish Plans, Village Design Statements, Conservation Area Appraisals, Settlement Master Plans and Planning Development Briefs
- 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; and
- 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 Approach and Methodology

1.3.1 The overall approach for undertaking the Landscape Character Assessment is based on the latest published national guidance, taking into account current best practice. Landscape Character Assessment addresses both the analytical process of character assessment (or ‘characterisation’), which involves identifying, mapping, classifying and describing landscape character, and the evaluative process of developing guidelines for informing planning and land management decisions.

1.3.2 The study is based on an integrated approach that takes into account more than just the visible components of landscape. It is about the relationship between people, place and nature. The approach 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.

2 Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland (Countryside Agency/Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002).
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, vegetation)
- visible spatial components (e.g. scale, pattern, colour, texture); and
- non-visible components (e.g. sense of tranquillity, wildness, cultural associations).

1.3.3 These components of the landscape that combine to form landscape character, 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). However, landscape character units may not necessarily coincide with administrative boundaries. Therefore the assessment also considers landscapes outside, but immediately adjacent, to the Park boundary. This approach helps place the Lake District’s landscapes in the context of Cumbria’s landscapes as a whole (see Section 3.0 for details).

**The Study Process**

1.3.5 The study process is illustrated on Figure 1.2. This illustrates the iterative nature of the overall process, and highlights the relationship between the distinct but linked character assessment and evaluation stages involved in preparation of the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines.

**Character Assessment**

1.3.6 This stage of the process involved capturing baseline information about the character of the Lake District’s landscapes in a value free way. Desk study research and field survey analysis were used to inform the classification of the Study Area at a scale of 1:25,000 into:

- **Landscape Character Types** – generic units of landscape with a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently throughout the type; and
- **Areas of Distinctive Character** – discrete geographical areas with a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently throughout the area.
1.3.7 This dual approach to defining Landscape Character Types and Areas of Distinctive Character was adopted in order to achieve the level of detail required by the Project Brief (see Appendix A). The Landscape Character Types provide a spatial framework within which generic forces for change, land management issues and guidelines for managing landscape change can be developed – such as ‘Low Fell’ for example. The Areas of Distinctive Character allow guidelines to be developed that address place-specific management issues and opportunities – such as ‘Kentmere Fells’ for example.

**Evaluation**

1.3.8 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 landscapes have different capacities to tolerate change.

1.3.9 Landscape character has evolved over time in response to traditional ways of building and utilising the land that respected natural constraints and used natural, locally available materials and techniques. In considering potential future changes it is important to understand and respect this historical context, to appreciate why features are like they are, to inform today’s decision making.

1.3.10 The evaluation process involves making judgements about the inherent sensitivities/vulnerabilities of a landscape, its capacity to accommodate different forces for change and its current condition. These judgements are used to develop guidelines that highlight needs and opportunities for managing landscape change to inform land use planning and land management decisions.

1.3.11 Indicators have also been developed to assist in monitoring changes in the landscape character of the National Park.

**Stakeholder and Public Consultation**

1.3.12 Major landowners and managers, statutory agencies and other key stakeholder organisations and the general public have been involved in the process of developing the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines. The feedback from consultation has helped to strengthen the evidence base by incorporating the views of both communities of interest and place. Engaging stakeholders in the project has also helped promote awareness of the value of
the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines as a tool for informing planning and land management decisions.

1.3.13 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 aimed 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).

1.3.14 Full details of the study methodology are provided in Appendix C.

1.4 Structure of the Report

1.4.1 The remainder of the report is structured as follows:

- **Section 2.0 (Evolution of the Landscape and Forces for Change)** provides an overview of the past physical and cultural influences that have shaped the Lake District’s landscapes, and examines the current forces for change affecting the National Park’s landscapes in the future;

- **Section 3.0 (The Lake District Character Assessment – An Overview)** 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;

- **Section 4.0 Landscape Character Types** sets out descriptions and guidelines for the generic Landscape Character Types identified within the National Park;

- **Section 5.0 (Areas of Distinctive Character)** presents the descriptions and guidelines for the geographically unique Areas of Distinctive Character defined within the National Park; and

- **Section 6.0 (Monitoring Landscape Change)** sets out indicators for monitoring landscape change in the National Park.
2.0 EVOLUTION OF THE LANDSCAPE AND FORCES FOR CHANGE

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The Lake District has been, is and always will be a dynamic evolving landscape and this is part of its richness and interest.

2.1.2 This section provides an overview of the past physical, cultural and socio-economic influences that have shaped the Lake District’s landscapes, and examines the forces for change affecting the National Park’s landscapes in the future.

2.1.3 This contextual overview is key to understanding and defining the variations in landscape character within the National Park set out in Sections 3.0, 4.0 and 5.0; it also provides a basis for developing guidelines for positive management of change within different types of landscape and locations.

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, with the formation of a central dome through volcanic intrusion 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.

Geology and Landform

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

Skiddaw Group

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\(^1\). 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.

**Borrowdale Volcanic Group**

2.2.4 Following the deposition of the Skiddaw Slates, several subterranean vents opened causing volcanic eruptions. The explosions widely scattered a mixture of volcanic material and shattered rocks, and formed the dark lavas to light green slaty rocks of the ‘Borrowdale Volcanics’. 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 Scafell Pike, and the crags, hollows and peaks on the minor fells\(^2\).

**Coniston Limestone**

2.2.5 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.

**Silurian Flags and Slates**

2.2.6 Between 435 and 395 million years ago, the Silurian Flags and Slates were created through large extents of erosion silt and mud that were rapidly deposited. Areas of comparatively low relief (the highest hills reached elevations of below 400m) and 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 breaks down fairly easily and produces a good depth of acidic soils that supports much of the semi-natural woodland found in the south of the Park, such as the wooded hills around the shores of Windermere.

\(^1\) Countryside Commission (1999) Countryside Character Volume 2 – North West
Granite

2.2.7 Between 400 and 350 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 both chemically and physically. Condensing vapours crystallised into the metal minerals, lead, zinc, copper and iron. Magma that reached shallow earth and cooled more slowly formed granites. Granite is found on the surface at Ennerdale, Eskdale, Shap and the Caldew Valley where it has been quarried to provide building materials.

Carboniferous Limestone

2.2.8 Carboniferous Limestone was formed 350 to 270 million years ago when a shallow sea rich in aquatic life 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 levels rose again, the tropical swamp forest drowned and became buried and the organic matter slowly decomposed to form peat beds. Over time, these peat beds underwent chemical changes to become coal. Carboniferous Limestone occurs around the northern and southern edges of the National Park, and can be seen in areas such as at Clints Crags near Blindcrake, and at Clints Quarry north of Egremont.

Sandstone

2.2.9 After the uplift 350 million years ago when the volcanic minerals such as lead, copper and haematite were formed, desert conditions prevailed with abrasive sandstorms. Carboniferous layers were stripped away, which together with the debris of older broken rocks, settled around the dome created in the uplift, and was consolidated to form sandstone. Due to its iron content and the absence of organic material, the red desert sand created a sand-based rock known as ‘new red sandstone’. Outcrops of this rock encircle the Lake District.

Glaciation

2.2.10 In addition to the underlying geology of the area, glaciation during the last glacial period (which ended around 10,000BP) has also had a profound influence on the National Park’s landscape. The profile of the area’s valleys was considerably modified by the scouring effects of valley glaciers producing the distinctive ‘U’-shaped cross section, numerous hanging valleys and, higher on the mountain slopes, corries. Erosion of rock outcrops by passing glaciers
formed the smooth, rounded ‘roche moutonée’ form of outcrop seen on many hillsides. Over-deepening of valley floors produced the rock basins that are now occupied by lakes. Deposition of glacial debris, in the form of boulder clay, drumlins and moraines, has given a distinctive character to many valley floors and has, in place, created natural dams behind which lakes and tarns have formed.

**Soils and Agricultural Capability**

2.2.11 **Figure 2.3** illustrates the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) within the Lake District (see Glossary (Appendix L) for description of ALC grades). 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 mostly used to graze sheep, with some cattle. 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 now rare in the Lake District.

**Hydrology and Drainage**

2.2.12 Approximately 10,000 years ago, the Lake District was freed from ice and sea levels rose to current levels. The rivers 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.

2.2.13 The networks of becks and rivers radiate out from the central fells of the Lake District and meander through the main valleys, predominantly towards the Solway Firth, Duddon Estuary or Morecombe Bay (see **Figure 2.2**). The Lake District river systems are all relatively short, reflecting the proximity of the upland sources to the coast. These short and powerful ‘flashy’ river systems have shaped and continue to shape the landscape. The rivers originate high on the fells where surface water often creates waterfalls over the steeper hillsides. The becks 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, Kent, Lickie, Duddon, Annas, Esk, Calder and Ehen.

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2.2.14 There are sixteen major lakes located in the ice-scoured valleys which radiate out from the central fells. The shapes of the lakes were determined by the degree of underlying geology resistance met by the glaciers. The longest lake is Windermere\(^4\). A wide and flat alluvial plain now divides Crummock Water and Buttermere, once a single large lake\(^5\). Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite Lake have been separated in the same way\(^6\).

2.2.15 The innumerable smaller water bodies in the Lake District are known as tarns. Tarns were formed where glaciers survived longest after the ice had retreated, persisting in deep hollows and gradually melting, leaving small water bodies. Many are located high up in the fells often separated by ridges or arêtes. Ecological succession has led to some tarns developing into basin mires or bogs in the higher areas of the fells, which provide a rich palaeo-environmental record of past landscape changes.

**Ecological Character**

2.2.16 The Lake District National Park falls within four Natural Areas\(^7\). The vast majority falls within the *Cumbria Fells and Dales Natural Area*.

2.2.17 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.

2.2.18 The *Cumbria Fells and Dales Natural Area* is also 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 to high mountain tarns and small pools.

2.2.19 Immediately to the south of the high Lakeland mountains lies the *South Lakes Low Fells Natural Area*, an area of gentler topography, including rounded hills and valleys, with some

\(^4\) J. Wyatt (2004) Cumbria The Lake District and its County


\(^7\) Natural Areas were defined by the former English Nature and 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.
rocky ridges and basins. This is one of the most wooded areas in England, with high concentrations of ancient semi-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.

2.2.20 In the south east of the National Park the Morecambe Bay Limestones Natural Area is 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.

2.2.21 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. The coastal strip contains a range of habitats of high biodiversity value, including salt marsh and dunes.

2.2.22 The distribution of nature conservation sites within the National Park is shown in Figure 2.4. 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>

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

2.2.24 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:

- Native broadleaved woodland and scrub;
- Heath;
- Bog and mire;
- Montane heath;
- Unimproved grassland;
2.2.25 A description of the above key habitat types are set out in Appendix J, and summarised below.

2.2.26 Whilst the dominant woodland type in the National Park is commercial conifer forestry, the Lake District supports proportionally more ancient semi-natural woodland (5,850ha) than most other areas of the UK. Sessile oak, birch, ash and alder woodlands occur on the upland areas of the high fells. These woodlands support important assemblages of ferns, mosses and liverworts, populations of red squirrels and birds such as redstart and wood warbler. The upland ash woodlands characteristic of the limestone areas, are often associated with species-rich shrub and field layers and frequently contain yew. The Lake District also supports important stands of juniper scrub on the crags and fell sides. This mixed composition of these native broadleaved woodlands make a significant contribution to the natural beauty of the National Park through the complexity of their pattern, texture and mosaic of green shades colours, and also seasonal colour changes - including the distinctive assemblages of mosses and lichens that are particularly evident during the winter months.

2.2.27 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 also occurs on the highest mountain tops, and characteristically contains an abundance of mosses and lichens as well as arctic alpine plant species. Both of these habitats have been exposed to ecological overgrazing in the recent past, and are experiencing a decline in quality and extent. Montane heath is particularly vulnerable to climate change. The southern fells support some of the most extensive areas of lowland raised mire in England.

2.2.28 The rocky habitats within the National Park include crags, screes and limestone scars and pavements. The most inaccessible crags support relict arctic alpine communities which were formerly far more extensive.

2.2.29 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 (a fish), as well as important invertebrate and bird populations.

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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 human influences that have created the current character of the landscape. It also gives a broad overview of the settlement character patterns and vernacular building styles, and examines past and current perceptions of the Lake District landscape.

Historical Development of the Landscape – An Overview

2.3.2 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. The cultural landscape has been shaped by thousands of years of farming and industry. One of the most distinctive features of the Lake District landscape are the stone-walled fields that developed from the medieval period. Compared with much of the UK, the Lake District’s distinctive pattern of ‘fieldscapes’ has not changed significantly since the late 18th century.

The Prehistoric Landscape

2.3.3 After the end of the last glaciation around 14,000 years ago, the entire area below 800m was eventually colonised by dense deciduous woodland. The earliest human groups came to the Lake District following the last glaciation (c.12,000 BC) in pursuit of large game animals.

2.3.4 The initial open tundra upland landscape of this period was very different from that of 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 development of widespread forest cover and then small clearings in the forest cover for settlement and possibly for creating grazing areas to attract 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

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9 This overview is based on work undertaken 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.
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 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.

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.

2.3.10 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 connecting Roman roads followed the landform, unlike similar roads elsewhere, and used the high ground, which was more open than the valleys. High Street Roman Road, for example, has a top height of 828m.

The Early Medieval Landscape

2.3.11 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 re-colonised 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. Recorded 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.

2.3.12 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 on 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

2.3.13 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.

2.3.14 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.

2.3.15 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.

2.3.16 Settlement in the early medieval period was generally dispersed, with individual farms and hamlets distributed throughout the valleys. 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)*

2.3.17 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 in the late 18th century 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.

2.3.18 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.

2.3.19 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 lords’ disposal. It is due to this reduction in the lords’ influence that the capacity to change the landscape fell into the hands of the statesmen farmers.

2.3.20 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 thus
further reducing the amount of common land. The pattern of small, irregular fields that
resulted from this process still survive in the central Lake District valleys. At the same time, on
remaining common land, a new pattern of land use developed, with each farm having
common rights attached to it. This pattern of use has had a strong influence on upland land
use, and this influence continues today. Approximately 30% of the remaining English
common land is in Cumbria.

2.3.21 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 out-gangs, can often be
recognised in the landscape today, carefully picking a route through the network of small
intakes and enclosures on the valley sides, and funnelling up onto the fells.

Parliamentary Enclosure (c1750-1870)

2.3.22 In the Lake District, the Parliamentary Enclosure of the mid 18th century had two effects. First,
it was a land reform that allowed the enclosure of the former waste lands, and by doing so
taking it out of the control of the lord of the manor and handing it over to individual farmers.

2.3.23 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, in some
areas such as the Lythe Valley, since the enclosed fields could be drained and cultivated at
will by their new owners.

2.3.24 Parliamentary Enclosure in the Lake District was a gradual and slow process, which lasted for
more than a century. Parliamentary Enclosure was also, generally, confined to the periphery
of the Lake District. The ‘Statesmen’ farmers of the central Lake District continued as before
and a lack of major land improvement allowed the pattern of small irregular field to survive.
Thus, 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 ruler-straight dry stone walls which were erected around any privately owned field or fell compartment. As a result many large areas of upland fell were divided up with ruler straight precision which did not reflect the underlying landform.

The 18th and 19th Century Industrial Landscape

2.3.25 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, however, 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.

2.3.26 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 lime kilns themselves remain a common sight in many areas. Granite was quarried for use as a hard wearing building material and later for use as road stone. Craggy rock faces and waste heaps are reminders in today’s landscape.

2.3.27 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.

2.3.28 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.

2.3.29 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.
2.3.30 Farming continued to play an important role during the early age of industrialisation. There was continuing agricultural improvement of enclosed fields both in the valley bottoms and on fellsides. Use of the fells for sheep and cattle continued with some evidence of increased stocking. Local materials were used in building, resulting in the distinctive vernacular styles of the different geological areas. There is also evidence of active management of the fells, such as the cutting of bracken for bedding. 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.

2.3.31 This 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 or abroad. Others found employment in local industries of smelting and mineral extraction, and farming became a part-time source of income for many.

The Picturesque and Romantic Tourist Landscape

2.3.32 In the mid 18th century the discovery of the Lake District ‘picturesque’ landscapes by British travellers interested in the aesthetic appreciation of landscape initiated early tourism. The attraction of the Lake District grew with the publication of impressions and guides and once the ‘grand tour’ of Europe was impeded by the Napoleonic Wars. Popularity increased as the Romantic poets and writers (among others William Wordsworth, Robert Southey, Thomas Gray, William Gilpin and the popular written guide by Thomas West in 1778) revealed more about the Lake District and further increased visitors. This brought about a new way of viewing the landscape.

2.3.33 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.
2.3.34 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 land 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 first villa ‘Belle Isle’ built by Thomas English in 1774 was, according to Wordsworth writing seventy years later, ‘the first house that was built in the Lake District for the sake of the beauty of the country’. Villas continued to be built well into the 20th Century, when arts and crafts movement architecture flourished in this genre, contributing to the variety and notable quality of architectural styles found in the lake district.

*The 20th Century and the Conservation Movement*

2.3.35 Strong lobbies for the protection of the Lake District’s landscapes emerged in the late 19th century with ‘The Lake District Defence Society’ lead by Canon H D Rawnsley, also a founder of The National Trust in 1895. During the early 20th century this movement developed as part of a wider conservation movement in the UK. Through the efforts of eminent conservationists such as Spence, Symonds, Abercrombie and Trevelyan, the Friends of the Lake District was established in 1934. The Friends strongly supported landscape conservation and public access, and their campaign for a National Park influenced the drafting of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, and the designation of the Lake District National Park in 1951.

2.3.36 The conservation movement promoted campaigns to raise public awareness of the effects of intrusive development and land use change on the Lake District’s landscapes. These ranged from commercial forestry, increased traffic and new roads, and over-abstraction of water and new reservoirs, to electricity transmission lines and other utility improvements.

2.3.37 The era of agricultural industrialisation in the 20th century, especially the post-1950s period, had a major impact on the landscape, although the effects have not been as significant as in other parts of the country. Developments in agricultural practice and methods in this period gave rise to changes in the landscape such as:

- introduction of new larger purpose built buildings to store machinery;
- disuse/redundancy or conversion of traditional farm buildings;
- increased sheep stocking evolving from CAP headage payments;
- decline in mixed stocking in favour of sheep dominance;
- neglect of field boundaries;
- mechanisation of land management;
- loss of pockets of arable in valley bottoms;
- loss of haymeadows as silage became universal; and
- the impact of these losses on vegetation and water quality.
2.3.38 As has been the case since the time of Wordsworth and Ruskin, the special qualities of the Lake District’s landscapes continue to inspire and nurture a strong conservation ethic for many people. This philosophy has continued to underpin management and planning polices for the National Park from 1951 to the present day.

The Historic Landscape Today

2.3.39 Today’s landscape includes surviving 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/Extent</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>Grade II</td>
<td>1,593 (inc. 43 churches)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Areas</td>
<td>21 (3.16 sqkm – 0.13% of Park)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Records in the Lake District Historic Environment Record (LDHER)</td>
<td>6412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3.40 The Lake District has always been and is still 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 landscape has largely retained much of the character of the 18th and 19th century landscapes that inspired the Romantic poets, painters and other thinkers.

2.3.41 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 landscapes (i.e. relict landscapes), which helps to unravel how a landscape has formed.

10 Lake District Historic Environment Record accessed April 2005
2.3.42 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.

2.3.43 The Historic Landscape Character Types are shown on Figure 2.6, and their character is described in Appendix H under the following broad categories:

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

2.3.44 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 I.

National Park Parishes

2.3.45 Ecclesiastical parishes within the Lake District National Park are shown on Figure 2.8. 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.

The Importance of Common Land in the Lake District

2.3.46 In general terms, ‘common land’ is land owned by one person over which another person is entitled to exercise rights of common (such as grazing animals or cutting bracken for livestock bedding), and these rights are generally exercisable in common with others. ‘Commoners’ are holders of registered rights of common that could be for sheep, cattle, pigs, turbary, pannage, estovers, etc.

2.3.47 Over 112,000ha of the Cumbrian fells are common land. Cumbria has 630 registered commons, ranging in size from less than half a hectare to over 3000ha. In addition to this,
there are over 200 registered town and village greens. Many of the smaller commons have no registered rights of common and thus no commoners. The larger commons have 20 or more registered entries. The majority of common land comprises uplands and high grazing, although there are some saltmarsh commons on the coast. 40% of Cumbria’s common land is SSSI and 6.5% is SAC.

2.3.48 Common land in Cumbria is mainly privately owned, although the National Trust owns sixteen commons and the National Park Authority owns two. The Federation of Cumbrian Commoners estimate that a thousand commoners actively use their grazing rights as a vital element in the economy of hill farming.

2.3.49 The concept of shared use of land has protected common land from changes that have impacted on land in individual ownership elsewhere. The significance of common land for the Lake District can be summarised as follows:

- culture and heritage - links to past history and traditions, communal grazing;
- aesthetics and sense of place - defines the visual appearance of the upland fells;
- health and quality of life - all common land is open for access;
- social cohesion and community activity - communal grazing and traditional forms of management; and
- environmental assets - reservoirs for rich biodiversity, landscape beauty, links with wider wildlife zones and corridors.

*Past and Current Perceptions of the Landscape*

*Descriptive and Literary Associations*

2.3.50 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 landscape conservation in the Lake District that, during the 20th and 21st centuries, has continued to be of great influence both nationally and internationally.
2.3.51 World-famous children’s book author Beatrix Potter (1866-1943) was not only inspired by the Lake District scenery to sketch the distinct landscape and vernacular architectural features for her stories, she was also a strong force in the movement to protect the lake district landscape and its traditions when it was most threatened. She acquired 15 farms before she died together with a 1620 hectare estate, ensuring their survival and then entrusting them to the National Trust.

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

Artistic Associations

2.3.53 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.

2.3.54 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 early 18th century onwards engravings, sketches, oils and watercolours of the Lake District landscape by national and local artists proliferated, with notable contributions to the genre by Mathias Reed, Sawrey Gilpin, John Ruskin, William Green, JC Ibbetson and William Westall and many others. This tradition has continued, with more recent artists such as Kurt Schwitters, Delmar Banner, Sheila Fell, Percy Kelly, and Andy Goldsworthy influenced and inspired by Lake District landscapes. The readily available prints of Lake District watercolours by Alfred Heaton Cooper have done much to introduce landscape images to a wider public.
Based on the most recent data available\textsuperscript{12}, some of the key characteristics and trends in the socio-economic profile of the National Park today are:

- 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;
- The population of the Park is significantly better qualified than that in the rest of Cumbria, with a high proportion of residents with degree level qualifications. 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;
- The economic base has a very narrow focus with tourism forming 50% or more of all economic activity in the Park;
- Average household incomes within the Park are £31,425 p.a, which is higher than incomes in the rest of Cumbria (£27,650 p.a);
- Overall, the Park is less deprived than the rest of Cumbria according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), although the IMD does not pick up the dispersed disadvantage which is more typical within rural areas;
- The estimated average house price in the National Park is 26% above the average for the rest of Cumbria. The higher house prices are concentrated in the more accessible areas within the centre and eastern areas of the Park.
- The enduring and increasing popularity of the area as a location for retirees is reflected in the 2001 census data, which shows that nearly 30% of the Park’s population is over 60 years of age;
- The continued fall in numbers of young people living or having access to living arrangements in the National Park, and the corresponding decline in young people working in local land based industries; and
- As measured by the IMD, parts of the National Park have relatively poor access to services because of their remote nature. This is reflected in private vehicle ownership where many households within the Park, especially those outside of the 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{12} Lake District National Park State of the Park 2005/06, The State of the Park Partnership; and A Social and Economic Profile of the Lake District National Park 2004, LUC
Based on the latest available data\textsuperscript{13}, the contribution of tourism to the National Park's economy is summarised below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tourism Volume and Value</th>
<th>LDNPA</th>
<th>Cumbria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tourism revenue (£m)</td>
<td>604.58</td>
<td>1073.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourist days (m)</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourist numbers (m)</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number jobs supported by tourism</td>
<td>19,542</td>
<td>36,674</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The revenue created by tourism activity in the National Park in 2006 accounts for 56.3% of tourism revenue in Cumbria as a whole. Tourism activity is subject to seasonal variations; the National Park receives the greatest proportion of its visitors, and hence tourism revenue, during the six months from April to September. More than half the total tourist days and numbers for Cumbria are generated by the National Park. Accommodation and food and drink are the primary sectors supporting direct tourism employment.

The agricultural sector continues to make a small but important direct input to the Lake District's economy. The total farm gate income generated by agricultural holdings in the National Park 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; and
- 27% (£16.1m) from area-based CAP payments.

In the years since the major reforms of the CAP in 2000, farmers have found the receipts from rural development subsidies 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.

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 lower lying land.

\textsuperscript{13} Cumbria Tourism STEAM Model: Tourism Volume and Value 2006
2.3.61 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 landscape and biodiversity, which can offer indirect benefits to the farming community. The schemes can assist and encourage agriculture to face the competitive challenges of the growing and diversifying rural markets.

**The Value of the Environmental Sector**

2.3.62 Investment in the natural and historic environment by the public, private and voluntary sectors makes a significant contribution to the Lake District’s economy through activities such as:

- recreation and tourism based on the natural environment (e.g. access to the countryside projects);
- the diversification of the rural economy and land based businesses associated with natural environment activities (e.g. sustainable forestry/agri-environmental land management projects);
- direct employment and skills development relating to environmental enhancement and conservation activities (e.g. woodland management/social enterprises based on delivering environmental improvements).

2.3.63 For example, research undertaken for the National Trust\(^{14}\), which owns about a quarter of the Lake District’s land, calculated that between 2,700 and 4,600 full-time equivalent jobs in Cumbria were supported by the work of the Trust in 1999/2000. The Trust spent £3.5 million on direct staffing costs and a further £3.4 million on goods and services, which are estimated to have supported a further 30 jobs in Cumbria.

2.3.64 The willingness of visitors to pay for access to the National Park is demonstrated by the Visitor Payback Scheme, operated by the Lake District Tourism and Conservation Partnership. This scheme enables visitors to make a voluntary contribution towards environmental maintenance and improvement such as work on footpaths. Tourism businesses also contribute to specific projects in their locality. In 2000-01, the Partnership contributed £70,000 to National Park Authority and National Trust conservation projects.

2.3.65 A study commissioned by English Heritage\(^{15}\) examined the social and economic impacts and benefits of traditional farm building repair and re-use in the Lake District ESA. The research found that the use of £6.2 million in grant funding from Defra for the renovation of historic farm buildings over the period 1998-2004, had a total impact on the local economy of

\(^{14}\) Valuing our Environment: A Snapshot of the National Trust’s Contribution to the Cumbrian Economy during 2000, The National Trust, 2001

\(^{15}\) Study of the Social and Economic Impacts and Benefits of Traditional Farm Building Repair and Re-use in the Lake District ESA, ADAS for English Heritage, 2005
between £8.5 million and £13.1 million. This had created between 25 and 30 full-time equivalent jobs in the local economy and may have played a role in preserving traditional skills.

2.3.66 The role of forestry as an economic driver is significant in the Lake District over and above commercial logging and forestry. Research for the Forestry Commission\textsuperscript{16} suggests that forest related expenditure associated with tourism day visits in the Lake District equates to 12% of total tourism expenditure in the Park. Whilst the fall in timber prices has had an impact on the felling industry, forestry associated tourism activities generates income of £1.2 million p.a. 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\textsuperscript{17}.

2.4 Forces and Opportunities for Change

2.4.1 The following section examines the forces and opportunities for change related to land use and management practices in the Lake District National Park.

\textit{Agricultural Land Use}

2.4.2 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).

2.4.3 Land use in the National Park is illustrated 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\textsuperscript{18}.

2.4.4 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 lowland fringes. There has been very little in the way of recent arable farming in the area due to the nature of landscape and environmental conditions, though some crops such as oats were grown in favoured spots in the past such as in the 1930s.

\textsuperscript{16} Forestry Commission, (2003) Forests Role in Tourism
\textsuperscript{17} The Forestry Commission (2005), The North West Forest District Strategic Plan 2005 - 2009
\textsuperscript{18} Lake District National Park Authority, (2004) Lake District National Park Management Plan
2.4.5 Due to the intensification of agriculture since the Second World War, and in particular, since the 1970s, 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 1990s and Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) in 2001, saw a large decline in the amount of livestock and many livestock farms in the area were lost. Other factors such as other better paid rural jobs, the rapid house price increase, increased regulations and tighter commodity markets (especially 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 or holiday letting.

2.4.6 The Lake District has seen a steady decline in dairy cattle numbers. The number of dairy cattle in livestock units has fallen by 70% over the last decade. The pressures in the marketplace, including a decline in farm gate prices and increased imports of milk, have contributed to this decline.

2.4.7 Beef numbers saw a small increase in 1995, due to headage payments, but this declined sharply post mid-1990s to 2003 by 7%. The BSE scare, FMD and pressures within the marketplace has forced many small and medium farm businesses to sell up. 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 since 2000, down by approximately 40%. 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. The number of general cropping farms, horticulture and mixed farms still remains at an insignificant level within the Lake District.

2.4.8 There has been an almost four-fold increase in holdings under 5ha in size since 2000. This trend in fragmentation of larger farm holdings indicates that farming is no longer the main contributor to many Lake District communities, with an increasing number of farmers now having an off farm source of income (e.g. part-time employment elsewhere). A more competitive market place and a decline in gate prices will have contributed to these shifts in farm size.

2.4.9 The main land use in the National Park is permanent pasture with some rough pasture. Due to the upland terrain within much of the Lake District, the majority of the land used for cereals and temporary pasture is found in the lower areas. This trend has not altered significantly from 1990, as 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 re-seeded 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\(^{21}\). Silage production has resulted in changes to valley bottoms with the loss of hay meadows and creation of bright green patches in the landscape.

**Major Land Ownership**

2.4.10 **Figure 2.10** shows the broad pattern of major land ownership in the Lake District as of 2007. An indicative breakdown of the land ownership pattern is outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landowner</th>
<th>Hectares</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Ownership</td>
<td>133,700</td>
<td>58.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Trust</td>
<td>56,600</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Utilities</td>
<td>15,500</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Enterprise</td>
<td>12,700</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake District National Park Authority</td>
<td>8,600</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Defense</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>227,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4.11 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 a quarter 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 covers around 51,000 ha and includes 90 separate farms, 198 houses and some 22,500 ha of common land. Such a landholding makes the Trust the main 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.

**Conservation Management in the National Park**

**National Park Management Plans**

2.4.12 The *Lake District National Park Management Plan (2004)*\(^{22}\) sets out the guiding principles, vision, long-term aims and policies for managing the National Park, based on the Park’s

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\(^{21}\) Defra Agricultural Census Data  
\(^{22}\) The Environment Act 1995 requires National Park Authorities to prepare and publish National Park Management Plans and to review them every five years.
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.

2.4.13 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:

- Bassenthwaite Lake Management Plan (1999);
- Coniston Water Management Plan (1992);
- Derwentwater Management Plan (1996);
- Ennerdale Management Plan (2001);
- Helvellyn Management Plan (1997);
- Skiddaw Massif Management Plan (1997); and

**National Trust Management Plans**

2.4.14 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>National Trust Area</th>
<th>National Trust Countryside Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Borrowdale</td>
<td>Borrowdale, Newlands &amp; Watendlath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Watendlath Armboth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buttermere/Ennerdale/Dunthwaite</td>
<td>Buttermere &amp; Ennerdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dunthwaite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ennerdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>West Cumbria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coniston &amp; Little Langdale</td>
<td>Coniston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Little Langdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tarn Hows &amp; Monk Coniston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yewdale &amp; Tilberthwaite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grasmere &amp; Great Langdale</td>
<td>Grasmere &amp; Great Langdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Great Langdale &amp; High Close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawkshead</td>
<td>Hawkshead &amp; Claife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ullswater</td>
<td>Overwater Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ullswater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Valleys</td>
<td>Duddon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eskdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nether Wasdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wasdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windermere</td>
<td>Ambleside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fell Foot Country Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.4.15 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).

2.4.16 Currently, 41 of the National Trust’s 91 Lake District tenant 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–Environmental Land Management Schemes**

2.4.17 At the end of 2007, 161,816ha or 70.6% of land within the National Park was managed in line with conservation objectives under the following agri-environmental land management schemes:

- Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) – the ESA designated area covers the majority of the National Park, 140,643ha (61.4%) of which is under an ESA agreement (which mainly cover the repair and maintenance of barns, stonewalls and hedgerows and the establishment of grass margins);23
- Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS); 2,067ha of land is covered by CSS agreements; and
- Environmental Stewardship (ES) – which includes the Higher Level Scheme (HLS), Entry Level Scheme (ELS) and the Organic Entry Level Scheme (OELS) covers 19,106ha.

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23 University of Reading (2007), The England Rural Development Programme – An Overview
Since the reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy and the implementation of the Single Payment and new agri-environment schemes, the CSS and ESA schemes are now closed to new applicants and have been replaced by Environmental Stewardship schemes. However, many farms remain within the ESA scheme and have a number of years to run before they transfer to the ELS or HLS.

**Conservation-led Land Management Initiatives**

An innovative approach to low-input land management is being piloted by the *Wild Ennerdale Project* by a partnership of the National Trust, the Forestry Commission and United Utilities, the major landowners in the valley. Reductions in the economic viability 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. At present over 40% of the land covered by the *Wild Ennerdale Project* 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. The *Wild Ennerdale Stewardship Plan* proposes the removal 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 will facilitate the recovery of the areas of heath, as well as diversifying habitats within the wooded areas.

Other examples of major conservation-led initiatives within the National Park include:

- **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;

- **The Lake District Osprey Project** - is helping the forests to contribute to improved rural development and supporting the local economy;

- **Save our Squirrels** - this red squirrel conservation project is the largest in the UK, and covers Northumberland and Lancashire as well as Cumbria – the main stronghold for the red squirrel in England. One of the central aims of this project is the establishment of a network of red squirrel reserves throughout the area. Reserves within the National Park are Broughton Moor, Thirlmere and Whinlatter forests;

- **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

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project aims to champion these 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 includes a number of projects for both species (initially matterjack toads and bats) and habitats (upland woodland and hay meadows), with targets for population enhancements and habitat restoration and expansion;

- **Monk Coniston and Tarn Hows restoration project** – in June 2006, a three-year project was started by the National Trust to restore the Monk Coniston Estate. The main aim of this project is to provide new access routes linking Monk Coniston with Tarn Hows (allowing visitors to enjoy the tree collection and walled garden) and the Steam Yacht Gondola. In addition, re-surfacing of the circular path and the provision of new toilets and education shelter at Tarn Hows; and restoration of the walled garden at Monk Coniston Hall are key elements of the project; and

- **Ring Cairns to Reservoirs: Investigating the archaeology of the Duddon Valley** - this project is being undertaken by the Lake District National Park Authority and the Duddon Valley Local History Group. It involves an archaeological survey of the Duddon Valley and the excavation of a Bronze Age ring cairn and associated features.

**The Lake District World Heritage Site Bid**

2.4.21 In 1986, the Lake District National Park was nominated for inclusion on the World Heritage List as both a natural and cultural property. The nomination was deferred, but was instrumental in prompting UNESCO to review the need for a Cultural Landscape category. The Lake District National Park remained on the UK’s Tentative List of World Heritage Sites and in 2006, following 4 years work on identifying and defining the Lake District’s Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural landscape, a decision was taken by the Lake District World Heritage Site Steering Group to proceed with developing a nomination bid by 2009/10. The process involves preparing a management plan that could, among other things, help encourage more sustainable management of the landscape.

**Biodiversity Planning for the National Park**

2.4.22 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. Land improvements through fertiliser application, changes from hay to silage and bracken control using chemicals (and more intensive stocking) have also contributed to this trend. The past 15 years has, however, seen significant changes in national agricultural and forestry policies that have promoted more
sympathetic management of habitats and species and in some instances have started to redress past losses\(^{25}\).

2.4.23 UK Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) provide the framework for setting conservation objectives for key species and habitats and identifying priorities for action. Both habitat and species action plans have been produced for use at the national and local level.

2.4.24 The Cumbria BAP\(^{26}\) covers the Lake District National Park, which contains a large proportion of some BAP habitats and important populations of BAP species.

2.4.25 The targets for management, achievement of favourable condition and habitat creation related to habitats found in the National Park provided by the Cumbria Habitat Action Plan are included as Appendix L. Species Action Plans encompass the whole of Cumbria, however the species listed in Appendix K 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.

2.4.26 The National Park supports nationally important populations of red squirrel, natterjack toad, vendace, high brown fritillary, netted carpet moth, white-faced darter, and slender green feather moss. 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 species of European importance.

2.4.27 The condition of the National Park’s Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) is a key issue for the future. There are 132 SSSIs in the National Park. Of these, 84 are notified for their biological interest, 37 geological and 11 a combination of both. As many as 45 of these sites have international recognition as Natura 2000 sites which include 18 SACs and two SPAs. There are also three Ramsar Sites – Wetlands of International Importance. Action is needed to maintain or improve the wildlife value of these sites in some cases. The national statutory target is to get 95% of SSSIs in favourable condition or unfavourable recovering by 2010. There have been significant improvements over the last two years as Natural England’s Wildlife Enhancement Schemes have been established on large upland sites. The largest areas still in an unfavourable condition are large freshwater sites where the issues are complex and a shift to improving condition will take longer to achieve. As at 12\(^{th}\) August 2008, the condition of the National Park’s SSSIs was assessed as:

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Evolution of the Landscape and Forces for Change

2.4.28 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 tourist each year. However, in recent years, upland agriculture has been adversely affected by global price competition, rising input costs and reductions in livestock support payments. This has had a significant impact on farms in the Lake District with many full-time farmers leaving the industry.

2.4.29 Agri-environment schemes have become increasingly important to the agricultural industry in the Lake District. They have enabled farms to continue to receive an income partly compensating for the lower stocking levels and low prices. Many farms have also diversified into Bed and Breakfast accommodation and recreation attractions in order to secure some of the income that tourists bring to the area.

2.4.30 The current trend towards amalgamation of some farms to produce more economically viable larger businesses, and a reduction in medium to small family farms, is expected to continue in the Lake District. A difficult market place, together with CAP reforms, gradually removing support payments from an already sensitive industry, have both contributed to this trend. The increase in average working farm size will have a significant impact on the character of the Lake District landscape.

2.4.31 Greater numbers of 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 or holiday homes. The domestication of buildings can have a significant impact on the character of the landscape, especially in remoter locations. The external pressure on the local housing market also 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 Authority and the National Trust are also concerned that the reduction in the number of smaller family farms will reduce the opportunity for younger people to enter the agricultural industry and live locally.

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27 The National Trust (2005), English Uplands Face Bleak Future
2.4.32 The CAP reforms are intended to bring significant environmental benefits to the upland fell areas through ELS and HLS support. This will contribute to a reduction of stocking numbers, which may produce ecological benefits and enhance the landscape by encouraging more diverse upland heath habitats to regenerate.

2.4.33 Woodland and forestry within the Lake District are vitally important to the area for landscape, biodiversity, forest products and the increasing business they attract from tourism and recreation. The North West England Forest District Strategic Plan 2005-2009\(^2\) aims to maximise public benefits from forests through social, environmental and economic management objectives. Forest Design Plans have also been developed for a number of areas within the National Park. These Plans advocate a multi-purpose approach to forest design that encapsulates public access, interpretation and education objectives as an integral element of forestry management. In addition, the Cumbria Woodland Vision\(^2\) provides a widely agreed vision for the future management of Cumbria’s existing woodlands and sets out a strategy for increasing woodland cover in the County and seeks to:

- Develop and manage woodland in a sustainable way for the benefit of communities, the economy, nature conservation and landscape;
- Conserve our existing woodland; and
- Significantly increase woodland cover, small copses and individual trees.

2.4.34 The Cumbria Woodland Vision is reflected in the landscape guidelines set out within Section 4.0 where appropriate.

**Access, Recreation and Tourism**

2.4.35 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. These rights of way are a valuable recreational resource throughout the whole of the National Park.

2.4.36 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

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\(^2\) The Forestry Commission (2005), The North West Forest District Strategic Plan 2005-2009

\(^2\) Cumbria Woodland Vision, prepared by The Cumbria Woodland Forum
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 National Park Authority is aiming to overcome these issues by:

- Encouraging activities that harmonise with the Lake District’s special qualities, whilst not affecting other recreational users or local people; and
- Where recreational activities and conservation conflicts cannot be managed, conservation will take priority³⁰.

2.4.37 The National Park Authority will continue to seek opportunities to improve many rights of way, particularly in the vicinity of the larger lakes such as Coniston, Derwentwater and Ullswater. Enhanced access to the lakeshores needs to be balanced with nature conservation objectives, as some areas are sensitive to damage by trampling and disturbance to birds, and public access may need to be managed in such areas. Outdoor facilities, such as interpretation signage and way marking, if not sensitively designed and located can create visual clutter in the landscape. 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.

2.4.38 Erosion scars caused by high volumes of use and the weather can damage the upland landscape. A partnership project involving the National Park Authority, the National Trust and Natural England has been addressing the problem over recent years. ‘Fix the Fells’ (2007-2011) is a path restoration project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, with additional support and funding from the Tourism and Conservation Partnership, Friends of the Lake District and the Ramblers Association. The project aims to:

- Undertake audience development designed to encourage greater understanding of and support for access to the fells by both existing users and identified target audiences;
- Provide training and development for all staff, volunteers and contractors involved in the project;
- Continue repairing seriously eroded landscapes and associated paths resulting from access coupled with the effects of the Lake District climate; and
- Increasingly concentrate on transferring the practical work away from the larger projects, towards smaller, pre-emptive type works.

³⁰ Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995 makes clear that if National Park purposes are in conflict then conservation must have priority. This is known as the ‘Sandford Principle’ and stems from the Sandford Committee’s recommendation, in 1974, that enjoyment of the National Parks ‘shall be in a manner and by such means as will leave their natural beauty unimpaired for the enjoyment of this and future generations’.
2.4.39 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 continuous 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.

**Tranquility**

2.3.40 Tranquility is an important aspect of landscape character and quality of life. Tranquillity can be defined as freedom from the noise and visual intrusion, including light pollution, associated with developed areas, roads, transport and traffic, and areas with intensive recreational activities and other uses that contribute to disturbance.

2.3.41 Through tourism, tranquility can directly support jobs and businesses and contribute to the rural economy; for example, recent visitor research by Cumbria Tourism suggests that the tranquility of the Lake District is one of the main reasons people visit the National Park. Access to tranquil areas can also provide physical and mental health benefits, helping to reduce stress and related medical conditions typically associated with modern day urban living.

2.3.42 The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has developed a new methodology to measure tranquillity within England. CPRE commissioned researchers to carry out a nationwide survey to test what tranquillity means to people, and identify their perceptions of what factors were most likely to add to and to detract from their sense of experiencing tranquillity when they visited the countryside. Using a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) model, this survey information was associated with a range of national datasets and took account of topography to create a nation-wide map revealing the likelihood someone would experience tranquillity in any locality.

2.4.43 The degree of relative tranquillity within the Lake District National Park as measured by CPRE is shown on Figure 2.12. This shows that the likelihood someone would experience tranquillity in the National Park is greatest in the remoter upland areas, and in other areas only

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31 www.cpre.org.uk/campaigns/landscape/tranquillity
served by narrow minor roads where built development and infrastructure 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;
- The south-western valleys, Duddon Valley, Eskdale and Wasdale;
- Woodland, Rusland Valley and Dale Park; and
- The Winster Valley and Whitbarrow in the south east.

Away from the above quieter areas, tranquillity is affected by increasing levels of noise and light pollution associated with traffic along the National Park’s busiest road corridors. New road schemes are also contributing to this trend.

Settlement and Built Environment

Buildings make a valuable contribution to the scale and identity of the Lake District landscape and their appearance, style and materials give us strong evidence of a long period of settlement evolution and continuity. Today, the distinctive character of Lake District buildings and settlements is a product of both local vernacular circumstances and a particular unique series of wave after wave of external influences, each causing significant investment in the built environment and the landscape.

Wealthy and influential families living in medieval Hall houses, faced a real threat from Border raiders in the 14th century, and they responded by building prominent, stone fortified Pele Towers, mainly on the fringes of the Lake District. In direct contrast, the simple, humble dwellings of the tenant farmer have not survived, because they were not constructed of long-lasting materials. However, following the union with Scotland, the rise of the Yeoman ‘Statesman’ farmer and prosperity from wool, the ‘Great Rebuilding’ in stone took place in the mid to late 17th century. This transformed the timber and thatch dwellings into robust, stone, slate, lime and oak structures, producing a very strong characteristic identity to the Lake District settled landscape.

Other factors were at work during the second half of the 18th century. With increased prosperity from water-powered industries, improvements to road and water transport, market towns expanded with new trade. In addition, as the wealthy were unable to carry out their European grand tours during the Napoleonic Wars, they were enticed to discover the Lake
District landscapes, and the picturesque / romantic movement began. The landscape became a source of inspiration to writers and artists. This encouraged the development of Georgian, Regency, Italianate and Classical Revival houses and villas, each set within carefully planned parkland to create a picturesque setting. Elegant, well proportioned buildings, so different from the rugged vernacular farmsteads, started to appear in the landscape. People with means now purposely chose to live within this attractive area and initially the southern valleys and more accessible places were sought after, in particular, near the shorelines of the main lakes and in pastoral valleys. Yet in many respects the area was still relatively isolated.

2.4.48 With the arrival of the railways in the mid-19th century, the greatest transformation of the Lake District began. Ironically, it was the slate quarries, copper mines and gunpowder works that provided the economic incentive to have branch lines penetrating into the southern Lake District, and in the north, it was fortuitous that the new railway line to carry Durham coke to the Workington steelworks passed through Keswick. But soon, the tourist potential of railways was realised, giving rise to the Victorian creation of Windermere Town and considerable expansion of places such as Bowness-on-Windermere, Ambleside, Grasmere, Coniston and Keswick. Wealthy industrialists from the north of England, especially Lancashire textile and engineering entrepreneurs, built imposing mansions, using both local and provincial architects to produce a variety of styles from Victorian Gothic, Tudoresque and Jacobean to Arts and Crafts. Today, with their mature landscaped gardens and grounds, they help to create a very distinctive character, especially in the Windermere-Keswick corridor, in contrast to the vernacular farmsteads of the rural valleys.

2.4.49 Each of the above phases of development has its own recognisable and distinctive architectural ‘vocabulary’ in the design, use of materials and detailing. The 17th century farmhouses are generally long and low with roughcast render and limewash over rough rubble walls, a random arrangement of small window openings, under a heavy slate roof, with probably only one chimney. Georgian houses and villas are usually taller buildings and have a precise smooth render finish or neat ashlar stonework, with symmetrical arrangement of carefully proportioned sash windows and doorcases. Victorian mansions, houses and hotels use exposed, coursed slate quarry waste, laid ‘watershot’ (tilting outwards to shed rainwater), with imported sandstone dressings for quoins, lintels and cills. Steep roofs, gables, turrets, large groups of imposing chimney stacks, intricate bargeboards and terracotta detailing also characterises these buildings. This reflects a period of wealth, confidence and substantial investment in the Lake District. It also saw the introduction of completely new forms of building, such as railway stations, viaducts, lake steamer facilities and grand hotels.

2.4.50 At the very end of the 19th century there was a strong trend away from the high Victorian, over elaborate gothic architecture, towards vernacular revival, now commonly referred to as the
Arts and Crafts period. The use of solid designs, roughcast rendered walls, robust gables, swept-down slated roofs, chunky chimney stacks, as well as mullioned and leaded windows, heralded a new architectural style, with pioneers such as Voysey and Baillie Scott. This distinctive style lasted well into the 1920s in this area, and designs that were originally conceived for the high status large houses were now permeating down the social scale to detached and semi-detached suburban houses.

2.4.51 Through all these periods, quality of materials, design and ‘fitness-for-purpose’ was a key feature, giving a sense of permanence to the buildings. Today, the survival of these varied buildings is a testament to their inherent longevity, charm and lasting appeal. Since the mid-20th century, in particular in the 1960s and 1970s with urban, suburban and commercial developments, cheapness and speed of construction sometimes overcame the need for quality. To some extent this has been recognised and addressed but is a caution for the planning and development process. Just as landscapes change and evolve architecture too must move forward to reflect the needs of modern society. Good modern architecture for the future can get inspiration from the past, but need not slavishly copy past designs. There needs to be good architecture of now, which is not only well designed to look at, but is fit for its purpose and makes a lasting contribution to the settlement and overall character of the Lake District. Only the main urban areas are probably capable of successfully assimilating large contemporary buildings, which can help to enrich the street scene, but in the remaining rural areas, buildings will need to be ‘anchored’ to their locality and relate to local distinctiveness. In many cases, this may be achieved through the careful use of building shape and form, together with the use of local building materials to retain a sense of continuity.

2.4.52 In a landscape of international quality, all new developments from simple social housing to prestige commercial premises need to be of the highest quality. Very often, simplicity of design and proportion is preferable to over-fussy and cluttered detailing. A thorough understanding of the context of a new development is crucial. New buildings can add to character and diversity by either contrasting or complementing the existing settlement character. It is essential that authorities, communities and designers celebrate what is special about Lake District towns, villages and individual buildings and reflect this in new developments or changes to existing buildings.

2.4.53 Over the centuries, all the phases and influences outlined above have added to and strengthened the distinctiveness and identity of the Lake District built environment. Unless carefully but pragmatically managed current threats and forces for change could lead to a significant erosion of character, especially with the standardisation of building materials, methods of construction and external finishes.
The delicate balance of the key components which make up the Lake District building character must be understood and acknowledged if inappropriate alterations and renovations which erode it are to be avoided. The increasing use of plastic windows, synthetic wall finishes and imported roofing slates are examples which can combine to dilute local identity and sense of place. Advocating the use of local building materials is not only more sustainable but helps with the regeneration of local skills, so essential for future building continuity. Redundant buildings, particularly farm buildings pose a range of issues. Barn conversions should avoid over-domesticated and fussy detailing which affects not only the building itself, but a much wider landscape setting. Accommodating the needs of vehicles can adversely affect the character and tranquillity of the Lake District, and also the setting of buildings with parked cars and expanses of tarmac surfaces. The cumulative effect of road markings, road signs and other traffic management measures can adversely affect the character of a settlement and in a busy tourist area these need very careful thought.

There is a growing awareness for the use and reuse of local building materials and the recognition that traditional craft skills are the vital ingredient for the continuity of the Lake District’s building tradition. Some recent award winning schemes have shown to the public that quality modern designs can make a worthwhile contribution to the character and appearance of the Lake District. Later in this report the distinctive features of each Character Type and Areas of Distinctive Character are identified. This reinforces the need to understand the local context and appreciate the variety of building materials and specific local identity from place to place and building to building. For the landscape as a whole to retain and strengthen its unique character, it is paramount that the settlement and built environment is given due regard in both broad strategies and in detailed considerations.

Climate Change

Climate change is increasingly acknowledged as a key driver of future landscape change. The UK Climate Impacts Programme has co-ordinated research into a range of climate change scenarios for the UK. Potential climatic changes by 2050 include up to 3°C rise in temperature, up to 20% increase in winter rainfall, up to 30% decrease in summer rainfall and generally more extreme weather patterns. The changes are expected to be greater by the 2080s.

Attempts have been made to assess the impacts of climate change scenarios on individual sectors such as coastal and riverine flooding, agriculture, water resources and biodiversity. However, there are limited published studies that attempt to link these aspects together to examine holistically the implications of climatic change for the UK’s landscapes in general, and upland landscapes such as the Lake District in particular. Accordingly, the impacts of
climate change on the landscape within the National Park are difficult to predict with any certainty.

2.4.58 Recent research into climate change impacts on UK agriculture by the National Farmers Union\(^\text{32}\) highlights a number of potential issues including:

- Longer growing seasons for many crops;
- Possibilities of growing new crops from warmer climates;
- Possibility of increased drought stress or heat damage;
- Changes in the nature and distribution of pests and plant diseases;
- Increased soil erosion from both wind and rain;
- A longer grass growing season and increased livestock grazing opportunities in winter;
- Scope for increased heat stress amongst livestock in summer requiring greater provision of shade and shelter; and
- The potential for the agricultural sector to contribute to reductions in carbon dioxide emissions through such activities as the production of energy crops (both biofuels and biomass) and land management practices that would enhance carbon sequestration.

2.4.59 For agriculture within the Lake District, some of these issues could have resulting effects on land use and landscape. These may include reduced soil moisture, possible new pests and diseases and a requirement for new pasture varieties and species. On the other hand, increased carbon dioxide concentrations and a longer growing season may increase pasture and tree growth rates where adequate water and nutrients are available.

2.4.60 From a biodiversity perspective, natural habitats and species may be put under severe pressure, especially those at higher altitudes and/or depending on regular rainfall, such as arctic alpines, blanket peat bog and atlantic oak woods with their important assemblages of mosses. For these species, the available habitats may potentially diminish and be squeezed out as they already occupy the coldest and wettest parts of the Lake District. Other potential consequences may include the risk of fire damage to extensive areas of upland heath, for example.

2.4.61 From a landscape perspective, the visually important mature specimen trees, both in parkland and the informal plantings around most lake shores and in many valleys could be threatened by increased summer water stress, as well as by increased frequency and severity of storm events.

\(^{32}\) Agriculture and Climate Change, National Farmers Union, 2005
2.4.62 The impacts of climate change on peat bogs in the Lake District are a particular concern. If they dry out, they could potentially release thousands of years’ worth of stored carbon into the atmosphere; the erosion of vegetation cover from blanket bogs can reduce its water retention capacity and increase the risk of downstream flood peaks. In this context, the implementation of the Water Framework Directive is likely to have a significant influence on land use and water resource policy in the National Park in the medium to long-term. This may assist in the preservation of blanket peat bog areas, and increase the extent and quality of wetland habitats through more integrated and ecosystem-led approaches to catchment management.

Management of Archaeological Sites in the Landscape

2.4.63 Archaeological sites in the Lake District National Park are particularly susceptible to damage from bracken infestation. Bracken obscures archaeological remains for most of the year, and it has been demonstrated through research that the rhizomes damage subsurface archaeological deposits through bioperturbation (movement of soil).

2.4.64 The recent Heritage Monuments at Risk Survey has recorded that the Lake District National Park has the greatest number (65) of high-risk scheduled monuments in the North West Region, all of which are on upland pasture and are threatened by bracken infestation. There are opportunities for clearing bracken from archaeological remains through general land management strategies.

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 attract 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 Types and Areas 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 Character of England map¹ provides the national framework for more detailed assessments carried out by local authorities and others. The map’s Joint Character Areas (JCAs) defined at 1:250,000 scale provide the context for defining boundaries of landscape character units within Cumbria and the Lake District.
3.2.2 As illustrated on Figure 3.1, the Lake District is covered by the following JCAs:

- Cumbria High Fells (JCA 8);
- South Cumbria Low Fells (JCA 19);
- West Cumbria Coastal Plain (JCA 7);
- Morecambe Bay Limestone (JCA 20); and
- Orton Fells (JCA 17).

3.2.3 The Cumbria High Fells JCA covers the vast majority of the northern, western and eastern parts of the National Park, with the South Cumbria Low Fells and the Morecambe Bay Limestone JCAs in the south eastern area. The West Cumbria Coastal Plain JCA extends into the south western part of the National Park, and a small part of the Orton Fells JCA occupies the extreme east of the Park. The character of these JCAs is described in Countryside Character Volume 2: North West.

3.3 County Landscape Context

3.3.1 Set within the framework provided by JCAs, the Cumbria Landscape Classification 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).

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>Cumbria Landscape Type</th>
<th>Cumbria Landscape Sub Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - Estuary and Marsh</td>
<td>1a. Intertidal Flats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1b. Coastal Marsh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - Coastal Margins</td>
<td>2a. Dunes and Beaches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2b. Coastal Mosses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2c. Coastal Plain</td>
<td></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>5c. Rolling Lowland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - Intermediate Land</td>
<td>6a. Intermediate Land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Countryside Character Volume 2 – North West, CCP536 (Countryside Agency, 1998)
3 Cumbria Landscape Classification (Cumbria County Council, 1995)
### Cumbria Landscape Type | Cumbria Landscape Sub Type
---|---
7 - Drumlins | 7b. Drumlins Field
8 - Main Valleys | 8b. Broad Valleys
 | 8c. Valley Corridors
9 - Intermediate Moorland and Plateau | 9d. Ridges
11 - Upland Fringes | 11a. Foothills
12 - Higher Limestone | 12a. Limestone Farmland
 | 12b. Rolling Fringe
 | 12c. Limestone Foothills
 | 12d. Moorland and Commons
13 - Fells and Scarps | 13c. Fells

3.3.4 For those Landscape Character Types defined with the Cumbria Landscape Classification that have also been identified within the Lake District National Park, consistency has been sought in terms of the description of the Definitive Attributes and Physical Character of the landscape on both sides of the National Park boundary.

3.3.5 Where possible, Landscape Character Types within the National Park were given the same name as adjacent Landscape Character Types defined within the Cumbria Landscape Classification to ensure a consistent approach. Where names differ between similar Landscape Character Types within and at the edges of the National Park, naming reflects the predominant or definitive attributes of that landscape that occur within the National Park.

3.3.6 For each Landscape Character Type that is identified both within the National Park and surrounding Cumbrian landscape, reference is made to the corresponding relevant Landscape Character Type within the Cumbria Landscape Classification.

### 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 Volcanic High Fell;
- Upland Valley; and
- Low Fell Fringe.

**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. The Landscape Sub-Types are shown on Figures 3.3a and 3.3b. Examples include:

- Upland Tarns;
- Valley with River Floodplain; and
- 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 Sub-Types where relevant:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Park Landscape Character Type</th>
<th>National Park Landscape Sub Type</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 Volcanic High Fell</td>
<td>F1 - Upland Tarns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F2 - Upland Forests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F3 – Post-Industrial Landscapes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G – Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell</td>
<td>G1 - Upland Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>G2 - Upland Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>G3 – Post-Industrial Landscapes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H - Upland Valley</td>
<td>H1 - Valley with Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H2 - Valley with River Floodplain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### National Park Landscape Character Type | National Park Landscape Sub Type
--- | ---
H3 - Enclosed Valley Side | H4 - Open Valley Side
1 - Upland Limestone Farmland | None
J - High Fell Fringe | None
K - Low Fell | K1 - Forest
 | K2 - Parkland
 | K3 - Farmland
 | K4 - Moorland Ridge
L - Low Fell Fringe | None
M - Lowland Valley | M1 - Valley Floor with Lake
 | M2 - Valley Floor with River Floodplain
 | M3 - Enclosed Valley Side
 | M4 - Open Valley Side

#### 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 **Figures 3.4** and **3.5** show the 71 Areas of Distinctive Character within the Lake District National Park, which are listed below:

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

3.5.4 As acknowledged by the latest guidance, 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

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section sets out descriptions and guidelines for the Landscape Character Types identified within the Lake District.

4.2 Landscape Character Type Descriptions and Guidelines

Character Assessment

4.2.1 For each defined Landscape Character Type, its boundaries are mapped (see Figure 3.3) and its character described (and illustrated where appropriate) under the following headings:

- **Landscape Character Type Reference and Name**;
- **Location** – a short paragraph detailing location of the Landscape Character Type in relation to the National Park and adjacent Landscape Character Types;
- **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;
- **Development, 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; and
- **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.

Current and Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

4.2.2 Each Landscape Character Type is evaluated as follows:

- **Forces for Change** – a bullet point list of recent past changes in the Landscape Character Type; a concise description of how the intactness of the different components create a perception of the overall current condition of the landscape; and a separate bullet point
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Protect** and **conserve** vernacular bridges (especially packhorse bridges) in order to retain key historic features within the landscape.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.

**Sub-Type M3: Enclosed Valley Side**

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** sensitive management and restoration of wood pasture habitat.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Encourage** new development that reflects the scattered settlement pattern, use of vernacular building styles and locally appropriate building materials;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** boundary features; and
- **Prevent** woodland establishment on historically important enclosed valley sides.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.

**Sub-Type M: Open Valley Side**

Physical Character

- **Encourage** the creation of native woodland on valley sides and lower fells.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Control** development on open valley side encouraging scattered settlement pattern, use of vernacular building styles and locally appropriate building materials.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.
list of the positive and negative future changes and opportunities that are considered likely to affect the landscape over the short term (5 years) and long term (20 years +).

- **Sensitivities and Capacity for Change** – a short paragraph summarising the key positive attributes that are judged to be inherently sensitive and providing a judgement on the capacity of the overall Landscape Character Type to accommodate change.

**Guidelines for Managing Landscape Change**

4.2.3 The guidelines comprise a concise statement setting out the overall management strategy for the Landscape Character Type, supported by a bullet point list of specific guidelines for managing landscape change for the overall Type. Where relevant, specific guidelines that apply to Sub-Types are also identified.
TYPE A: ESTUARY AND MARSH

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Estuary and Marsh Landscape Character Type (LCT) is situated at the western and south western edges of the Lake District, running along the western coastline and fringing the Ravenglass (a combination of the Rivers Irt, Mite and Esk) 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). This Landscape Character Type also continues outside the National Park boundary1.

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;
- Vast skies and coastal breezes; and
- Strong sense of tranquillity throughout much of this Landscape Character Type.

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 predominately 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 and mudflats, 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).

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1 This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Classification as Landscape Character Type 1: Estuary and Marsh. For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to Cumbria Landscape Classification, Cumbria County Council (October 2005).
Section 4.0 – Landscape Character Types

TYPE A: ESTUARY AND MARSH

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1. Tidal landscape with vast skies and coastal breezes © CBA
2. Aerial Photograph of Estuary and Marsh area © GeoPerspectives
3. The diverse patchwork of intertidal habitats, includes saltmarshes and mudflats © CBA
4. Land cover consisting of large expanses of mudflats, shingle and pebble beaches and saltmarsh © NTPL / Joe Cornish
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 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. Priority habitats associated with this Landscape Character Type include estuaries, coastal sandmarsh and the Natterjack toad is a locally important species.

**Cultural and Historical Character**

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

**Development, 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; and
- Visible buildings are usually located on adjacent, slightly higher, farmland.

**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; and
- 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 AOD 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; and
- Sections of creeks can be cut off, leaving isolated sections of water known as pans or floshes.
CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- An ever changing landscape created and maintained through natural processes (tidal erosion and deposition); and
- Evidence of human use in the past is limited due to lack of research and continual erosion by the sea. Likely to also have been used for gathering food (sustainable use leading to little historic record).

Current Landscape Condition

The condition of the Estuary and Marsh Landscape Character Type is generally good. The closely grazed fine sward saltmarshes, mudflats, remnant hedges and other habitats enrich the ecological condition of this landscape. There are some elements showing signs of decline in places, including the loss of some hedgerows, set back from the coastline.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In both the short term (5 years) and long term (20+ years) this dynamic landscape is likely to continue to be predominantly affected by natural processes. Within this Landscape Character Type, the key agent of change will be the tides. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Within this context, potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type A: Estuary and Marsh are outlined below:

- **Agricultural Change and Land Management** - An intensification of farming in this area could result in a dramatic decrease in species diversity on the saltmarshes. Similarly, a decrease in water quality as a result of agricultural run-off or other pollution sources could damage the water-based habitats within the mudflats and saltmarshes. An increase in erosion, as a result of increased access to this and adjacent Landscape Character Types, or lack of natural erosion (e.g. through coastal defences) could lead to reduced species diversity.

- **Climate Change** - Rising sea levels would have a dramatic impact on this Landscape Character Type as it would alter the shoreline, tidal flows and potentially inundate significant habitats. An increase in storm events could change the pattern and spread of habitats and therefore alter the character of the landscape (e.g. through erosion of saltmarsh). Depending on the nature of the change in climate, an increase in global temperatures might encourage alien species/more competitive species to dominate and reduce plant life diversity.

- **Development** - Increased tourism use of the coastline could introduce buildings into a very open landscape with few vertical elements or enclosing features. Pressure to develop land can lead to increasing amounts of engineered features such flood defence, drainage works and raising of levels, all of which would detract from the flat, open and wild characteristics. Offshore/inshore renewable energy developments would introduce industrial features into a character type where remoteness and tranquillity are key attributes. Associated diffuse or point source pollution could lead to a decrease in water quality and damage to water-based habitats and saltmarshes.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

The diverse patchwork of intertidal habitats, consisting of saltmarshes and mudflats, provide delicate naturally sensitive environments. This is recognised by the designation of much of the Landscape Character Type as SPA, SAC, Ramsar Site and SSSI. In addition to this, the strong sense of openness, with generally uninterrupted skylines; and strong intervisibility with surrounding Landscape Character
Types (B: Coastal Margins, J: High Fell Fringe and E: Coastal Sandstone) contribute to overall high visual sensitivity. This Landscape Character Type is considered to have limited capacity to accommodate change or new development without compromising key characteristics, as a result of its valuable network of ecological habitats and high visual sensitivity.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

Due to the ecological importance of this area the overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type, is to conserve the diverse patchwork of intertidal habitats, including saltmarshes, mudflats and dunes. These habitats support a rich variety of species, which are protected through international and national designations.

Specific guidelines include:

**Physical Character**
- Encourage restoration and retention of hedgerows where currently neglected, to maintain historic enclosure pattern.

**Ecological Character**
- **Encourage** extensive grazing on saltmarshes to maintain low growing vegetation and diversity of sward;
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change;
- **Protect** watercourses from agricultural run-off or other pollution sources in order to maintain a very high level of water quality;
- **Manage** access to prevent increased erosion of vulnerable habitats through disturbance; and
- **Manage** alien species/ more competitive species which threaten to dominate and reduce plant life diversity.

**Cultural and Historic Character**
- No guidelines recommended.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**
- **Conserve** the open character and wildness of the landscape by minimising the introduction of new buildings and other built features. Where these are essential careful siting and design should avoid strong vertical or enclosing elements; and
- **Ensure** that where development for renewable energy, large scale drainage works, coastal defences, raising of levels or other significant works are proposed they should be accompanied by a landscape character and visual impact assessment clearly demonstrating how these developments might be accommodated in an open and sensitive landscape and adequately assessed for potential impact on key habitats.

In addition to the above, guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:

**Sub-Type A1: Intertidal Flats**

**Physical Character**
- No guidelines recommended.

**Ecological Character**
- **Monitor** water quality and prevent point and diffuse pollution occurring within water courses to maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems.
- Cultural and Historic Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Sub-Type Type A2: Coastal Marsh

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- Support extensive grazing on saltmarshes through provision of information, good practice, sources of financial help in order to maintain characteristic vegetation and habitat diversity;
- Identify and implement opportunities for managed coastal realignment in appropriate locations to increase coastal habitats and mitigate the impact of storm events; and
- Manage access to vulnerable habitats and breeding areas during critical times of year to prevent disturbance and potential reduction/loss of key species.

Cultural and Historic Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.
TYPE B: COASTAL MARGINS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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 Fringe (J), Low Fell (K), Lowland (D) and Coastal Limestone (C). This Landscape Character Type also continues outside the National Park boundary².

Definitive Attributes

- Low-lying landscape with flat to undulating topography;
- Predominantly underlain by marine alluvium or undulating boulder clay;
- 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;
- Pockets of pasture land;
- Settlement pattern generally consists of scattered farmsteads, with some good examples of stone bank barns;
- Remains of early prehistoric settlement beneath the sand dunes;
- Broughton-in-Furness is the only significant settlement; an 18th century planned Market Square, with formal render and stone buildings giving this small town a coherent visual character;
- A variety of building materials used, particularly on farm buildings, from river cobbles, quarry waste slatestone, to neater dressed limestone and sandstone; and
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout most of this Landscape Character 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 a stark topographical contrast between the Coastal Margins Landscape Character Type and adjacent Low Fell, Low Fell Edge and Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fells which provide a higher enclosing backdrop within views inland.

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 other wildlife, with 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

² This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Classification as Landscape Character Type 2: Coastal Margins. For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to Cumbria Landscape Classification, Cumbria County Council (October 2005).
TYPE B: COASTAL MARGINS

1. Agricultural improvements of coastal plain through drainage, fertilising and reseeding © CBA
2. Aerial Photograph showing typical land pattern © GeoPerspectives
3. Low-lying landscape with flat to undulating topography © CBA
agricultural improvement through drainage, fertilising and re-seeding, limiting ecological interest mainly to hedges, copses, ditches, small woodlands and scrub.

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. They are also designated as a SAC.

Important examples of lowland raised mire, including Meathop and Foulshaw Moss SSSI are also located where this type lies adjacent to Morecambe Bay. These two sites form part of a suite of SSSI’s that form the Witherslack Mosses SAC site. Foulshaw 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.

To the west of Ravenglass, parts of this Landscape Character Type fall within the Drigg Coast SAC and SSSI, which is designated, amongst other things, for its fixed dunes (which fall within this Landscape Character Type).

Cultural and Historical Character

The coast of the Lake District was settled in the early prehistoric period and the sand dunes cover the remains of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age sites. To the west, the Coastal Margins are predominately unenclosed 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.

Development, 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, often with a hedge on top (known locally as kests) walls and hedgerows 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; and
- 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; and
• 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; and
• 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; and
• Birch woodland occurs on the edges of the mosses.

**CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**Forces for Change**

**Past Landscape Changes**

Observable changes in the past include:
• Agricultural improvement of coastal plain through drainage, fertilising and reseeding;
• Parliamentary and other enclosures in the Foulshaw, Ulpha and Meathop area;
• Coastal margins left as common land or unenclosed land;
• Historic development of Broughton-in-Furness as a key settlement within the area;
• Stone banks and walls replaced by fencing; and
• Reclamation of mosses since 12th century.

**Current Landscape Condition**

The overall condition of the Coastal Margins Landscape Character Type is considered to be moderate. The semi-natural vegetation within this landscape is occasionally grazed or mown, contributing to ecological diversity. There is, however, evidence of decline within this landscape, where cobble stone banks have been replaced by wire fences, leading to a loss of traditional vernacular landscape pattern. Run down industrial buildings or dilapidated agricultural buildings are also detractors. Decline in the condition and extent of hedgerows within this landscape is also evident, particularly on the coastal mosses, where they are tending to become overgrown or gappy. There is also evidence that the edges of some of the mosses are drying out due to drainage.

**Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities**

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of continued management and enhancement of the numerous valuable SSSIs. As the area is off the main tourist routes, small scale local improvements in access will contribute to an improved understanding of the long term issues affecting the area.
Negative changes are likely to include continuing loss of mosses through drainage and conversion to pasture. As the mosses dry out along their margins, birch and willow scrub invade. Current large scale peat cutting is not sustainable and will have both a short term and long term impact on carbon sequestration and habitat loss.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type B: Coastal Margins are outlined below:

- **Agricultural Change and Land Management** - Encroaching pasture is weakening the visual appeal of the mosses, as well as reducing species diversity and the neglect of hedges and kests around enclosure land reduces the potential landscape and wildlife benefits of hedgerows and in many places leads to substitution by wire fences. Mosses are also being lost through drainage, resulting in birch and willow invasion of dried out margins. In places, large-scale peat cutting could cause both a short and long-term impact on carbon sequestration and habitat loss. Small-scale coniferous forestation is also changing the character and nature of the landscape along the coastal margins and runs against a general trend towards favouring native broadleaves. Dunes are dynamic features and an increase in erosion (e.g. through access) or lack of natural erosion (e.g. through coastal defences) could lead to reduction in species diversity.

- **Climate Change** - The coastal margins are vulnerable to a range of climate change effects such as increased salination of coastal mosses and increased storm events could change the pattern and spread of habitats and therefore alter the character of the landscape (e.g. through increasing erosion of the dunes). There could also be an increase in invasive species, better suited to new climatic conditions, affecting key landscape characteristics.

- **Development** - Within a relatively flat landscape, new farm buildings, pylons and other similar developments are much more obtrusive in terms of scale and visibility and in some places already detract from the existing vernacular style. There is likely to be continued pressure for access to water for recreation, creating pollution and loss of overall tranquillity.

**Sensitivities and Capacity for Change**

The coastal mosses (including a patchwork of bog rosemary and cotton grass, cranberry, cross-leaved heath and heather) and coastline (including shingle bank and dune communities, raised bogs, sphagnum filled pools in wetter areas, remnant mosses, fixed dunes, mudflats and sandflats) provide ecologically rare and sensitive habitats. This is recognised by the designation of much of the coastline as SPA and mosses as SSSI. This patchwork of habitats results in an intricate landscape pattern. The Coastal Margins Landscape Character Type (B) has strong intervisibility with the Estuary and Marsh Landscape Character Type (A) and other adjacent Landscape Character Types. In places, there is a strong sense of openness, however, patches of willow carr and birch woodland provide a sense of enclosure, denoting moderate visual sensitivity overall. As a result, this Landscape Character Type is considered to have limited capacity to accommodate change overall without compromising key characteristics.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to conserve and manage the rich ecological heritage of the coastal habitats whilst protecting the mosses from further encroachment and loss. The inherent characteristics of flat to undulating topography and dispersed farmsteads should be retained with key landscape features such as hedgerows and hedge banks being targeted for better management.

Specific guidelines include:
Physical Character

- **Enhance** existing coniferous woodland through reversion to broadleaved and discourage new conifer planting to reinforce the landscape structure; and
- **Encourage** increased woodland cover as a new and viable land use of degraded or derelict land, restored open cast site and land on the fringes of major settlements, whilst conserving the overall sense of openness.

Ecological Character

- **Restore** edge habitats through removal of invasive species and increasing water levels to maintain distinct species populations;
- **Manage** access to prevent increased erosion of vulnerable habitats through disturbance;
- **Encourage** retention and planting of hedgerows and restoration of hedgebanks; and
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Prevent** loss of distinct settlement pattern and general open character of area through control of large scale and intrusive developments; and
- **Conserve** the archaeological and historic environment in order to maintain a rich cultural landscape.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.

In addition to the above, guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:

**Sub-Type B1: Dunes and Beaches**

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- **Manage** access to dunes and beaches during critical times of year (e.g. breeding season and prolonged dry periods) to prevent reduction in/ loss of key species.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Prevent** erosion of archaeological sites located within the sand dunes.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.

**Sub-Type Type B2: Coastal Mosses**

Physical Character

- **Restore** edges of mosses through removal of birch and willow and increased water levels to maintain wet habitat and distinct bog habitat; and
- **Control** large scale peat cutting to ensure no further large scale loss of moss habitat and landscape change.
Ecological Character

- **Conserve** the visual appeal and ecological richness of the mosses by preventing further encroachment, drainage and conversion to pasture.

Cultural and Historic Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.

**Sub-Type Type B3: Coastal Plain**

Physical Character

- **Encourage** retention of hedgerows around enclosure land and support planting of hedges where previously replaced by wire fences to strengthen landscape structure and provide habitat network;
- and
- **Enhance** existing coniferous woodland through encouraging natural regeneration of native broadleaves. New planting of woodland should be discouraged in open coastal margins to conserve distinct open landscape characteristic.

Ecological Character

- **Identify** and **implement** opportunities for managed coastal realignment in appropriate locations to increase coastal habitats and mitigate the impact of storm events.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Control** intrusive farm and other developments (consider scale, location and use of vernacular materials) to minimise loss/erosion of vernacular style.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.
TYPE C: COASTAL LIMESTONE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

The Coastal Limestone Landscape Character Type is situated at the southern edge of the Lake District National Park, 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 Fringe (L), which provide a sense of enclosure. This Landscape Character Type also continues outside the National Park boundary¹.

Definitive Attributes

- Rolling farmland is underlain by Carboniferous Limestone geology, which has a rough texture where limestone outcrops occur;
- Limestone hills (examples include 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; and
- 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 AOD near to Grange-over-Sands on Hampsfell.

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 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.

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 Cunswick and Scout Scars as SSSIs. These two sites are also components of the larger Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC.

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.

Yewbarrow (consists of a north-south ridge of Carboniferous Limestone) comprising a diverse and complex association of limestone and acidic grasslands, heath, scree, cliff, pavement and woodland habitats. At Hampsfell, 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

¹ This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Classification as Landscape Character Type 3: Coastal Limestone. For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to Cumbria Landscape Classification, Cumbria County Council (October 2003).
TYPE C: COASTAL LIMESTONE

1. Aerial Photograph showing typical land use pattern © GeoPerspectives

2. Rolling limestone has a rough texture where limestone outcrops occur, Cunswick Scar © LDNPA
calcaneous 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.

**Development, Settlement and Building Character**

- Settlement pattern consists of scattered farmsteads and houses, with Lindale being the only main settlement, a large nucleated group of old 20th century buildings;
- The widespread use of limestone as a building material gives visual coherence to the traditional buildings built between the 17th and 19th centuries; and
- North of Cartmel, the Field Broughton area is characterised by a number of formal Georgian villas, each with its attractive parkland landscape setting.

**Landscape Character Sub-Types**

There are no Sub-Types within the Coastal Limestone Landscape Character Type.

**CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**Forces for Change**

**Past Landscape Changes**

Observable changes in the past include:
- Enclosure leading to a distinct pattern of open fields and dispersed settlements within the landscape;
- Enclosure leading to a distinct pattern of open fields and dispersed settlements within the landscape; and
- Past mineral workings and removal of limestone pavements (now fully protected).

**Current Landscape Condition**

The overall condition of the Coastal Limestone Landscape Character Type is considered to be good. The historic pattern of fields bounded by stone walls is generally intact, although in places, neglect and loss of field boundaries is evident. The patchwork of semi-improved pasture, semi-natural woodland (with pockets of limestone heath and juniper scrub) and limestone pavements contribute to good ecological condition overall, though some species rich pastures are declining owing to lack of mixed grazing.

**Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities**

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of continued protection of limestone pavements, restoration of unimproved calcareous grassland and ancient woodland through agri-environment schemes.

Negative changes are likely to include changes to hill farming practices which may alter the visual characteristics of the limestone hills and outcrops which are highly visible in the landscape. Increasing development pressure could clutter the current openness within views to the coast and interrupt skylines.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within the Landscape Character Type C: Coastal Limestone are outlined below:
• **Agricultural Change and Land Management** - CAP reform may lead to further reduction in stocking levels which in turn, may lead to increased rough grassland and scrub on the hills and outcrops. Conservation grazing initiative re-introducing hardy cattle breeds to help maintain limestone grassland and control scrub regeneration, especially on SSSIs. The continuing trend in the amalgamation of farming businesses may result in key landscape features being lost through neglect or removal to enable to the amalgamation of adjacent fields. This, in turn, may lead to the creation of a more homogenous landscape with less distinctiveness and loss of localised character. Changes to hill farming practices may also alter the visual characteristics of the limestone hills and outcrops, which are highly visible in the landscape. This over-intensification could impact directly on important species and habitats and the visual characteristics of the landscape.

• **Climate Change** - Some niche and vulnerable species may not be able to adapt to climate change and maybe lost from this distinctive range of habitats.

• **Development** - Further limestone extraction would directly affect the limestone features of this area and may fundamentally alter the texture and pattern of the landscape. Energy related development (wind turbines, pylons) would interrupt key skylines and views out towards the coast or of the rocky outcrops and hills, eroding valuable landscape quality. An increase in traffic associated with tourism and recreation pressurising the road system could also lead to inappropriate highway developments. Increased accessibility would also put pressure on sensitive habitats.

**Sensitivities and Capacity for Change**

The patchwork of very rich flora on unimproved, species-rich calcareous grassland, ancient woodland and limestone pavement flora, including yew, juniper, hazel, buckthorn and ash, contribute to the ecological sensitivity of this Landscape Character Type. Ecological value is further recognised by designation of parts of the limestone landscape as SSSI and SAC. In addition, a strong sense of openness, with generally uninterrupted skylines, coupled with strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types to the south, contribute to overall high visual sensitivity. Taking into account the above sensitive natural attributes and the dispersed settlement pattern of ancient farms, overall capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics is considered to be limited.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to conserve important limestone grassland/ ancient woodland habitats and manage changing upland landscape to retain key aesthetic and ecological qualities.

Specific guidelines include:

**Physical Character**

- **Target** agri-environment payments to conserve distinctive limestone characteristics; and
- **Conserve, enhance and expand** characteristic woodlands close to the coast and on limestone scarps and summits.

**Ecological Character**

- **Conserve and enhance** significant ecological assets such as calcareous grassland and other limestone habitats, semi-natural and ancient woodland and fen, maintaining a patchwork of habitats within the landscape;
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change; and
- **Avoid** woodland planting on sensitive mossland and limestone grasslands.
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** past mineral workings taking into account an assessment of the historic value of such sites;
- **Encourage** management of designed landscape that retains design qualities; and
- **Identify** and plan for potential impacts of climate change on designed landscape in order to better understand ability to adapt, for example succession planning for parkland trees.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** key views and skylines from inappropriate development and clutter in order to retain strong sense of openness within views.
TYPE D: LOWLAND

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Lowland Landscape Character Type is situated at the western edges of the Lake District National Park, to the north of Ravenglass. Adjacent Landscape Character Types include High Fell Fringe (J), Coastal Margins (B), Estuary and, Marsh (A), and the Upland Valleys (H) of Eskdale and Wasdale. This Landscape Character Type also continues outside the National Park boundary.

Definitive Attributes

- Gently rolling or undulating low-lying topography, dissected by meandering river valleys;
- Underlain by sandstone;
- 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; and
- Settlement pattern consists of a combination of dispersed and nucleated settlements and scattered farmsteads.

Physical Character

This Landscape Character Type is underlain by sandstone. Occasional meandering valleys dissect an otherwise generally rolling or undulating topography. The landscape is low-lying in nature (generally below 100m AOD).

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 and corridors.

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, 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 enclosures.

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4 This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Classification as Landscape Character Type 5: Lowland. For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to Cumbria Landscape Classification, Cumbria County Council (October 2005).
TYPE D: LOWLAND

1. The High Fell Ridge provides a dramatic backdrop to this low-lying area © CBA
2. Aerial Photograph showing typical field pattern © GeoPerspectives
3. Gently rolling or undulating topography © CBA
4. Predominately pasture land cover © CBA
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.

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

Development, Settlement and Building Character

- Settlement pattern consists of dispersed and nucleated settlements and scattered farmsteads, and a number of late Georgian houses in mature landscaped grounds;
- The two main settlements of Gosforth and Ravenglass have quite different characters. Whilst Gosforth has a linear core of 17th to 19th century buildings, surrounded by large housing estates, Ravenglass is a small historic medieval market centre and port, with a unique identity; and
- The use of local building materials, in particular Eskdale granite and St Bees red sandstone, forms a consistent feature of farmsteads, houses and older parts of settlements.

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:

Sub-Type D1: Low Farmland

- Intensively farmed agricultural land below 100m AOD;
- Predominantly pasture land cover, with occasional patchy woodland and arable farmland; and
- 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.

Sub-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; and
- Hedgerow trees and hedgerows are dominant on lower ground, with variable field patterns relating to topography.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:
- Commons created on low lying ground;
- Planned enclosure fields on higher ground;
- Inter-mixing of enclosure, intakes and ancient woodland on middle ground; and
- Historic development of Ravenglass as the key settlement within this area.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Lowland Landscape Character Type is considered to be good. Most landscape features are generally well managed. Patches of unmanaged woodland are, however, visible and there is also evidence of neglected stone walls and loss of hedgerows, which have been replaced by fences.
Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

An overall consistency in the use of vernacular building materials indicates a local desire to retain traditional character of the area.

Negative changes may include the amalgamation of farms, leading to a change in the character of the valley floors with new access tracks and larger fields being created to improve efficiency. Amalgamation of farms may also result in farmhouses and associated buildings being converted to new uses and key landscape features being lost through neglect or removal to enable the amalgamation of adjacent fields. The increased farm size may lead to the demand for new large agricultural buildings (potentially for over-wintering stock) affecting character and views. Increased financial pressures and reduced availability of higher level agri-environmental payments leading to field boundaries, walls and hedges suffering from lack of management.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within the Landscape Character Type D: Lowland are outlined below:

- **Agricultural Change and Land Management** - The amalgamation of farms and increased drive for efficient farm businesses or farms being sold as farmers and their families leave the industry, all have a direct impact on how the land is managed. As the landscape characteristics of this area are significantly influenced by agricultural practices, change in the industry could lead to an erosion of landscape quality.

- **Climate Change** - The likely effects of climate change on this landscape are not easily identifiable with current information, however, agricultural practices could be affected, with a move to plough up pasture and plant new crops.

- **Development** - Diversification of farm businesses leading to introduction of new buildings and the conversion of farm buildings for residential and other uses gradually change the nature of the working landscape and its associated attributes. The erosion and loss of vernacular building styles through introduction of cheaper alternatives will reduce the distinct characteristics of this area. Encroachment of large scale developments such as wind farms, masts and pylons into the area would also have a significant effect on landscape character. It is likely that there will also be increased pressure from residential and tourist related developments, affecting the character and quality of the landscape.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

The natural or ecological sensitivity of this Landscape Character Type is represented by a combination of semi-natural woodland, wetland and hedgerows. A pattern of ancient enclosures, the predominantly rural character, pockets of parkland and the low density, dispersed settlement pattern, contributes to overall cultural sensitivity. Overall, visual sensitivity is judged to be moderate. In places, woodland and hedgerows limit views, whilst there is strong intervisibility with adjacent High Fells. Overall the Lowland Landscape Character Type is considered to have limited to moderate capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to manage the impact of changes in land and building use, conserve or restore neglected landscape features and encourage the retention and restoration of historic and vernacular building materials and details and the careful design of new buildings.. This landscape is a patchwork of different land uses on low-lying topography dissected by meandering river valleys. This diversity is its key characteristic.
Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** woodland, hedges and stone walls.

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** conservation of existing key landscape features and habitats; and
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change,

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Encourage** conservation of significant historic features and buildings;
- **Encourage** sympathetic new uses for disused farm buildings to ensure they remain a viable and contributory feature within this landscape; and
- **Encourage** the use of local building materials, in particular Eskdale granite and St Bees red sandstone.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.

In addition to the above, guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:

**Sub-Type D1: Low Farmland**

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- **Target** agri-environment schemes toward wetland, hedgerow, and small woodland management, to mitigate against the negative impacts of farm intensification on landscape character and reduction of habitat value and water quality due to climate change.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Manage** recreational development, housing, farm development and road improvements/traffic management to prevent cumulative urbanisation of rural landscape and loss of rural roads character; and
- **Conserve** and **manage** boundary features (hedges, hedgebanks and stone walls) where possible within the agricultural landscape to enhance landscape structure.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.

**Sub-Type Type D2: Rolling Lowland**

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Target** agri-environment payments and use development control to protect and maintain landscape features and support the maintenance and restoration of vernacular buildings and the careful design of new buildings.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** the open landscape and the distinct patchwork of land uses to reinforce landscape character.
TYPE E: COASTAL SANDSTONE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

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), and bordered inland by High Fell Fringe (J) and Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell (G). 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. This Landscape Character Type also continues outside the National Park boundary.

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 Irish 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; and
- Settlement pattern consists of a combination of small red sandstone 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 north, 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 Calder and Furness Abbeys).

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 Irish 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.

5 This Landscape Character Type is identified within the Cumbria Landscape Classification as Landscape Character Type 4: Coastal Sandstone. For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to Cumbria Landscape Classification, Cumbria County Council (October 2005).
Section 4.0 – Landscape Character Types

**TYPE E: COASTAL SANDSTONE**

1. Subtle gradient of the sandstone coastal profile © CBA
2. The imposing High Fell backdrop to the east of the LCT © CBA
3. Landscape underlain by Triassic sandstone, producing low-lying ground that is suitable for agriculture © CBA

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Annaside SSSI (between the sea to the west and the 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). There are also several natterjack toad sites and ponds along the coastal edge and throughout the farming hinterland. At Silecroft, Shaw Meadow and Sea Pastures SSSI supports a mosaic of species rich wet pasture, lowland heath, more and acid grassland.

Cultural and Historical Character

The coastal sandstone is markedly different to most of the other Landscape Character Types. The area was heavily settled in the prehistoric and later periods, and the cropmarks of enclosures and other features are visible from the air. 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 and hedgebanks, 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 sited next to their associated former common fields. Two further common fields appear to relate to Annaside, which can be considered as an agglomerated settlement (a loose nucleated settlement) where dwellings may be widely spread, but clearly grouped. Single ancient farms form the basis of the dispersed settlement pattern.

Development, 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; and
- In this exposed, open landscape, the older buildings are tightly grouped for shelter, with farm buildings using locally available cobbles and rubble, in contrast to the houses which have a neater, weatherproof render finish

Landscape Character Sub-Types

There are no Sub-Types within the Coastal Sandstone Landscape Character Type.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:
- Construction of Sellafield Nuclear Power Station;
- Creation of caravan parks along the coastline; and
- Railway line developed parallel to the shoreline in the south.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Coastal Sandstone Landscape Character Type is considered to be moderate to good. The rolling pasture fields are generally in moderate ecological condition, however, there is evidence of the loss of traditional hedgebanks that delineate field boundaries. This has led to a weakened landscape pattern.
Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of access to the coast. However, negative changes are likely to include the associated increase in recreational and development pressure.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within the Landscape Character Type E: Coastal Sandstone are outlined below:

- **Agricultural Change and Land Management** - The current neglect of boundary features, enabling the amalgamation of adjacent fields and in many places substitution by fences, could continue as financial pressures increase within the farming industry. The amalgamation of farming businesses could also create more homogenous landscapes with less distinctiveness and loss of localised character. Meanwhile access related pressures on the landscape are likely to increase and will require intervention in order to manage conflicting land uses and mis-use.

- **Climate Change** - The erosion of the distinct sandstone cliffs due to increasing storm events and/or sea level changes may, over time, change the defining characteristics of this area. Climate change could also lead to an increase in invasive species better suited to climatic conditions affecting key landscape characteristics.

- **Development** - Increased development around Sellafield and other similar industrial complexes may result in visually intrusive buildings in open landscape. Similarly the spread of residential development around villages without appropriate consideration of siting and effect on local landscape character is likely to affect the quality of the landscape. A loss of traditional skills and reduction in the use of appropriate local materials will erode distinctive characteristics of the landscape. The increase in size of residential properties could also lead to greater visibility and loss of landscape quality.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

The Coastal Sandstone Landscape Character Type is considered to have high visual sensitivity as a result of the strong sense of openness throughout and strong intervisibility with the High Fells. Patches of semi-natural ancient woodland, and the network of mature hedgerows contribute to ecological sensitivity, whilst the pattern of former common fields, surrounded by ancient enclosures, contribute to overall cultural sensitivity. Overall, the capacity of this Landscape Character Type to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics is considered to be limited to moderate.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to sensitively manage increased access to the coast, and ensure appropriate new development minimises impact on local character. The extensive views, rolling coastal topography and dramatic cliff scenery are important features to conserve and enhance.

Specific guidelines include:

**Physical Character**

- **Identify** and implement opportunities for managed coastal realignment in appropriate locations to mitigate the impact of storm events and prevent coastal squeeze; and
- **Conserve** and enhance boundary features to improve and maintain landscape structure;
Ecological Character

- **Improve** and **restore** habitat for Natterjack toads; and
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** the archaeological and historic environment in order to maintain a rich cultural landscape;
- **Manage** future increased access to the coast in order to avoid conflict with other land uses and loss of landscape quality and biodiversity;
- **Manage** development around Sellafield and other similar industrial complexes to minimise visually intrusive buildings in open landscape; and
- **Guide** new development around villages to ensure appropriate siting, use of local materials such as sandstone and consideration of effect on local landscape character.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.
TYPE F: RUGGED/CRAGGY VOLCANIC HIGH FELL

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This is the largest Landscape Character Type and covers land above the fell wall, encompassing a broad band running east to west across the central part of the Lake District. To the north, Rounded, Angular High Fells (G) and Upland Valleys (H) dominate, whilst to the south, Low Fell (K), 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, with areas of granite to the west;
- 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;
- Uplifting panoramic external views from the fell summits, including the Cumbria Coastal Plain, Irish Sea, Isle of Man and Morecambe Bay from western and southern fells, the Northern Pennines, Howgills and Yorkshire Dales from the Helvellyn Range and eastern fells;
- Superimposed on this are complex topographical patterns caused by glacial and fluvial erosion;
- Land cover is generally either bare rock, scree or low-growing vegetation, with low-density sheep grazing occurring over much of the area;
- There are scattered tarns and a complex network of becks;
- Little woodland cover in general, although important areas of juniper and native oak woodland remain (particularly extensive in Borrowdale), with small areas of commercial conifers (particularly in the west);
- The fell wall marks the edge of the open land, with remains of archaeologically earlier enclosures and field systems within upland areas;
- Settlement above the moorland line is limited to isolated farms, with very few occupied buildings; and
- Archaeological remains of settlement and industrial sites scattered within the Upland Fell landscape.

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, with areas of granite towards the west of the area. 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 area 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 central 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 highly 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 crags 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 on the higher ground, although there is a wide diversity of species present. The majority of the Landscape Character Type is grazed by hardy sheep, including the locally distinctive Herdwick breed, resulting in an upland mosaic of vegetation cover,
Section 4.0 – Landscape Character Types

TYPE F: RUGGED / CRAGGY VOLCANIC HIGH FELL

1. Tens of thousands of years of erosion by ice, water and weather have created a highly complex topography © NTPL / Joe Cornish
2. Aerial Photograph showing typical field pattern © GeoPerspectives
3. Land cover is generally either bare rock, scree or low-growing vegetation © NTPL / Joe Cornish
4. View across the fells, Base Brown, Borrowdale © LDNPA
including grass, bracken, heather and bilberry. There are remnant areas of native oak woodland and juniper, particularly on valley sides; these are extensive in some areas such as Borrowdale and Hartsop. There are also areas of wood pasture and occasional small trees such as rowan or birch, particularly within gills.

**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 within the Landscape Character Type (totalling 26,999 ha) are designated Special Areas of Conservation for the species and habitats they support. Additional areas are designated SSSIs. Due to historic overgrazing and loss of upland habitats, the ecological character of the High Fells is in large parts highly impoverished. This situation is, however, now improving, and Natural England reports many areas to be ‘unfavourable recovering’ (which means that, whilst these habitats are not yet fully restored, providing that the appropriate recovery and management measures are sustained, the area will reach favourable condition in time).

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 scree and rocky slopes support a variety of ferns, grasses, mosses, and occasional scattered trees including aspen, holly, rowan, hawthorn and rock whitebeam.

The ground cover vegetation contains important wet and dry upland heathland habitats, blanket bogs, and also the most southerly examples of montane heaths found in Britain. Montane heath and grassland is widely distributed among the High Fells (above 700m). On some of the highest summits (particularly Helvellyn), there are remnant alpine species such as moss campion, and 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 Landscape Character Type, including tall herb ledge communities. These species grow alongside gills 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.

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. The cliffs of Helvellyn contain the only known population of upland downy willow in England.

There are important areas of atlantic oak woodland with rich bryophyte communities along some valley sides. These woods are particularly extensive in Borrowdale and near Hartsop, though smaller remnant patches occur throughout the area.

**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 (e.g. the areas around Devoke Water, Caw Fell and Stockdale Moor); contain the most extensive archaeological remains of earlier settlement and activity. Prehistoric sites include the Central Fells Stone Axe Production Sites, 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. 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 by topography, and in places enclosure boundaries have not been maintained and the character is starting to revert 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, with extensive, characteristic ring garths still extant in many areas. 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. Herdwick sheep are native to this part of the Lake District landscape. After enclosure, the fells were left as unenclosed common land. This provided a communal grazing resource, with rights given to farmers to graze their sheep on individual sections. On this open land it was important that the sheep remained within a particular section of the fell, known as a 'heaf'. Over time, and with diligent shepherding, this has become learnt behaviour that is passed from ewe to lamb over succeeding generations.

Development, 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 area (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; and
- Within these landscapes of old industry are impressive examples of high quality stonemasonry, using the very hard volcanic rock for wheelpits, associated water leats, retaining walls and inclined tramways.

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; and
- Other tarns (such as Angle Tarn) are shallower and have formed in upland basins.

**Type F2: Upland Forests**

- Relates to scattered patches of 20th century coniferous plantations; and
- Sessile upland oak dominated woodland remnants, examples include Keskadale oak woodlands in the Newlands Valley.

6 http://www.fellsanddales.org.uk/trails/fell_sheep.pdf
**Type F3: Post-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; and
- There are only two examples of an extensive industrial element in this landscape type – as noted above.

**CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**Forces for Change**

**Past Landscape Changes**

Observable changes in the past include:
- A dynamic landscape constantly changing, evidence of past glacial activity and still being shaped by weathering
- Significant archaeological record demonstrating several thousand years of settlement which has influenced the landscape through farming, mining, cultural and religious activities, road building and fluctuating population density;
- Substantial evidence of increased industrial activity in the 19th century changing large parts of the landscape with current mining/quarrying activity continuing the process in a few places;
- Post-medieval enclosure defining field patterns within the eastern fells of large irregular fields defined limited by topography. Central fells with early enclosed fields extending up the fell sides, ring garths and extensive intakes providing cow pastures;
- More recent changes such as footpath erosion as the result of recreational pressures on key routes; and
- Lack of stone wall management and introduction of fencing in some areas, which may lead to a change in landscape pattern and visual clutter.

**Current Landscape Condition**

The overall condition of the Rugged/ Craggy Volcanic High Fell Landscape Character Type is considered to be poor to moderate, due mainly to historic overgrazing of montane heathland habitats and blanket bogs. The condition, composition and structure of these habitats is, however, beginning to change with lower stocking rates and grazing levels increasing natural scrub and woodland regeneration. Much of the remaining semi-natural woodland has a poor age structure and suffers from grazing, preventing regeneration. Scrub is starting to develop in some areas of fell where grazing pressure has been reduced within this Landscape Character Type. In places, lack of stone wall management and replacement with fences is a visual detractor. Upland path erosion is also increasingly a visual detractor despite efforts to restore the worst affected areas.

**Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities**

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be little discernable change in the landscape of the High Fells as the area is remote and the key agents of change are natural processes acting over the long term. However, negative changes within this timescale could occur as the result of any wind farm or other large-scale energy developments, increase in mining or quarrying activity and sustained pressure from recreational activities and increased fencing to restore habitats.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type F: Rugged/ Craggy High Fell are outlined below:
Agricultural Change and Land Management – Any changes to grazing pressure will affect the composition and structure of the vegetation in the long term. A retreat from marginal land may also lead to a loss of enclosure fields, changes in vegetation structure and an increase in large agricultural buildings for over wintering stock. In areas where stocking numbers are reduced, this may lead to a spread of invasive species, such as bracken and gorse, leading to development of scrub, then woodland and changed characteristics. More extensive farming of livestock may also result in a loss of key landscape features to enable the amalgamation of adjacent fields. Recent and future efforts to promote tree regeneration will also become increasingly apparent in the next 20 years, in some instances, right up to the tree line. Management of recreational activities, whether large national events or more local activities, can have positive and negative effects on the landscape. Careful planning and sensitive management can avoid or mitigate impacts; over management can compound effects and lead to deterioration in landscape quality. A reduction in non-native conifer woodland and planting of native woodland along gills and on valley sides would transform the existing character through reinforcement of positive attributes.

Climate Change - Climate change has the potential to increase weathering activity, especially through flash floods, although it is unlikely to dramatically change what is already a dynamic landscape. However, an increase in invasive species better suited to new climatic conditions could affect key landscape characteristics. It is possible that the arctic alpine vegetation currently confined to the highest summits especially alpine and boreal species could be lost altogether and the altitudinal limit of woodland and dry heath could also increase. Fluctuating temperatures could also lead to an increase in incidences of moorland fires and an increase in the severity of storm events and summer droughts, could impact on open grown trees and woodlands. Increased flash flooding could also lead to gully erosion in upland becks, streams and rivers.

Development - Large scale wind farms (within and near to the National Park) would radically change the nature of the uninterrupted fells skyline and key views and other large scale energy developments could introduce built elements into a landscape with few buildings or major structures, eroding the open and undeveloped character of this landscape. Increases in mining or quarrying activity, whilst not new to this landscape, could rapidly transform significant landscape features and lead to increased traffic on the roads and inappropriate highway improvements, changing the character of minor road corridors. Sustained pressure from recreational activities may cause long lasting scars without sensitive management. A loss of vernacular styles of building and use of inappropriate building materials may result in the loss of local landscape characteristics. In turn, this could also lead to a loss of traditional skills.

Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

The Rugged Craggy High Fells Landscape Character Type is considered to have high visual sensitivity overall, as a result of the strong sense of openness and generally uninterrupted skylines, coupled with strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types. Rare, niche habitats associated with the upland tarns; and patchwork of wet and dry heathland habitats, blanket bogs, alpine and boreal heaths and tall herb ledge communities and remnant Atlantic oak woods contribute to very high ecological sensitivity. This is recognised by the fact that much of the Landscape Character Type is designated as SAC and SSSI. Coupled with this, the type is considered to have high cultural sensitivity on account of the rich archaeological record of settlement and industry, including a range of sites and monuments from Prehistoric to Medieval periods. In addition, there is a strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness throughout. As a result of the above factors, this Landscape Character Type is considered to have very limited capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics, apart from change which reinforces positive attributes, such as habitat enhancements, including sensitively placed gill and other woodland.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to conserve and enhance the mosaic of vegetation types, the exposed and undeveloped character of skylines and the overall strong sense of
remoteness and tranquillity. The rich archaeological record and rare niche ecosystems and habitats should be protected against disturbance and development pressures.

Specific guidelines include:

**Physical Character**

- **Encourage** grazing management that promotes more favourable condition of upland semi-natural vegetation; and
- **Encourage** the creation of native woodland on valley sides and lower fells;

**Ecological Character**

- **Promote** land management designed to achieve favourable condition of its important vegetation types and to improve resilience to the effects of climate change, including expansion of sensitively placed broadleaved gill and other woodland and improve other habitat linkages;
- **Encourage** broadleaved woodland regeneration or planting in appropriate locations which are at high risk of erosion and run off, to benefit water quality, and flood mitigation downstream. New native woodland can enhance the landscape, biodiversity and nature conservation interest of the area;
- **Control** invasive species that may spread as a result of new climatic conditions to ensure retention of key landscape characteristics of the high fells; and
- **Encourage** sensitive management and restoration of wood pasture habitat.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Conserve** the archaeological and historic environment in order to maintain a rich cultural landscape.
- **Protect** the stone axe production sites in the Central Fells from erosion, including that from footpaths;
- **Ensure** archaeological sites are cleared of bracken and scrub vegetation. A low level of stock grazing is a sustainable way of achieving this but at a level that avoids erosion;
- **Ensure** careful planning and sensitive management of recreational and tourism activities in order to maintain landscape quality;
- **Control** other large-scale energy, mining/ quarrying developments which could rapidly transform significant landscape features and characteristics;
- **Encourage** ongoing active management of enclosure fields, intakes and cow pasture as well as restoration of walls and isolated vernacular buildings;
- **Prevent** woodland establishment on historically important enclosed valley sides and archaeological sites;
- **Promote** whole fell grazing management where possible erecting new fences on open fell only where alternatives are not practicable;
- **Avoid** stone clearance and the use of ancient cairns, walls and buildings as sources of building or repair material;
- **Conserve** footpaths, bridleways or byways along with their associated features such as pinch stiles and gates, which represent historic routeways;
- **Ensure** careful design of new fencelines to minimise visual and perceptual impacts, for example avoiding crossing and close proximity to fell paths, siting below ridgelines etc; and
- **Remove** redundant fencing from fell.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- **Protect** skylines and key views to and from the area from tall, vertical and large-scale developments that may erode the open and undeveloped character of the area; and
- **Maintain** the sense of openness and control the level and impact of fencing on unenclosed fell land.

In addition to the above, guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:
Sub-Type F1: Upland Tarns

Physical Character

- Prevent point and diffuse pollution to retain water quality.

Ecological Character

- Manage recreational activities to prevent trampling of rare, niche ecosystems and habitats or development of erosion scars; and
- Conserve native flora and fauna through managing invasive species.

Cultural and Historic Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Ensure that large scale developments are subject to landscape character and visual impact assessment in order to minimise impact on key attributes and the undeveloped, open and tranquil character.

Sub-Type F2: Upland Forests

Physical Character

- Encourage active management of woodland, conversion of coniferous plantations to broadleaved, and restore woodland boundaries, to encourage regeneration of broadleaves and maintain varied structure.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Encourage extensive grazing that utilises enclosure fields, intakes and cow pasture and reduces pressure on woodland areas; and
- Conserve and extend broadleaved woodland, protecting against loss from development or agricultural intensification.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Sub-Type F3: Industrial Landscapes

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **Enhance** industrial archaeological heritage, recognising its significant contribution to the cultural landscape;
- **Control** major new mining or quarrying activity which has the potential to rapidly transform significant landscape features; and
- **Ensure** careful planning and sensitive management of recreational and tourism activities in order to maintain landscape quality.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.
TYPE G: RUGGED/ANGULAR SLATE HIGH FELL

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Landscape Character Type is predominantly situated to the north of the National Park, with the 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 within and without the National Park. 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;
- Uplifting panoramic external views from the fell summits, including the Irish Sea, Isle of Man and Morecambe Bay from Black Combe, and the Solway Coast and North Pennines from the northern fells;
- Predominantly covered by acid grassland and blanket bog, with some extensive 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 Skiddaw House hostel and properties in Mosedale; and
- Archaeology includes a Neolithic enclosure on Carrock Fell, and evidence of prehistoric settlement and stone axe production. The majority of the archaeology is industrial on the Caldbeck Fells, and relates to the extensive mining, which has taken place in the area for several thousand years. In contrast, Black Combe has little or no remains of former extractive industries.

Physical Character

The fells’ distinctive smooth, steep 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, and is cut 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 lower, with a similar but smaller-scale topography.

Soils are generally thin and acidic, and peat formation has occurred in less well-drained areas. There are some areas of scree, and some recent landslips, particularly on steeper slopes in the western part of the area, and on the western side of Skiddaw, but the vast majority of the area is covered by surface vegetation. Vegetation is predominantly low growing, with rough acid grassland and heather, with some areas of bracken. The lower slopes support some higher vegetation, including gorse, juniper
Section 4.0 – Landscape Character Types

**TYPE G: RUGGED / ANGULAR SLATE HIGH FELL**

1. Prehistoric monuments indicate enduring influence of humans on this landscape © NTPL / Joe Cornish

2. Aerial photograph showing typical field © GeoPerspectives

3. Relatively narrow stream-cut valleys © CBA

4. The distinctive profile of the Fells’ edge, Back o’Skidda’ from Barkbethdale © LDNP A

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and small trees such as rowan and hawthorn. In areas of lower grazing pressure, bilberry is beginning to re-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.

A large proportion of this Landscape Character Type is designated SSSI and also forms part of the much larger Lake District High Fells SAC. The majority of the area is designated as a Special Area of Conservation. The type 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, montane 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 and lichen species. Scree slopes also provide a suitable micro-climate for siliceous scree communities, and there are several rare species of fern and moss.

There is an important upland bird population, including merlin, buzzard, and red grouse. Twelve species of mammal (including roe deer) and five species of amphibian and reptile have been recorded on the Skiddaw massif. Old sessile oak woodlands (e.g. Birkkgg, Keskadale and Brundholme) are found on steep south-facing slopes, and contain rich bryophyte and lichen communities

Caldbeck and Uldale Commons, which are located on the Skiddaw Massif, and are owned by the National Park, are managed for their ecological and habitat value. There are currently several schemes in place aiming to diversify the vegetation in the area, including tree planting schemes, stock reduction on moorland, and a project to increase the juniper cover by germinating seedlings off-site then replanting them.

In addition, Buttermere Fells SSSI supports a range of montane and sub-montane dwarf shrub heath communities, including one of the largest known areas of Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) heath in the Lake District with peregrine, merlin, raven and occasionally dotterel. This site also encompasses the nationally important sites of Keskadale and Birkkgg sessile oak woods mentioned above.

Pillar and Ennerdale SSSI provides another area of ecological interest within this Landscape Character Type, designated as one of the best known examples of altitudinal succession in England. The varying woodland and heathland habitats within this site support one of the best breeding bird assemblages in West Cumbria, including buzzard, peregrine, merlin, raven, red grouse, wheat-ear, whinchat and ring ouzel.

**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 Neolithic Enclosure, and a medieval shieling. 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 in Silver Gill mine (Roughton Gill) which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Radiocarbon dating evidence has recently been obtained for both 12th century mining and smelting and part of a 16th century wooden railway at Silver Gill mine. The richness of the minerals in the Caldbeck Fells is summed up in the 18th century quote, Caldbeck and the Caldbeck Fells are worth all England else (*Hutchinson, W., 1974, The History of the County of Cumberland*). The past use of the Black Combe area of this Landscape Character Type is markedly different, with little known archaeology and no remains of former extractive industries present.
Development, Settlement and Building Character

- Distinctive lack of built structures in this elevated, exposed landscape;
- Very few walls, with buildings limited to isolated slate-built properties including the hostel at Back-o’-Skiddaw and properties in Mosedale; and
- Some Forestry Commission buildings, including a modern visitor 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:

Sub-Type G1: Upland Valley

- A narrow settled valley to the north east of Blencathra at Mosedale;
- The valley contains improved fields, a farmstead and block of woodland; and
- There is a surfaced road running up the valley, which provides access to the higher fells.

Sub-Type G2: Upland Forests

- Whinlatter forest is an extensive upland area 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; and
- Blocks of plantation forestry exist on valley sides elsewhere, especially on slopes above Bassenthwaite Lake at Dodd Wood, Wythop Wood and Lamplugh Fell.

Sub-Type G3: Post-Industrial Landscapes

- The mineral workings in the Skiddaw/Caldbeck area have a long history of mineral extraction, which is clearly visible in the today’s landscape.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- Glacial activity and continual weathering which has shaped geology and created a distinct upland landscape;
- Extensive mining of minerals leaving an area rich in industrial archaeology;
- Loss of dry heath and increase in acid grassland due to high grazing pressures (grouse butts now in grassland). Relatively recent dramatic reduction in stock numbers leading to the appearance of heather, bilberry and juniper heath in areas of low grazing pressure;
- Retreat from marginal land leading to the loss of some enclosure fields and a change in vegetation structure;
- Sustained pressure from recreational activities causing lasting scars;
- More extensive farming of livestock leading to key landscape features suffering; and
- Lack of management (e.g. walls) and introduction of fencing, leading to some visual clutter.
Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Rugged/ Angular Slate High Fell is considered to be poor to moderate, though improving. As a result of historic overgrazing, the condition of acid grassland, blanket bog and rough grassland is generally poor though recovery is beginning as a result of recent reductions in grazing. The condition, composition and structure of these habitats is, however, beginning to change with lower stocking rates and grazing levels leading to improved mosaics of upland vegetation. In places, lack of stone wall management, and replacement with fences is a visual detractor. Upland path erosion is also a visual detractor. There is generally good survival of historic and archaeological features.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of several schemes, which aim to diversify the vegetation in parts of the area. The schemes involve gillside woodland planting, stock reduction on moorland and an attempt to increase juniper cover through off-site germination of seeds. Negative changes are likely to include an increase in the spread of invasive species such as bracken and gorse in areas where stocking numbers are reduced on existing pasture.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within the Landscape Character Type G: Rugged/ Angular High Fell are outlined below:

- **Agricultural Change and Land Management** - The regeneration and enhancement of moorland, woodland, gill and bog habitats will mature over the long term and enhance and reinforce the key landscape characteristics of the high fell. Conversely the increase in the spread of invasive species such as bracken and gorse in areas where stocking numbers are reduced, may lead to reduced biodiversity and changed characteristics, though this would eventually develop into woodland, potentially reinforcing positive attributes where sites are not sensitive. More extensive farming of livestock and reduced higher level agri-environment funding may also lead to a loss of stone walls on higher ground and an increase in large fields and large agricultural buildings for over-wintering stock. The sustainable management of heather moorland will help to contain excessive erosion and retain a key habitat. The reduction in non-native conifer woodland and the planting of native woodland in gills will gradually transform the existing character through reinforcement of positive attributes. Conifers may be acceptable in mixed woodland when this appropriate in the landscape, and nature conservation interests are not compromised, however, small-scale coniferous forestation will change the character and nature of the landscape.

- **Climate Change** - Fluctuating temperatures, precipitation and general weather patterns will continue to affect this dynamic landscape, leading to increases in incidences of moorland fire and excessive erosion, the possible spread of invasive species and changes in species composition of habitats. It is possible that alpine and boreal vegetation currently confined to the highest summits could be lost altogether and the altitudinal limit of woodland and dry heath could also increase. It is also possible that climate change will lead to increased flash flooding and gully erosion in upland beck, streams and rivers.

- **Development** - Large-scale renewable energy developments would break up the uncluttered skyline and key views and erode the open and undeveloped character of the area. There is also the potential for an increase in large agricultural buildings for over wintering stock and an increase in the size and visibility of residential properties. There is also potential pressure from tourist related developments affecting the quality of the landscape. Related to this, increasing traffic on narrow roads and car park development is likely to change the character of minor roads and tracks.
Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

The Rugged/Angular High Fell Landscape Character Type is considered to have very high visual sensitivity, as a result of the very open character, uncluttered skylines and associated long distance views. Areas that may appear to be hidden within one viewpoint are likely to be highly visible and exposed from another. There is strong intervisibility with the Upland Valley, and Rugged Craggy High Fell Landscape Character Types, towards the edges of the Fells, and with surrounding landscape types outside the National Park. In higher locations, views are limited by the elevated topography. The area also forms a striking backdrop in views from surrounding areas outside the park. In addition, the Rugged, Angular High Fells encompass extensive rare and fragile natural habitats, coupled with a rich archaeological resource. Sense of remoteness and tranquillity is generally very strong throughout the Landscape Character Type. As a result, overall capacity to accommodate change within this Landscape Character Type without compromising key characteristics is considered to be very limited apart from change which reinforces positive attributes such as habitat enhancements including sensitively placed gill and other woodland.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to conserve and enhance the diversity of habitat and species in the high fell and to protect key skylines and views from development. The open moor, rich mosaic of wet and dry heathland, exposed, uncluttered skylines and lack of built structures are valuable attributes of this landscape type that should be conserved.

Specific guidelines include:

**Physical Character**

- **Restore** areas at high risk of erosion where this threatens Bassenthwaite and other lakes through siltation; and
- **Encourage** the establishment of native woodland on valley sides and lower fells;

**Ecological Character**

- **Manage** the spread of invasive species;
- **Support** and **promote** schemes focused on the regeneration, extension and enhancement of moorland, woodland, gill and bog habitats to enhance and reinforce the key landscape characteristics of the High Fell;
- **Encourage** the sustainable management of heather moorland and blanket bog to contain excessive erosion and retain key habitats;
- **Encourage** grazing management that promotes more favourable condition of upland semi-natural vegetation;
- **Encourage** habitat **linkage** to increase robustness to climate change;
- **Encourage** broadleaved woodland regeneration or planting in appropriate locations, which are at risk of erosion and run off, to benefit water quality, and flood mitigation downstream. New native woodland can enhance the landscape, biodiversity and nature conservation interest of the area; and
- **Encourage** sensitive management and restoration of wood pasture habitat.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Conserve** the archaeological and historic environment in order to maintain a rich cultural landscape.
- **Protect** the stone axe production sites in the Central Fells from erosion, including that from footpaths;
- **Ensure** archaeological sites are cleared of bracken and scrub vegetation. A low level of stock grazing is a sustainable way of achieving this but at a level that avoids erosion;
- **Prevent** woodland establishment on historically on archaeological sites;
- **Ensure** effective planning for controlling moorland fires;
- **Conserve** footpaths, bridleways or byways along with their associated features such as pinch stiles and gates, which represent historic routeways;
• **Promote** whole fell grazing management where possible erecting new fences on open fell only where alternatives are not practicable; and

• **Remove** redundant fencing from fell.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

• **Maintain** the sense of openness and control the level of impact of fencing on unenclosed fell land;

• **Protect** skylines and key views to and from the area from tall, vertical and large-scale developments that may erode the open and undeveloped character of the area; and

• **Ensure** careful design of new fencelines to minimise visual and perceptual impacts, for example avoiding crossing and close proximity to fell paths, siting below ridgelines etc.

In addition to the above, guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:

**Sub-Type G1: Upland Valley**

**Physical Character**

• No guidelines recommended.

**Ecological Character**

• No guidelines recommended.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

• No guidelines recommended.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

• **Encourage** sensitive location and design of large agricultural buildings for over-wintering stock and inappropriate development of prominent residential properties in order to maintain landscape quality.

**Sub-Type Type G2: Upland Forests**

**Physical Character**

• **Encourage** reversion of non-native conifer woodland to broadleaved, outside strategic Forestry Commission plantations and **expand** native woodland on valley sides and in gills, reinforcing landscape structure and diversity

**Ecological Character**

• No guidelines recommended.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

• No guidelines recommended.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

• No guidelines recommended.
Sub-Type G3: Post-Industrial Landscapes

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **Enhance** industrial archaeological heritage recognising its significant contribution to the cultural landscape;
- **Control** major new mining or quarrying activity which has the potential to rapidly transform significant landscape features; and
- **Manage** existing and increased pressure from recreational and tourism developments throughout the area.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.
TYPE H: UPLAND VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Upland Valley Landscape Character Type dissects the High Fells within the National Park, creating a distinctive pattern like the spokes of a wheel. In some instances, this Landscape Character Type continues outside the National Park boundary.

Definitive Attributes

- 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 screes, 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, with distinctive patterns of drystone walls and barns;
- 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 screes;
- 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 Upland Valley landscape; the cairnfields in the Ennerdale valley, the prehistoric rock art near Buttermere are all evidence of the rich cultural history of the landscape;
- Designed landscapes, parkland and former deer parks occur throughout the area, associated particularly with lakeshores and large country houses; and
- 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 Upland Valley 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, scrub and wood pasture. 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.

7 This Landscape Character Type is partly identified within the Cumbria Landscape Classification as Landscape Character Type 8: Main Valleys. For further information on elements of this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to Cumbria Landscape Classification, Cumbria County Council (October 2005).
TYPE H: UPLAND VALLEY

1. Drystone walls bound regular fields in the dry valley bottoms © NTPL/Joe Cornish
2. Typical settlement pattern, Ambleside © LDNPA
3. The vast scale of the landscape is evident from the valley floor © NTPL/Joe Cornish
4. Valleys, are often dominated by a lake or river © NTPL/Joe Cornish
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, especially pollarded ash, are also a feature, as are clusters following walls or in close proximity to buildings.

Within the Upland Valley Landscape Character Type, areas of important semi-natural atlantic oak woods and associated rich bryophyte flora remain on lower valley sides. Naddle Forest, Birk Fell, Low Wood, Lodore Wood Troutdale Woods, Borrowdale Wood Complex and Wast Water are all designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). In addition, Duddon Valley Woodlands, Baybrown Wood and Thirlmere Woods are designated as SSSI.

Bassenthwaite Lake is designated as a National Nature Reserves (NNR), SSSI and SAC. The lake supports a population of vendace, a fish that is only found in one other location in the UK. 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.

The River Derwent and tributaries SSSI encompasses a diverse natural succession of plant communities from source to mouth and contains salmon, brook and river lampreys. Derwent Water also has populations of the nationally rare fish called vendace. Other lake-related ecological designations include Ennerdale SSSI – for its characteristics freshwater flora and fauna which include examples of nationally rare willow and alder carr and drier oak woodland; and Elterwater SSSI – one of the least disturbed examples of lakeshore wetlands in South Cumbria.

Cultural and Historical Character

The pattern of field boundaries 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 flag walls and iron railings. At the valley heads and floor edges, an irregular, smaller-scale, more ancient pattern of walled enclosures (which are generally those that pre-date the enclosure acts of the late 18th and early 19th centuries) 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 patterns of fields.

Many archaeological features can be found in the Upland Valley landscape. The cairnfields in the Ennerdale valley, the ancient stone art near Buttermere, are all evidence of the rich cultural history of the landscape.

There are important former deer parks, designed landscapes and areas of parkland within this area which are key characteristics, particularly around lakes and associated with large country houses, for example around Rydal and Grasmere which often cross into neighbouring areas of high fell. Their mature trees make a highly significant positive contribution to the lakeland landscape.

Settlement and Built Character

- This Landscape Character Type contains the majority of settlements in the Lake District, from individual vernacular farmsteads to the busy town of Keswick;
- Settlement pattern generally consists of hamlets and tight-knit small settlements huddles by the lakeshores, with farmsteads and barns scattered on the rising ground of the lower valley sides and valley heads;
- A great wealth of fine historic buildings, which include 10 Conservation Areas;
Architecture ranges from medieval halls, traditional vernacular, romantic picturesque Georgian, to railway tourism and Victorian imposing developments of housing, hotels and terraces; Settlement character ranges from traditional agricultural (Hartsop, Troutbeck, Watendlath, Kentmere) to former industrial communities (Glenridding, Chapel Stile, Elterwater, Staveley), to the picturesque wooded settlement (Grasmere, Rydal) to key market towns/tourist centres (Keswick and Ambleside);

Traditional stone and slate buildings 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;

This type has particularly good examples of buildings illustrating the history of farming, from impressive 17th, 18th and 19th century bank barns to small field barns; and

In a valley situation, the settlement focus is very often a bridging point, and this type contains many examples of bridges, from packhorse to more formal 18th and 19th century structures, which add an important element to the built character.

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 Upland Valley Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

Sub-Type H1: Valley with Lake

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

Sub-Type H2: Valley 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; and
- Scattered farmsteads within the valley bottom and pattern of stone walls at field boundaries.

Sub-Type H3: Enclosed Valley 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’); and
- Often lined with clumps of trees, with some wood pasture or more extensive patches of woodland.

Sub-Type H4: Open Valley Side

- Sloping landscape, forming the higher slopes of the dale, which form a transition a transition zone with adjacent High Fells on both sides of the dale;
- Generally open landscape, with few divisionary walls or boundaries; and
- Often grazed, with some areas of juniper scrub, wood pasture and patches of woodland.
CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:
- Gradual change in the pattern of settlements as population and land use change over time;
- Increasing influence of linear elements such as road and rail interfering with natural contours and sinuous lines in the landscape and disruption of tranquility from traffic noise and movement;
- Improvement of pasture to create fields that are intensively grazed and subsequent loss of species diversity and changes in colour and texture of the landscape;
- Small to medium rectilinear and intricate field pattern created through historic enclosure, now being eroded through lack of management and introduction of new boundaries and materials;
- Pollution from agricultural run off from adjacent pastoral fields; and
- Lack of management of some parkland landscapes as use reverted to purely agricultural.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Upland Valley Landscape Character Type is considered to be good, with high water quality within most lakes, rivers and waterbodies, rich biodiversity in the largely intact hedgerow network and patchwork of woodlands, and a strong archaeological record. There are, however, some elements of declining condition: some hedgerows, hay meadows, walls, pollards, mature trees and vernacular buildings are in poor condition and evidence of a gradual loss of traditional management is apparent.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of managing important habitats through nature reserves and key landscape features in the wider landscape such as maintaining ash pollards and important boundary features. However, negative changes are likely to include an increasing pressure on the quality of the landscape from residential and tourist related developments. Increasing traffic problems may also lead to highway improvements that detract from the rural character of some roads and reduce tranquility.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type H: Upland Valley are outlined below:

- Agricultural Change and Land Management - Farming is no longer the main contributor to many Lake District communities with many farmers now having an off farm source of income. This area is vulnerable to reduced farming activity and a potential amalgamation of farming businesses into more extensive holdings increasing the demand for new agricultural buildings with an intensive approach to livestock rearing affecting character and views. Potential amalgamation of farming businesses may also lead to the creation of more homogenous landscape with less distinctiveness and loss of localised character. This may have a knock on effect on the maintenance of key landscape characteristics, in particular boundary features and species rich pasture and floodplain habitats. The neglect of hedges around enclosed land may reduce potential landscape and wildlife benefits and lead to substitution by fences. Woodland is not currently extensive in this character type, however existing coniferous woodland may over time be replaced by native broadleaves. Many of the existing broadleaved woodlands are unmanaged, with a poor age structure and thus vulnerable to loss over the longer term. Many designed landscapes and parkland are at risk of gradual loss from lack of replacement planting or conservation of key features.

- Climate Change - Increasing temperatures may encourage further expansion of tourist related activities putting further pressure on limited resources. Water quality in rivers and lakes may also be affected, having a negative effect on aquatic habitats and expansion of alien species into upper
catchments. Open-grown trees and some woodland may be at risk from a combination of summer drought and increased severity and frequency of storm events.

- **Development** - The built environment is predominantly in the vernacular style and is currently a distinct element of the landscape fabric. A loss of traditional skills and a reduction in the use of appropriate local materials will erode this distinct characteristic of the landscape, with increasing pressure on the landscape around towns from residential and other development. Features are vulnerable to highway improvements, expansion of villages and tourism facilities. Potential large-scale renewable energy developments and overhead transmission lines on the skyline may erode key views. Increasing traffic associated with tourism and recreation pressurising the road system may lead to inappropriate highway improvements, increased provision for car parking on undeveloped land and reduced tranquillity from noise and movement. Increased tourism and growth in holiday developments and second homes will lead to a loss of pasture or estate land developments.

**Sensitivities and Capacity for Change**

Overall character and visual sensitivity within this Landscape Character Type are considered to be high, as a result of the generally strong intervisibility with surrounding Landscape Character Types. A diverse patchwork of lakes, mires and rivers, rich floodplain and lakeshore habitats, woodland, designed landscapes, parkland and bogs contribute to overall high ecological sensitivity. In addition to this, the rectilinear, intricate pattern of fields crossing the valley bottom, delineated by a network of well-maintained hedgerows and dry stone walls and ancient pattern of walled enclosures at dale heads, contribute to overall high cultural sensitivity. As a result of the above factors, this Landscape Character Type is considered to have very limited capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type, is to conserve and enhance the distinct pattern of settlement, fields, boundaries, parkland and woods to maintain landscape quality. The inherent characteristics of the Upland Valley should be reinforced through ensuring an appropriate balance between definitive attributes of pasture, settlement and the patchwork of diverse habitats.

Specific guidelines include:

**Physical Character**

- **Encourage** replacement of coniferous species by native broadleaves in order to strengthen landscape character; and
- **Conserve, enhance and sensitively expand** broadleaved woodland.

**Ecological Character**

- **Manage** water quality in rivers and lakes to minimise pollution on aquatic habitats; and
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Conserve** the distinctive pattern of early enclosure of upland moor as typified by the presence of small irregular intakes, bounded by stone walling, outgangs and isolated farmsteads or hamlets;
- **Support** and **encourage** an actively but sensitively farmed landscape. In particular farms that use extensive grazing methods on sensitive sites and maintain key landscape characteristics such as boundary features, trees and species rich habitats;
- **Conserve** historic routeways preserved as footpaths, bridleways or byways along with their associated features such as pinch stiles and gates;
- **Ensure** that the expansion of tourist-related activities does not compromise landscape quality;
• **Encourage** the development and use of traditional skills through training and promotion of appropriate local materials that reinforce the distinct qualities of the landscape. For example repairs to stone walls should reflect the local traditional construction;

• **Conserve and enhance** designed landscapes, parkland, deer parks and historic estates, encouraging their active and sympathetic management and restoration;

• **Encourage** replacement planting of mature in-field and boundary trees;

• **Clear** archaeological sites of bracken and scrub vegetation. A low level of stock grazing is a sustainable way of achieving this but at a level that avoids erosion;

• **Identify** and plan for potential impacts of climate change on designed landscape in order to better understand ability to adapt, for example succession planning for parkland trees;

• **Conserve** distinct landscape features and areas that are vulnerable to developments such as highway improvements or the expansion of villages and tourism facilities;

• **Encourage** development proposals, which respect or reinforce local vernacular character; and

• **Conserve** archaeological and historic environment features such as packhorse and other bridges which have a strong influence on landscape character.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

• No guidelines recommended.

In addition to the above, guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:

**Sub-Type H1: Valley with Lake**

*Physical Character*

• No guidelines recommended.

*Ecological Character*

• **Protect** water bodies from diffuse and point source pollution in order to maintain water quality and conserve aquatic habitats.

*Cultural and Historic Character*

• No guidelines recommended.

*Aesthetic and Perceptual Character*

• No guidelines recommended.

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

*Physical Character*

• No guidelines recommended.

*Ecological Character*

• **Protect** watercourses from point source and diffuse pollution and encourage more natural drainage systems where appropriate.

*Cultural and Historic Character*

• **Conserve** vernacular bridges (including stone Packhorse bridges), which facilitate access and contribute to the cultural and aesthetic value of the landscape.
Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Sub-Type Type H3: Enclosed Valley Side

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** wood pasture and mature individual trees especially pollards and open grown specimens and encourage succession planning.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** stone walls and field barns in order to strengthen and reinforce distinctive landscape pattern.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Sub-Type Type H4: Open Valley Side

Physical Character

- **Support** grazing regimes that maintain and encourage juniper scrub and wood pasture on the higher valley sides, and contribute to a key characteristic of the valley landscape.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.
TYPE I: UPLAND LIMESTONE FARMLAND

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

The Upland Limestone Farmland Landscape Character Type extends along the northern and eastern edge of the Lake District, flanked by the High Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type. It is part of a broader band of Limestone, which stretches north and eastwards outside the National Park8.

Definitive Attributes

- Dominated by Carboniferous Limestone geology, which gives rise to a typical upland limestone farmland landscape;
- Topography is primarily 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;
- Strong intervisibility with landscape to the north of the National Park boundary and with the rising mass of Blencathra;
- Typical limestone landscape features such as pavements and scars are less common than the Coastal Limestone LCT in the south;
- Improved and semi-improved pastoral farmland (the fields lined with hedgerows) dominates this landscape in the north, with occasional clumps of trees and small woods adding variety. To the west and east drystone walls predominate, with extensive parkland and (mainly coniferous) plantations, associated with the Lowther Estate, in the east;
- Lacking in large expanses of ancient woodland and woodland plantations; 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 historic halls and Estates and deer parks 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; and
- To the west of Shap and east of Bampton, the landscape is characterised by a pattern of medium to large-scale regular-shaped fields.

Physical Character

Typical limestone surface features such as large scars and gorges are generally absent in this predominantly open farmland landscape. There are localised outcrops of pavement and small scars in places, particularly in the east at Burtree Scar and Knipe Scar, and Clints Crags in the west. The underlying geology of the area is reflected, in the building materials used for dispersed farms, field boundaries and village buildings and stone wall field boundaries. This is generally a gentle and rolling landscape, the topography of which offers extensive views towards the central High Fells and in open parts, across the lowland landscapes outside the National Park.

Clints Crags 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 Crags 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.

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8 This Landscape Character Type is identified within the *Cumbria Landscape Classification* as Landscape Character Type 12: *Higher Limestone*. For further information on this Landscape Character Type outside the boundaries of the National Park, refer to *Cumbria Landscape Classification*, Cumbria County Council (October 2005).
Section 4.0 – Landscape Character Types

TYPE I: UPLAND LIMESTONE FARMLAND

1. Improved pastoral farmland with hedgerow lined fields dominated in the north of this LCT © CBA
2. Aerial Photograph showing typical field pattern © GeoPerspectives
3. The openness of the landscape facilitates panoramic views in places © CBA

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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, including ancient clough woodland, provide considerable ecological interest throughout this Character Type, as do the becks, rivers and mires.

The River Eden and its tributaries cross this Landscape Character Type in several places, and are designated as Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and SSSI for the high diversity of aquatic plants, native, white-clawed crayfish and a high diversity of breeding birds associated with the riparian habitats.

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 SAC and SSSI.

**Cultural and Historical Character**

To the north, the landscape is dominated by the former common field systems of the 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, with some following the fell edge near Calbeck. The field boundaries are almost all hedgerows and contain large numbers of standard trees. In the west the village of Blindcrake has anciently enclosed, narrow, walled strip fields fossilising the ancient open field structure, and the remains of medieval deer parks associated with Isel Hall. In the East are extensive parkland remains and estate villages associated with several historic estates which extend outside the National Park in several places.

**Settlement and Built Character**

- Settlements are generally dispersed or nucleated in form stretching evenly across the Upland Limestone Farmland. Building styles reflect the local vernacular, using locally available limestone;
- A strong architectural unity throughout this fringing area, with fairly formal 17th, 18th, and 19th century traditional buildings using locally available limestone and sandstone, with slate roofs;
- A range of attractive settlements characterises this Landscape Character Type, from the linear arrangement at Blindcrake, to the village greens of Askham, Helton, Hesket Newmarket and part of Calbeck, and to the 18th century planned estate village of Lowther. 5 of these settlements are designated Conservation Areas;
- These settlements illustrate very clearly factors such as geology, land quality and ownership, as well as reflecting Medieval field patterns and later agricultural and economic prosperity.

**Landscape Character Sub-Types**

There are no Sub-Types within the Upland Limestone Farmland Landscape Character Type.

**CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**Forces for Change**

**Past Landscape Changes**

Observable changes in the past include:
- Improved and semi-improved pasture with occasional planned woodland and tree planting
- Influence of large managed estates establishing a mixture of parkland and small hamlets
• Former common field systems around villages showing move from mixed farming to predominantly livestock based farming; and
• Disused limekilns and quarries indicating previous industrial activity shaping the landscape.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Upland Limestone Farmland Landscape Character Type is considered to be good to moderate, resulting from the rich ecological condition of herb-rich calcareous grassland and woodland habitats, becks, rivers and mires and the survival of historic estate features. Woodland and clumps of trees are generally well managed, and there is an intact hedgerow and wall network. There are some elements showing signs of decline in places, particularly the loss and poor maintenance of occasional hedgerows and replanting of historic parkland with conifers. Much of the remaining parkland is in moderate condition with key features lacking maintenance and a lack of replanting of parkland trees.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of small-scale changes such as low impact diversification into bed & breakfast accommodation or other tourism related ventures. The diverse patchwork of herb-rich calcareous grassland and woodland habitats are likely to continue in positive management as much of the land is part of the wider National Trust estate.

Negative changes are likely to include a slow erosion of character within villages through loss of vernacular styles of building and use of inappropriate materials. The area is popular with artists and wind turbine development occurring on important skylines would have a significant impact on landscape quality.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type I: Upland Limestone Farmland are outlined below:

• **Agricultural Change and Land Management** - The mature hedgerow and wall networks contribute to a recognisable landscape pattern and if not supported through agri-environment payments, could fall out of active management, particularly where very narrow strip fields still persist. This could then have a significant effect on both biodiversity and landscape character. More extensive farming of livestock could also lead to a loss of key landscape features through neglect or removal to enable the amalgamation of adjacent fields. Larger farm sizes increase the demand for new large agricultural buildings, affecting character and views. In turn, this could lead to the creation of a more homogenous landscape with less distinctiveness and loss of localised character. Small-scale coniferous forestation could change the character and nature of the landscape.

• **Climate Change** - Climate change could have an impact on agricultural practices and with evidence of mixed farming in the past, there could be a move in the future to plough up pasture and plant crops. These could be anything from vegetables, animal feed, biofuel to new types of crops, however any increase in arable production would significantly change the character of this area. Climate change could also lead to increased numbers and severity of storm events and summer drought, impacting on open grown trees and woodland.

• **Development** - Sustained pressure to develop renewable energy resources could lead to increased development of key skylines and views eroding valuable landscape quality. Similarly, the loss of vernacular styles of building and use of inappropriate building materials will result in the loss of local landscape characteristics and have a knock on effect on this distinct Landscape Character Type. At present the road network is predominantly rural and could face significant highway improvements in the future as the result of increasing traffic flows. Increased mining or quarrying activity could also rapidly transform significant landscape features. Limestone extraction could also fundamentally...
affect the texture and pattern of the landscape. A potential increase in tourism and growth in holiday developments and second homes could lead to a loss of pasture or estate land to development.

**Sensitivities and Capacity for Change**

Herb-rich calcareous grassland and woodland, meadows and disused quarries, contribute to the relatively high ecological sensitivity of this Landscape Character Type. Cultural and archaeological sensitivity is high in the west and east associated with historic estates and parks, and moderate elsewhere. Overall visual sensitivity is moderate to high. In the north this is judged to be moderate owing to the rolling landform, but in the west and east, visual sensitivity is judged to be high where sensitive cultural landscapes coincide with open landforms. There is a predominant sense of openness, however patches of woodland provide a sense of enclosure and limit long distance views in places, particularly in the north of the area. Intervisibility with the adjacent High Fell and High Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type is strong making the area highly sensitive to interruption by large scale vertical features which would interrupt views into and out of the area. Overall, the Upland Limestone Landscape Character Type is considered to have limited to moderate capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type, is to conserve and maintain the diverse patchwork of habitats, historic landscape and vernacular built character and to protect skylines and views into and out of the area. This landscape type is particularly vulnerable to neglect and loss of diversity of its key landscape features such as common field systems, strip fields, parkland, dispersed settlement and mature hedgerow and wall networks.

Specific guidelines include:

**Physical Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Ecological Character**

- Encourage habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- Target agri-environment schemes to provide support for the conservation and maintenance of key landscape features, including parkland;
- Ensure highway improvement schemes respect and reflect the local character to retain local landscape quality;
- Conserve and maintain the wall and hedgerow network (with hedgerow and in field trees) to contribute to the reinforcement of landscape pattern;
- Identify and plan for potential impacts of climate change on designed landscape in order to better understand ability to adapt, for example succession planning for parkland trees;
- Ensure that historic buildings and features are conserved and restored and that new buildings and construction is located and designed appropriately; and
- Conserve the archaeological and historic environment in order to maintain a rich cultural landscape.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- Protect skylines and key views to and from the area from tall and vertical large-scale developments that may erode the open and undeveloped character of the area, especially around the highly sensitive, strip field, estate and parkland areas in the West and East.
TYPE J: HIGH FELL FRINGE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

The High Fell Fringe 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 Upland Limestone Farmland (I) and to the south by High Fells (F and G) or Upland Valley (H) Landscape Character Types.

Definitive Attributes

- 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 AOD;
- A transitional landscape, between more open moorland or fell and lower, more enclosed 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; and
- 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 intimate pastoral patterns of small fields to rolling higher topography with long distance views.

To the south east, 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 and Wolf Crags show strongly weathered sections of pre-Devensian till overlain by Late Devensian till. These deposits, together with a Loch Lomond Stadial moraine at Wolf Crags 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.

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 National Nature Reserves (NNR) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Many of these are wetlands or woodlands. Ecological interest
TYPE J: HIGH FELL FRINGE

1. Predominantly improved pasture and meadows at lower levels © CBA
2. Aerial Photograph showing typical field patterns © GeoPerspectives
3. Dispersed farms are generally of the ‘great rebuilding’ of the late 17th century © NTPL/Alasdair Ogilvie

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Lake District National Park Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines September 2008
in other areas has been depleted by agricultural improvement. There are, however, a number of small ancient semi-natural woodlands scattered within the landscape.

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 12 ha 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. Mungrisdale Mires and Overwater are also designated as SSSIs within this Landscape Character Type.

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 Monuments (SM) within this Landscape Character Type, including prehistoric cairnfields, monuments and earthworks, coppermines, hillforts, Roman forts and medieval moated sites, demonstrates lengthy human occupation, giving a strong historical character. There are some areas of parkland and designed landscapes associated with historic estates around Dalemain, Dacre and Muncaster Castle.

Development, Settlement and Building Character

- Predominantly dispersed settlement pattern, with building groups, hamlets and small villages scattered over the area;
- Settlement names include a number of ‘thwaites’, such as Branthwaite, Farthwaite, Orthwaite and Sillathwaite, indicating that these settlements were established from woodland clearings;
- The dispersed farms are generally good examples of the ‘great rebuilding’ of the late 17th century, as most of the sites were already established in medieval times along the river and valley sides;
- Buildings reflect the very varied underlying geology and surface river/glacial materials, with the use of boulders, cobbles, Skiddaw black slates, green slates, granite, limestone and sandstone; and
- Of particular significance in this Landscape Character Type are the well known examples of Grade1 listed medieval buildings, such as Dacre Castle and Church, Muncaster Castle and Church, and Hutton John Fortified Hall House.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

There are no Sub-Types within the Hill Fell Edge Landscape Character Type.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- A wide variety of settlements and land use over time, demonstrated through the varied archaeology of the area;
- Improved pasture surrounded by stone walls where intensive farming has spread onto higher ground;
- Overgrazing, resulting in a lack of taller vegetation, particularly alongside streams and on valley sides and lack of woodland regeneration;
• Outside of protected nature conservation areas ecological interest has been depleted through agricultural improvement; and
• In the past the creation of settlements through woodland clearances, indicated through place names (thwaites).

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the High Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type is considered to be generally good. There are relatively few sites important for their ecological habitats in this type as it is predominantly improved agricultural land, but there are numerous sites of historic and archaeological interest, including prehistoric funerary cairns, field systems, hut circles, stone circles and Roman forts. The stone walls and hedgerow network are generally well maintained. However, there is some evidence of the loss and poor maintenance of some hedgerows and loss of field boundary trees. The limited areas of parkland and designed landscapes in this type are generally in good condition.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of on-going management within SSSIs and National Nature Reserves. Similarly, the vast number of Scheduled Monuments will ensure a continued protection of important archaeological features within the landscape.

Negative changes are likely to include reduced budgets of national agencies and organisations to actively conserve protected areas and the continued decline of valuable habitats and features within the wider landscape. Increasing tourist visits to and through this area may increase the pressure on vulnerable areas.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key guidelines within Landscape Character Type J: High Fell Fringe are outlined below:

• **Agricultural Change and Land Management** - The intimate stream and river corridors are vulnerable to pollution and run-off associated with the predominantly adjacent pastoral fields. As these aquatic features have a high biodiversity value, improvements in catchment sensitive land management will have a positive effect on key habitats and landscape features in the area. Stone walls on higher ground are vulnerable to any moves to more extensive farming of livestock. These key landscape features could be lost through neglect or removed to enable the amalgamation of adjacent fields. Increased financial pressures and reduced availability of higher level agri-environment payments leading to field boundaries, walls and hedges and traditional farm buildings suffering from lack of management.

• **Climate Change** - In this area climate changes are likely to be less marked and provide for a more gradual change in for example, species composition or habitat characteristics. Increasing erosion activity could deplete the historic landscape record and increase the deterioration of important historical features.

• **Development** - As with many rural areas in the Lake District, increasing traffic associated with tourism and recreation could put pressure on the road system. This in turn could lead to inappropriate highway improvements or large scale schemes that permanently alter the character of the landscape. Large-scale renewable energy developments on the skyline and in key views could erode the open and generally undeveloped character of this Landscape Character Type. Loss of vernacular building styles and use of inappropriate building materials may also result in a loss of local landscape characteristics.
Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

Overall, this Landscape Character Type is considered to have moderate ecological sensitivity, with valuable ecological sites confined to wetlands or woodland (depleted in places by agricultural improvement). Cultural and historic sensitivity is high as a result of the rich archaeological record of prehistoric cairnfields, monuments and earthworks and local areas of parkland and designed landscapes. In addition to this, a dispersed settlement pattern predominates throughout. There is strong intervisibility with adjacent higher Landscape Character Types giving high visual sensitivity. Overall the High Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type has limited to moderate capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to protect and conserve the existing rich landscape resource and seek to conserve and enhance the wider landscape beyond protected areas. The strongly recognisable landscape pattern and its important natural and cultural features need special attention.

Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Actively manage** the changing landscape to ensure key landscape features and attributes are not lost through climate change or other significant agents of change;
- **Encourage** broadleaved/native woodland planting in selected areas, away from archaeological remains; and
- **Encourage** the appropriate management of semi-natural woodland, including the conservation of historic features such as charcoal pitsteads, charcoal burners huts, woodbanks, pollards, saw-pits, stone walls and tracks.

Ecological Character

- **Improve** water quality within surrounding upland catchments to protect and conserve aquatic habitats.
- **Encourage** restoration of bankside vegetation along watercourses; and
- **Encourage** sustainable management of moorland, wood pasture, gill woodland and wetland habitats.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** the archaeological and historic environment in order to maintain a rich cultural landscape;
- **Clear** archaeological sites of bracken and scrub vegetation. A low level of stock grazing is a sustainable way of achieving this but at a level that avoids erosion;
- **Retain** landscape elements such as stone gateposts and limekilns;
- **Avoid** stone clearance and the use of ancient cairns, walls and buildings as sources of building or repair material;
- **Target** agri-environment schemes to conserve and enhance valuable landscape features, including traditional farm buildings, gill woodland and rich archaeological features; and
- **Maintain** the strong landscape pattern through active management and enhancement of stone walls and other boundary features.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** the rural character of the existing road network; and
- **Protect** uncluttered skylines and key views to and from the area from tall, vertical and large-scale developments that may erode the character of the area.
TYPE K: LOW FELL

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Low Fell Landscape Character Type occupies a large proportion of the south eastern corner of the National Park and is dissected by a number of Lowland Valleys (Type M). To the south, the Low Fell slopes downwards to meet the Low Fell Fringe (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 mudstones;
- 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 becks, 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; and
- Traffic noise impacts from the A590 trunk road.

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.

The landscape to the west of 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. In places there are extensive conifer plantations, especially around the Grizedale area.

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 vegetation and mature individual trees including ash, oak and hazel; the lanes are an important part of the landscape.
Section 4.0 – Landscape Character Types

TYPE K: LOW FELL

1. Strong landscape pattern of dry stone walls with a diverse patchwork of land use types © CBA
2. Aerial Photograph showing land use pattern © GeoPerspectives
3. Rural settlement is predominately dispersed and built of local material, then lime rendered © NTPL/Val Corbett

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Ecological Character

The Low Fell Landscape Character Type supports a diverse range of habitats, including yew woods, broadleaved and mixed woodland and coniferous plantation, quarries, basin mires, man-made tarns, unimproved pastures and flushes, swamps and mosses.

Ecological interest is signified through designation of several habitats within this Landscape Character Type. Yewbarrow Woods SSSI, which lies within the well-wooded Rusland Valley is also designated as SAC for its extensive stands of yew.

This Landscape Character Type is particularly rich in important wetland sites including Claife Tarns and Mires SSSI, noted for its rich wetland flora and its outstanding assemblage of dragonflies; and Ludderburn and Candelstick Mires SSSI in which 15 species of bog moss have been recorded. In addition to this, Jenny Dam supports a population of medicinal leech. Blelham Bog, also within this Landscape Character Type, 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.

Subberthwaite, Blawith and Torver Low Commons SSSI (which is also designated SAC) 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. Tarn Hows is also noted for its aquatic plants and mire habitat. Additional ecological interest is provided within Tarn Hows SSSI, which is designated for its particularly diverse aquatic flora.

Cultural and Historical Character

This Landscape Character Type is characterised by ancient woodland, most of which was coppiced to serve various woodland industries, such as iron smelting, gunpowder manufacture and bobbin making. Single ancient farms form the basis of the dispersed settlement pattern, which is evident in the landscape today. The field systems within the structure of woodlands 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 and occurs throughout the type. The apparently natural site of Tarn Hows is a designed landscape, with the lake formed from three smaller tarns and extensive woodland plantings, which attracts very large numbers of visitors.

Development, Settlement and Building Character

- Outside the main settlements, a predominantly dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads and hamlets, with some good examples of large houses from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries;
- Overall character is of an intimate settlement pattern, with a complex network of narrow, winding roads, a strong agricultural character with clusters of buildings dotted about the landscape;
- Hawkshead is an outstanding, unique example of a late medieval, 17th and 18th century small market town, packed with historic buildings and intimate yards and spaces, and is designated as a Conservation Area; and
- Building materials of Silurian slates, limestone, rubble and dressed stone, together with limewashed render add to the identity of this Landscape Character Type.
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 Low Fell Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:

**Sub-Type K1: Forest**
- Expanses of dense semi-natural broadleaf, and coniferous woodland;
- Generally strong sense of enclosure; and
- 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; and
- Generally manicured appearance, which contrasts with surrounding more rugged types of landscape.

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

**Sub-Type K4: Moorland Ridge**
- Series of prominent knolls and ridges;
- Predominant land cover is grassland and moorland (generally open grazing common); and
- Strong pattern of stone walls forming field boundaries.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Forces for Change**

**Past Landscape Changes**

Observable changes in the past include:
- Improvement of pasture leading to marked difference between enclosed fields and open moor;
- Introduction of a network of small tracks between settlements with the only major change over time being one of surface improvement;
- Large scale tree planting – coniferous woods making up Grizedale Forest, other plantations and individual specimen trees within parkland; and
- Amalgamation of farming businesses and associated selling up of farm assets creating more homogenous landscapes that are less distinct and less typical of the locality.

**Current Landscape Condition**

The overall condition of the Low Fell Landscape Character Type is considered to be good. There is rich biodiversity within the large areas of semi-natural and coniferous woodland (much of which is on ancient woodland sites) and patchwork of rough grassland, semi-improved pasture, small broadleaved and coniferous copses, rock outcrops, heathland, tarns and becks, small wetlands, mires and bracken. The landscape pattern of dry stone walls (with a predominance of local limestone and slate) is strong. Parkland and designed landscapes are generally in good condition though there is a need to plan for
long term replacement of trees. In places, there is evidence of decline of stone walls and occasional loss of hedgerow field boundaries.

**Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities**

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of improvements in biodiversity within forestry plantations. Where possible, natural regeneration and planting of broadleaves is being introduced to improve species diversity and landscape quality. Ongoing management of key SSSIs and other areas designated for nature conservation purposes. Opening up of key views to facilitate a better understanding and appreciation of the landscape.

Negative changes are likely to include spread of bracken where grazing is lost, increasing traffic on small roads and pressure on sensitive habitats from increased access. Stone walls, hedge banks and pollards are currently being managed under the ESA Scheme and this may be undermined with on-going financial pressures. A590 trunk road upgrading damaging the topography of the landscape and further eroding tranquillity through increased traffic noise.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type K: Low Fell are outlined below:

- **Agricultural Change and Land Management** - Significant reduction in Environmentally Sensitive Area payments could lead to some of the important landscape features that make up this distinct landscape being lost or falling into disrepair, such as stone walls, hedge banks and pollards. Neglect of hedges around enclosed land could reduce the potential landscape and wildlife benefits in many places, leading to substitution by fences. Managing the transition between the end of one agri-environment scheme and another is important. Increased farm sizes may increase the demand for new large agricultural buildings and associated development affecting key views. Achieving sustainable grazing levels will be critical to maintaining the higher ground within the Low Fells. Where grazing activity is reduced, it is likely that there will be a spread of bracken. The changing nature and economics of forestry in the long term could impact on significant parts of the Low Fell through increased or decreased timber production. Small-scale coniferous forestation could change the character and nature of the landscape.

- **Climate Change** - Climate change may have a variety of potential impacts on the designed landscape (a key feature within this landscape type) and retaining the historical integrity of some landscapes may be difficult to achieve over the long term. Climate change may also affect small valley streams by increasing alien species, with water courses serving to rapidly distribute seed and plant material throughout catchments. It is also possible that climate change will change the temperature of key lakes, increasing eutrophication and putting pressure on niche fish species such as Artic Char;

- **Development** – This Landscape Character Type is adjacent to some of the largest towns within this part of the Lake District and therefore will be directly affected by increasing pressure for residential and other town related developments. Recreational developments and associated pressures such as car parking and transport may erode some of the key attributes found within this landscape type such as the network of minor roads and tracks. Also, increased tourism and growth in holiday development and second homes, will potentially lead to land originally under pasture or part of large estates being sold for development. There will also be continued pressure for access to water for recreational pursuits potentially creating pollution, loss of tranquillity and pressure on sensitive habitats. Increased pressure for new residential development may also lead to a loss of vernacular buildings and loss of local distinctiveness.
Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

The diverse range of ecological habitats within this Landscape Character Type (including rough grassland, heathland, tarns and becks, woodland, wetland, mores mires and bracken – several of which are designated as SSSI), contribute to overall high ecological sensitivity. Visual sensitivity is also considered to be high, as a result of the strong sense of openness throughout and strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types. Coupled with this, a generally rural character predominates throughout, alongside a largely dispersed settlement pattern, including ancient enclosures. Patches of parkland contribute to high cultural sensitivity. Overall, the Low Fell Landscape Character Type is considered to have limited capacity to accommodate new development without compromising key characteristics.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type, is to conserve and enhance the interface between settlements and their surrounding landscape and support the conservation of key landscape features within the wider landscape. The key landscape elements include, semi-natural woodland, heathland, parkland, stone walls, hedges, hedgebanks and other boundary features.

Specific guidelines include:

Physical Character

- **Target** agri-environment scheme support for heathland, small woods, parkland, and boundary features which strengthen the landscape pattern within this landscape type;
- **Encourage** the creation of new native woodland at the edges of existing unsympathetic conifer plantations; and
- **Encourage** the creation of new woodland along appropriate riverbanks, which complements existing woodland pattern.

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** the creation of new native woodland to infill between existing woods where this would be of landscape or wildlife benefit;
- **Control** deer browsing and grazing pressures; and
- **Expand** and **enhance** semi natural habitats between designated sites to improve the existing ecological network and increase robustness to climate change.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** the archaeological and historic environment in order to maintain a rich cultural landscape;
- **Prepare** and **plan for** the potential impacts of economic change in order to minimise negative landscape impacts within the landscape;
- **Ensure** incremental change in and around towns conserves the distinctive qualities of the wider landscape; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** yards and spaces in villages;

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** the rural character of the existing road network;
- **Protect** uncluttered skylines and key views to and from the area from tall, vertical and large-scale developments that may erode the undeveloped character of the area.

In addition to the above, guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:
Sub-Type K1: Forest

Physical Character

- **Enhance** existing patterns of woodland cover and maintain a range of woodland types;
- **Encourage** natural regeneration and replanting with native broadleaves

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Encourage** the retention of smaller, irregular fields and the maintenance of the boundaries and field furniture;
- **Manage** the impacts of large/ frequent recreation events or regular visits in order to reduce the pressure on sensitive landscape characteristics and features.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Sub-Type K2: Parkland

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve and enhance** parkland boundaries and key relict parkland features that provide time depth within the modern landscape;
- **Actively manage** the non-native and exotic species to maintain and sustain their historic character;
- **Conserve** the character of parks and designed landscapes by replacement planting. This should reflect the valance of plant species in the original design. Consideration should be given to complete felling and replacement of features such as avenues which have become over-mature; and
- **Identify** and plan for potential impacts of climate change on designed landscape in order to better understand ability to adapt, for example succession planning for parkland trees.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Sub-Type K3: Farmland

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.
**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Conserve** and **repair** the intact network of limestone and slate walls in order to strengthen and maintain landscape pattern.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Sub-Type K4: Moorland Ridge**

**Physical Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Ecological Character**

- **Sustain** an appropriate grazing regime in order to manage the mosaic of habitats and contribute to the biodiversity value and perception of naturalness.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- No guidelines recommended.
TYPE L: LOW FELL FRINGE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Low Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type is situated at the south eastern 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; and
- Recognisable landscape pattern of stone walls at field boundaries.

Physical Character

The Low Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type forms transitional landscape between the higher land of the Low Fell to the north and the predominantly 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 Fringe 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 and in field trees or clumps of trees. On the higher ground, 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, with much ancient woodland. Where large areas of scrub encroach, these provide cover, refuge and feeding grounds for many species of fauna. In general, this landscape has been depleted by agricultural improvements, however there are still several small ecologically rich sites (designated as SSSIs). Many of these are wetlands or woodlands.

Roundsea Woods and Roundsea Mosses are located within this Landscape Character Type. Woodland is exceptionally diverse, lying almost at sea level and dominated by ash and pedunculate oak. To the eastern side of this site, several estuarine raised bogs/mosses form extensive areas of lowland raised mire, with waterlogged peat-filled hollows scattered amongst them and the adjacent woodland. The importance of Roundsea Wood and Mosses is reflected in its designation as SSSI and SAC. It is also managed as a National Nature Reserve. Outley Mosses are also located within this Landscape Character Type and designated as a SSSI.

Cultural and Historical Character

The character of this area is distinguished by a patchwork of enclosure types and ancient woodland which occurs across the area, but is concentrated 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 ancienly enclosed land, and hedgerows, in the low-lying planned and ancient enclosures. Settlement
TYPE L: LOW FELL FRINGE

1. Aerial Photograph showing typical field pattern and the transition between High Fells and lower coastal landscapes © GeoPerspectives
2. Combination of rolling, undulating or plateau farmland with recognisable landscape pattern of stone walls at field boundaries © CBA
comprises a number of small nucleated villages, 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 and houses, within a network of minor roads;
- Main settlements of Backbarrow and Haverthwaite/Low Wood, clustered along the Leven Valley, with the influence of past industry still contributing significant features, from individual sites to the associated workers housing; and
- Stone used for buildings reflects the underlying geology, with rubble slatestone, quarry waste, dressed sandstone and limestone, but also the very distinctive yellow Furness brickwork of the railway buildings between Lakeside and Haverthwaite.

Landscape Character Sub-Types

There are no Sub-Types within the Low Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type.

CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forces for Change

Past Landscape Changes

Observable changes in the past include:

- Continued use and management of ancient woodland;
- Development of industries such as iron smelting;
- Settlement around industrial workings;
- Construction of the railway and expansion of the tourism industry; and
- Construction of the A590 High and Low Newton Bypass.

Current Landscape Condition

The overall condition of the Low Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type is considered to be good. Full hedgerows or intact stone walls often frame fields, and pockets of woodland, scrub and mosses enrich the ecology and visual interest of this Landscape Character Type. There are some elements showing signs of decline in some places, particularly the loss or poor maintenance of stone wall and hedgerow field boundaries. Overall, however, there is a predominantly intact landscape pattern throughout this Landscape Character Type.

Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of continuing management of ancient woodlands and increasing focus on biodiversity. An increasing recognition of the cultural landscape and an integration of tourism with sustainable management of the landscape (local foods/ traditional breeds/ working woodlands).

Negative changes are likely to include increasing pressure from traffic and large numbers of people in the small villages and rural lanes. Other associated pressures such as increasing air and water pollution would result in a deteriorating quality of environment. A590 trunk road upgrading damaging the topography of the landscape and further eroding tranquillity through increased traffic noise.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type L: Low Fell Fringe are outlined below:
• **Agricultural Change and Land Management** - Being a predominantly pastoral landscape lying between High Fell and Lowland, this area is vulnerable to significant changes in agriculture eroding its distinct characteristics. The impact of the amalgamation of farming businesses and associated selling up of farm assets may not be immediately obvious in these transition zones. However, the effect may be to create more homogenous landscapes that are less distinct and less typical of the locality, with a loss of key landscape features.

• **Climate Change** - The small valleys of this landscape type with their numerous streams and minor rivers could be widely affected by increases in alien species as a result of climate change. The water courses will serve to rapidly distribute seed and plant material throughout catchments and could be a significant challenge to manage.

• **Development** - With a trend towards increased farm size, there may be an increased demand for new large agricultural buildings and associated development that could have significant local impacts. These new buildings and changes in traditional building use into residential or tourist related infrastructure could affect key views. There is likely to be continued pressure for access to water for recreational pursuits creating pollution and loss of tranquillity. Communication developments could also lead to increased visual clutter from mobile phone masts and inappropriately designed transport schemes. Increased pressure for further road upgrading and infrastructure such as signage, lighting and safety barriers.

**Sensitivities and Capacity for change**

Patches of semi-improved pasture, small river valleys and ancient deciduous woodlands contribute to a generally moderate ecological sensitivity within the Low Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type. A recognisable pattern of stone walls at field boundaries and small nucleated settlements contribute to cultural sensitivity within the Type. Overall, intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types is strong. The Low Fell Fringe Landscape Character Type is judged to have limited to moderate capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

The overall management strategy for this Landscape Character Type, is to mitigate the effect of the changing rural economy through the conservation and enhancement of natural and cultural landscape through the retention and active management of positive landscape attributes. These are the traditional farm buildings, boundary features, rural road network and ancient woodland and other nature conservation assets.

Specific guidelines include:

**Physical Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Ecological Character**

- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change; and
- **Manage** water courses to prevent the spread of alien species in order to retain species diversity and landscape character.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Provide** appropriate support for rural businesses planning on diversifying or changing the scale of their operation, in order to minimise the potential impacts on the key landscape characteristics within this landscape type;
• **Target** agri-environment scheme support for traditional farm building conservation, boundary features such as hedgerows and stone walls and nature conservation areas such as small ancient woodlands; and

• **Ensure** new significant developments retain the distinct landscape and vernacular building characteristics of this area.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

• **Conserve** the rural character of the existing road network.
TYPE M: LOWLAND VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The 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 mudstones and siltstones from the Silurian Age;
- Mixed landcover of pastoral grazing land and woodland (predominantly broadleaved) adjacent to the rivers or lakes;
- Parkland is a key feature (exhibiting mature landscape structure) along dale sides and around lakeshores; and
- Pattern of stone walls and hedgerows delineating field boundaries.

Physical Character

The 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 glaciated 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. Hedges, replaced in areas by fences, form most field boundaries with frequent hedgerow trees and occasional stone walls. Parkland with mature open-grown trees is also a key feature within several of the 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 valley between 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 designated SSSI. The site was designated as the only known locality in England and Wales for the slender niad, although this has not been recorded since 1982. The nationally scarce elongated sedge has also been recorded here.

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 breed regularly and for this reason the lake is designated as a Ramsar Site.

Rusland Moss NNR, at the head of the Rusland Valley forms the northern part of one of the few remaining raised mires (peat bogs) in the country. Sphagnum (bog) mosses dominate the uncut areas of the moss, with purple moor grass in the cut areas and fen and carr woodland at the edges. Lake Windermere provides a valuable ecological habitat for Arctic Char. Considerable ecological interest is
TYPE M: LOWLAND VALLEY

1. Underlying geology varies, but predominantly consists of Mudstones and Siltstones © NTPL/Paul Harris

2. Aerial Photograph showing typical field pattern © GeoPerspectives

3. Broad valleys, containing a river or lake on the valley floor © NTPL/Paul Harris
provided by hydrosere – which display a range of plant communities from underwater plants to reedy fringes to wet woodland to dry oak woods.

Dodgson Wood, located above the eastern shores of Coniston Water, supports a rich and diverse composition of woodland types. Low Wray Bay and Nichols Moss are also both designated as SSSIs. Low Wray Bay is the type site for the Windermere Interstadial (a warmer interlude during a period of cold climate) and Nichols Moss is a raised peat bog, which is surrounded by dense Scots Pine and birch woodland.

Cultural and Historical Character

This Landscape Character Type includes the relatively extensive 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 18th and 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 perceived 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.

Development, Settlement and Building Character

- Although grouped within one Landscape Character Type, these linear valleys contrast with each other in terms of historical development, as well as the character of buildings and settlements;
- Includes the largest urban area in the Lake District, with Windermere and Bowness on Windermere, as well as the large village of Coniston;
- Building materials include rubble and limewashed render, Silurian slatestones, green slate, smooth stucco render, neatly laid quarry waste and dressed sandstone detailing. Victorian buildings display quality timberwork, especially with ornate, fretted bargeboards;
- Coniston Water and Lake Windermere were major transport routeways for bulky products in the pre-railway period, which influenced the lakeshore settlements and prosperity of the area. Post-railway, both settlements experienced significant Victorian expansion, related to local industries and tourism;
- Bowness on Windermere, originally a compact settlement grouped around a large medieval church, is a designated Conservation Area. In contrast, Windermere was a creation of railway tourism after the mid-19th century;
- Victorian architecture, with confident use of local imported materials, not only dominates the urban settlements, but also adds significantly to the valleys and lakeshore character;
- Outside the main settlements, the pattern is predominantly dispersed, consisting of isolated farmsteads, houses, small groups and hamlets; and
- The north west shoreline and in particular the eastern shoreline of Lake Windermere has a very distinctive character, with numerous grand houses, set within well matured landscaped and wooded grounds. Contains very fine nationally important exemplars of Georgian, Regency, Classical Revival, Victorian Gothic and Arts and Crafts architecture.

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 Lowland Valley Landscape Character Type. Specific characteristics that are unique to these Sub-Types are:
**Sub-Type M1: Valley Floor with Lake**

- Wide, predominantly flat valley floor and floodplain; and
- Landscape is dominated by lake.

**Sub-Type M2: Valley Floor with River Floodplain**

- Wide, predominantly flat valley floor and floodplain; and
- Broad or narrow river dominates landscape unless screened by trees.

**Sub-Type M3: Enclosed Valley Side**

- Sloping landscape forming the lower valley sides; and
- Visible network of walls of hedgerows delineate field boundaries.

**Sub-Type M4: Open Valley Side**

- Sloping to higher plateau-shaped topography, where lower valley sides meet adjacent Low Fell Landscape Character Types; and
- General absence of boundaries dividing fields.

**CURRENT AND FUTURE LANDSCAPE CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**Forces for Change**

**Past Landscape Changes**

Observable changes in the past include:
- Glacial activity that created distinct valley form;
- Development of a wide range of aquatic habitats and species associated with the streams, rivers and lakes;
- Deterioration of water quality in Esthwaite Lake;
- Loss of reedbeds on Windermere, increased algal blooms on Windermere;
- Deterioration of lakeshore vegetation associated with increased access and development;
- Spread of development through valleys associated with cotton and tourism industry in the 19th century;
- Managed and formal landscapes have developed along many lakeshores associated with large houses and estates; and
- Marked change in the type of recreational use of Windermere and increased use through the winter months.

**Current Landscape Condition**

The overall condition of the Lowland Valley Landscape Character Type is considered to be good, with its high water quality (within numerous rivers, streams and lakes) and rich biodiversity in woodland and other habitats. The largely intact, strong pattern of hedgerows and stone walls delineating field boundaries and mature, well maintained parkland landscapes further contribute to the predominantly good condition of landscapes within this Landscape Character Type. Occasionally there is evidence of decline in the management of stone walls and hedgerows.

**Future Landscape Changes and Opportunities**

In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive changes in the form of stricter controls managing recreation in and around the major lakes. A relatively buoyant economy leading to a regeneration of key buildings and recreational facilities following a significant period of decline. The
The introduction of the Water Framework Directive should begin to have an impact on the quality of water within the main catchments.

Negative changes are likely to include increased pressure for new residential buildings and energy and communication developments. There is also likely to be a continuing pressure for access to water for recreational pursuits.

Longer-term changes (20+ years) will be dependent on prevailing incentives and policies and it is therefore challenging to be prescriptive. The Lake District National Park Management Plan will provide a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the area. Potential longer-term changes and key opportunities within Landscape Character Type M: Lowland Valley are outlined below:

- **Agricultural Change and Land Management** - The greatest change within this Landscape Character Type is likely to come from changing land use. With increased tourism and a growth in holiday developments and second homes, land originally under pasture may be sold for development. Large estates may be divided up into lots and sold off gradually reducing the unity of land management within the landscape and threatening the integrity of parkland landscapes. The Water Framework Directive should have a significant long term impact on improving the quality of water resources and their management within this Landscape Character Type.

- **Climate Change** - Climate change is already having a marked effect on the temperature of key lakes with measurements taken over the last sixteen years showing an average rise of four degrees. Temperature rise will increase eutrophication and put pressure on niche fish species such as Arctic Char.

- **Development** - Similar to changes in land use and management, development pressures may lead to a loss of vernacular buildings and reduction in use of local building materials. Communication developments may lead to increased visual clutter from mobile phone masts and inappropriately designed transport schemes.

**Sensitivities and Capacity for Change**

Ecological sensitivity within this Landscape Character Type is considered to be relatively high overall, resulting from a series of valuable habitats associated with the numerous rivers, streams and lakes. Cultural and historical sensitivity is also relatively high, resulting from the formal and designed lakeshore landscapes and single ancient farms. This Landscape Character Type is judged to have high visual sensitivity on account of the strong intervisibility with surrounding Low Fell and Low Fell Fringe Landscape Character Types. Overall, the Lowland Valley Landscape Character Type is considered to have limited to moderate capacity to accommodate change without compromising key characteristics.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

The overall strategy for this Landscape Character Type is to conserve and enhance the wide variety of distinct landscape attributes through development control. Water quality and sustainable water and land use management should be a key priority.

Specific guidelines include:

**Physical Character**

- **Ensure** effective catchment management to sustain water quality; and
- **Encourage** the creation of new woodland along appropriate riverbanks, which complements the existing woodland pattern.
Ecological Character

- **Restore** and **enhance** wetland habitats;
- **Target** agri-environment scheme support for management of broadleaved woodland, wetland, pasture and meadow habitats and parkland;
- **Encourage** habitat linkage to increase robustness to climate change; and
- **Encourage** the creation of new orchards in the Lyth and Kent valleys.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Encourage** use of local materials and vernacular styles in developments to strengthen local character including simple rubble and limewashed render, Silurian slates stones, green slate, smooth stucco render, neatly laid quarry waste and dressed sandstone detailing and fretted timber bargeboards.
- **Ensure** new significant developments retain the distinct landscape characteristics of this area;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** the distinct pattern of stone walls and hedgerows delineating field boundaries in order to maintain landscape structure; and
- **Encourage** owners of designed landscapes which are not eligible for agri-environment schemes to restore and maintain the integrity of the planting for the future, especially planning for the replacement of specimen trees, and to consider the effects of climate change in so doing;

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.

In addition to the above, guidelines for managing landscape change within specific Sub-Types include:

**Sub-Type M1: Valley Floor with Lake**

**Physical Character**

- **Protect** water courses and lakes from diffuse and point source pollution to prevent damage of aquatic habitats and reduction of recreational and aesthetic enjoyment of the water environment;

**Ecological Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Encourage** sympathetic management of property adjacent to lakeshore to ensure conservation of distinctive local character and lakeshore vegetation.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Sub-Type M2: Valley Floor with River Floodplain**

**Physical Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Ecological Character**

- No guidelines recommended.
5.0 AREAS OF DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section presents descriptions and guidelines for geographically unique Areas of Distinctive Character defined within the National Park.

5.2 Area of Distinctive Character Descriptions and Guidelines

Character Assessment

5.2.1 For each Area of Distinctive Character, its boundaries are mapped (see Figure 3.4) and its character described (and illustrated where appropriate) under the following headings:

- Location – a short paragraph detailing location of the Area of Distinctive Character in relation to the National Park and key landscape features;

- Relevant Landscape Character Types – a bullet point list of the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) that underlie the Area of Distinctive Character;

- 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; and

- 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.

Landscape Evaluation

5.2.2 Each Area of Distinctive Character is evaluated as follows.

- Landscape Sensitivities – a bullet point list of the key positive attributes 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.

- Forces for Change – a bullet point list of forces for change specific to each Area of Distinctive Character.

Guidelines for Managing Landscape Change

5.2.3 The guidelines comprise a bullet point list of specific guidelines for managing landscape change for each Area of Distinctive Character.

5.2.4 The following descriptions and guidelines for the Areas of Distinctive Character should be read in conjunction with the underlying Landscape Character Types set out in Section 4.0. The guidelines do not apply to areas of landscape outside the boundary of the Lake District National Park.
AREA 1: BLINDCRAKE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Blindcrake Area of Distinctive Character is situated at the north western edge of the Lake District, to the northeast of Cockermouth and extends outside the northern boundary of the National Park.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Upland Limestone Farmland (I); and
- High Fell Fringe (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Gently rolling upland pastoral farmland, of a high open nature, divided by a network of low hedgerows and well maintained limestone walls which follow the rising and falling topography;
- Network of narrow (often straight) 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;
- Blindcrake is a unique linear settlement with a string of traditional rendered and limewashed farmhouses and stone barns lining the village street;
- The village green, specimen trees and some woodland add to the distinctive character of this historic village;
- Stretching back from the individual farms, the fossilised Medieval field strip pattern, later enclosed with hedges and a few stone walls, is undoubtedly the finest example of its type in the Lake District;
- Outcrop of Limestone crags and pavement at Clints Crags and Sunderland Heads dropping in tiers down towards Isel in the Derwent Valley;
- Intermediate backdrop of rising land of Setmurthy Common to the south and more distant backdrop of High Fells further to the south;
- Although limestone is a predominant material for field walls, the traditional buildings use a variety of rubble stones, as well as limestone and sandstone; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area away from the A595 and A591 due to the absence of road, train and urban area noise and night time light pollution.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The predominant characteristic of this area is its high, open nature, with patchworks of muted and harmonious pasture fields, which are divided by a series of traditional limestone drystone walls and mature hedgerows. The 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 southern boundary is partially delineated by the craggy outcrop of limestone at Clint Crags, dropping in tiers down towards the wooded old Deer Park at Isel, in the Derwent Valley.

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

In this area, the most distinctive settlement is Blindcrake, which displays a former medieval linear village layout and field pattern. The former large open fields were subdivided into long, thin arable strips, running at right angles to the village street. Good visual evidence of medieval ‘ridge and furrow’ in most strips. Later enclosure with thorn hedges and a few stone walls has fossilised this historic landscape pattern, and is perpetuated in the current fragmented arrangement of land ownership. 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. The area is predominantly
tranquil away from the A595 and A591. In close proximity to these roads, the sense of tranquility is disturbed by traffic noise.

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Substantial network of hedgerows and stone walls, which are often poorly managed;
- Small-scale settlement pattern, which is vulnerable to potential expansions at the edges of villages, such as Blindcrake and Bewaldeth; and the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials and character;
- Dramatic open views southwards towards imposing High Fells;
- Small, species-rich patches of woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure;
- Predominantly rural nature of the road network, which is sensitive to potential increases in traffic volume and signage clutter; and
- Strong sense of tranquillity at distance from main road corridors.

**Forces for Change**

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Sustained pressure to develop wind farms close to the National Park leading to increased development of key skylines and views eroding valuable landscape quality.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Ecological Character**

- Conserve small, species-rich patches of woodland.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- Conserve and enhance the network of hedgerows and limestone, drystone walls which provide evidence of the medieval field system; and
- Conserve the small-scale settlement pattern from significant large scale village edge development;
- Ensure that large-scale buildings respect local vernacular building materials and character.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- Conserve the open character of the village green;
- Protect key open views in all directions, especially north towards the Solway Coast AONB/Solway Firth;
- Conserve the rural nature of the road network; and
- Conserve the predominantly strong sense of tranquillity throughout.
AREA 2: BASSENTHWAITE AND ULDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Bassenthwaite and Uldale Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the north western corner of the Lake District National Park, to the north east of Bassenthwaite Lake.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)
- Upland Valley (H);
- Upland Limestone Farmland (I); and
- High Fell Fringe (J).

Distinctive Characteristics
- Over Water nestled comfortably against a colourful backdrop of surrounding grass covered fells;
- 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, and Binsey Fell to the west, which provide strong recognisable sense of place and sense of enclosure;
- Distinctive topographical unit (rounded fell) of Binsey with a heather covered top to the east, rising to a height of 447m, affording significant 360 degree views;
- Relatively soft, rolling, pastoral landscape, with deciduous vegetation in woodland blocks, hedgerows and hedgerow trees;
- Strongly textured landscape, due to the pattern of a diversity of field sizes, dominated by hedgerows;
- The underlying geology of slates, mudstone and limestone is reflected in the variety of building materials used in the farmsteads, hamlets and villages;
- Uldale, an attractive village grouped around the cross-roads and village green, has a variety of buildings from rugged barns to formal 18th century houses, using rubble, sandstone, limestone, slate and render;
- Bassenthwaite has a tight, intimate character with older buildings using boulders, cobbles, various slates and render. Modern development has helped the sense of enclosure around the village green.
- 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 north eastern corner of the area, Over Water, with its narrow fringe of surrounding shoreline wet grassland and woodland, sits comfortably within the surrounding landscape overlooking Uldale, Binsey and Aughertree Fells.

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

Bassenthwaite village to the north east of Bassenthwaite Lake contains a mixture of traditional limewashed rendered houses and stone rubble barns, together with modern houses and extensions. A prominent late Victorian church with its tall, narrow spire lies alongside the A591, but the ancient church of St Bega, near the lakeshore is a more interesting landscape feature, as well as possessing a fine 12th and 13th century interior. The heather-topped, rounded Binsey Fell is a landmark feature, which affords panoramic views across surrounding landscape from its top.

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 south west. 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. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to minimal sources of artificial noise and lack of major roads and developments. To the south of the area, sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed by the presence of the A591 and traffic noise on this busy trunk road.

‘The possibility of getting off the beaten track, and the osprey at Bassenthwaite are highlights to our visit.’

Yearly visitor from London, 2007 Public Consultation Questionnaire

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Regular blocks of deciduous woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure and are sensitive to changes in agricultural practice;
- Mature hedgerow network which is also sensitive to agricultural changes;
- Over Water, which is vulnerable to potential pollution from run-off associated with adjacent pastoral fields;
- Open views towards Skiddaw massif and the Uldale Fells, which are vulnerable to interruption from any potential vertical or tall built developments;
- Panoramic 360° views from the top of Binsey Fell which are vulnerable to interruption;
- Small-scale settlement pattern, which is sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character; and
- Strongly rural character and associated rural road network, coupled with strong sense of tranquillity.

**Forces for Change**

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Change in agri-environment payments having a knock on effect on both biodiversity and landscape character;
- Increased pressure from residential and tourist related developments affecting the quality of the landscape;
- Sustained pressure to develop wind farms leading to increased development of key skylines and views eroding valuable landscape quality;
- Loss of vernacular styles of building and use of inappropriate building materials resulting in the loss of local landscape characteristics; and
- Loss of traditional skills and a reduction in the use of appropriate local materials eroding distinct characteristics of the landscape.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- **Conserve and enhance** regular blocks of woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure; and
- **Protect** water bodies such as Over Water, which are vulnerable to potential pollution from run-off.
Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature hedgerow network;
- **Protect** the small-scale settlement pattern from significant large-scale village edge development;
- **Ensure** new buildings are sensitively designed to respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character; and
- **Encourage** and support the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** uncluttered skylines and key open views towards Skiddaw massif and the Uldale Fells and panoramic views from the top of Binsey Fell;
- **Conserve** the open character of the village green; and
- **Conserve** rural character and associated rural road network and **protect** strong sense of tranquillity.
AREA 3: SKIDDAW AND BLENACHTHRA

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the north of the National Park, to the north east of Keswick.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell (G)

Distinctive Characteristics

- Distinctive profiles of the hills are landmarks within views 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;
- Popular summits with many views of walkers on ridges against the skyline;
- 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 around the perimeter of the massif there are panoramic views in all directions;
- The striking rounded landform of this area, rising from surrounding flatter ground is one of the key defining features;
- Walls built from thin, angular pieces of Skiddaw rock slate;
- Native broadleaved woodlands on Latrigg contribute to the complexity of pattern, texture and colours; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the relative absence of dwellings, few sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influence. The exception being the southern fell slopes facing the constant A66 traffic noise.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

With the exception of the summit crags, the texture of the landscape in this area is relatively 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, grass, bracken and scree. The colour of the acid grassland, bracken, heather and other ground-cover vegetation varies throughout the year, giving a continually changing backdrop of greens, browns, gold and purples. Areas of woodland, now mostly coniferous, cloak the lower south-western slopes, with oak on Latrigg and remnant ghyll woodlands contributing different textures and splashes of seasonal colour.

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 other boundary features, and buildings are limited to the isolated bunkhouse at Back-o’-Skiddaw and properties 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 Area of Distinctive Character feel extraordinarily remote and tranquil away from the busy A66 road skirting the area to the south.

The lack of enclosure by walls, fences or vegetation gives the landscape a simple form, with a large scale and an open feel. From the higher slopes, there are magnificent views over long distances in all
directions. To the north there are views across the Solway Firth to Scotland, to the west to the Derwent fells, to the south over Keswick and Derwentwater to the central fells and to the east over the Eden Valley to the Pennines.

At the large scale the summit area of Skiddaw is renowned for its periglacial features with good examples of stone stripes in the Skiddaw slate. The massif supports one of the largest areas of montane heath in the Lake District and one of the best examples of altitudinal transition from dwarf shrub heath to montane heath. One of the only two examples of relict oak woodland at its upper altitudinal limit is found at Young Wood in Mungrisedale. This area also has a rich archaeological record of mining sites.

The distinctive profile of Skiddaw, with its rounded summits, and the classic saddle-shape of Blencathra are important local landmarks, contributing to the sense of place for much of the northern Lake District and the latter is an important landmark on the approaches to the Lake District from the east.

‘Skiddaw and its outliers rise magnificently across the wide Vale of Keswick in a beautifully-symmetrical arrangement as if posed for a family photography. The old man himself is the central figure at the back of the group, with the five old children in a line before him (the favourite son, Little Man, being placed nearest) and the two younger at the front.’

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright’s Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells, Dyer1994.40 (v Skiddaw 4)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Undeveloped, rural character with associated strong sense of isolation and tranquillity;
- Predominantly open character, with a lack of enclosure and built development;
- Strong visual relationship and intervisibility with adjacent settlements, including Keswick, Thelkeld and Mungrisdale and neighbouring ADCs;
- Rich archaeological record of mining sites, which are sensitive to disturbance from walkers and visitors; and
- Open, uninterrupted and undeveloped skylines, which are sensitive to any potential vertical or large-scale developments.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- High stocking rates in the past have lead to the replacement of heather habitat with acid grassland. Since foot and mouth disease in 2001 significant reductions in stocking rates on parts of the massif have yielded improvements in the vegetation mosaic;
- Reduction in non-native conifer woodland and planting of native woodland on gillsides enhancing habitat diversity and visual interest;
- Continued grazing within Young Wood preventing regeneration and leading to its continued decline; and
- Pressure for large-scale renewable energy developments on the skyline and surrounding area.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:
Physical Character

- **Restore** areas identified as being at high risk of erosion through development of appropriate vegetation, including broadleaved woodland in order to protect Bassenthwaite Lake from siltation.

Ecological Character

- **Restore** and **enhance** upland vegetation types, which are vulnerable to overgrazing, inappropriate burning and recreational pressures.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Manage** risk of fire to minimise potential damage; and
- **Conserve** mining and other archaeological sites.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** the undeveloped, rural character of the area with its associated strong sense of isolation and tranquillity;
- **Reduce** noise pollution from the A66 and **ensure** no further upgrading;
- **Conserve** the open character, with a lack of enclosure and absence of built development;
- **Protect** dramatic uncluttered open views to and from the fells, including towards the Pennines from interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** the strong visual relationship and intervisibility with adjacent settlements, including Keswick, Thelkeld and Mungrisdale.
AREA 4: MUNGRISDALE AND CALDBECK

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Mungrisdale and Caldbeck Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the northeast of the Lake District National Park, curving around the north eastern flanks of Skiddaw massif.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Upland Limestone Farmland (I)
- High Fell Fringe (J)

Distinctive Characteristics

- Patchwork of predominantly pastoral fields, within the shadow of the dramatic bulk of Blencathra;
- Dramatic views of the surrounding sweeping fells, the saddleback shape of Blencathra, which provides a strong sense of distant enclosure;
- Clear views towards the North Pennines, with Greystoke Forest a dominant ridge feature;
- 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;
- Traditional buildings make a significant contribution to the character of this area, and there are striking contrasts between the main settlements;
- Caldbeck has a distinctive air of former prosperity and confidence, reflected in the quality of buildings. The medieval church is one of the finest in the Lake District. Buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries use the distinctive local pale pink, purple or buff sandstones for walling and door/window surrounds;
- Hesket Newmarket was formally laid out as a neat small market centre, around village greens, with well proportioned 18th and 19th century houses in local sandstone and render;
- Mungrisdale and Mosedale have a more rugged, agricultural character, through the use of dark Skiddaw slates, cobbles, rubble and red sandstone detailing;
- Hedge field boundaries give way to limestone dry stone walls travelling east through the area past Hesket;
- Several narrow rural roads without boundaries provide a sense of openness and clear views; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape due to the relative absence of large settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and absence of main roads.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Mungrisdale and Caldbeck’s distinctiveness lies within its unique, stark contrast between the rich patchwork of rolling pastoral farmland (delineated by hedges, dry stone walls or fences), small clumps of woodland, wildflower meadows (near Hesket Newmarket) and 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 and Blencathra Range, towering over the area, contributes to a strongly recognisable sense of place and provides orientation. Clear views to the north Pennines, with Greystoke Forest providing a dominant feature on the horizon are also characteristic of this area. The large village of Caldbeck has a very strong identity. It reflects a prosperous past through agriculture, mining, quarrying and in particular, water-powered industries, e.g., corn milling, textiles, bobbins and a brewery. Nearby is Hesket Newmarket, a much more formal arrangement of buildings, with an overall sense of unity and coherence. Both villages fit comfortably within the gentle 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 northwards towards the Solway Estuary, and Scotland. From the eastern slopes of Blencathra uninterrupted views across the Greystoke ridge to the gentle Eden Valley and distant North Pennines provide a rich contrast.

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 Valley; the distinctive round shapes of Great Mell Fell and Little Mell Fell to the south, Threlkeld and Matterdale Commons to the south west 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, which is relatively strong, despite the presence of small hamlets and villages.

‘These places [Caldbeck Fell Mines], for so long scenes of great activity, have today the sad desolation of death about them, but Nature is a great healer, given time, and traces of many former workings have disappeared except for the adits to the old levels.’

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright’s Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells, Dyer1994.54 (v High Pike 3)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Dramatic, open views to and from the surrounding sweeping fells and the saddleback shape of Blencathra, which provide a strong sense of distant enclosure and are highly vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale development;
- Mineral mines scattered across the landscape, which are sensitive to disturbance from walkers and visitors;
- Network of rural roads, which are vulnerable to increases in traffic volume and frequency;
- Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout the area; and
- Small-scale and contained settlement pattern, represented by the hamlets of Caldbeck and Heskett Newmarket, which are sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character.

Forces for Change

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

Guidelines for Managing Landscape Change

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** mineral mines scattered across the landscape, which are sensitive to disturbance from walkers and visitors;
- **Retain** small-scale and contained settlement pattern, represented by the hamlets of Caldbeck and Heskett Newmarket;
- **Ensure** that new developments and large-scale buildings respect or strengthen local vernacular building materials (including red sandstone) and character;
- **Maintain** and **restore** the hedges and drystone walls; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric (e.g. fenestration) and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** dramatic, open views to and from the surrounding sweeping fells and the saddleback shape of Blencathra from interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** the network of rural roads by resisting excessive signage;
- **Conserve** the strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout the area; and
- **Conserve** the open character of the village greens.
AREA 5: DERWENT VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

The Derwent Valley 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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Upland Valley (H); and
- High Fell Fringe (J).

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 Broom 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) and some walls;
- Mature parkland landscape with a distinctive combination of single parkland trees within fields and mature Oak avenues lining road corridors create a green canopy in spring and summer;
- Large grand buildings (such as Isel, Higham and Armathwaite Halls), neatly presented estate cottages and a harmonious combination of mature parkland trees set within organised parkland contributes to an organised character, and reflecting the neighbouring limestone geology.
- Sense of enclosure provided by regular-sided patches and belts of mixed woodland, interspersed within the pasture fields; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape in the central and eastern part of the area (at distance from the edge of Cockermouth) due to the relative absence of settlements minimal sources of artificial noise and absence of main roads.

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, with land sloping up quickly to Setmurthy on the south and more gently to the north. At the eastern end of the area, the river joins Bassenthwaite Lake and is crossed by the 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, with small broadleaved woodlands. Longer distance views to imposing rising backdrop of the high horizons of Whinlatter and Grizedale Pike to the south (with Broom 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 estate parkland. The designed nature of the landscapes associated with large grand buildings such as Isel Hall with its prominent fortified tower, early 19th century Higham Hall and late Victorian Armthwaite Hall, neatly presented estate cottages and a harmonious combination of mature parkland trees set within parkland contributes to an organised character, which contrasts with adjacent High Fell Fringe landscapes. The
medieval deer parks at Isel Hall and Isel Old Park are now predominantly replanted with coniferous woodland, introducing an element of discord in an otherwise harmonious landscape. Overall, there is strong visual coherence and unity in terms of colour and texture. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity towards the centre and eastern half. This is due to a relative absence of settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and absence of main roads. Sense of tranquillity is slightly disturbed in the west by the visibility of the edge of Cockermouth and increased night time light pollution.

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Open views to Whinlatter and Grizedale Pike to the south (with Broom Fell and Kirk Fell in the foreground), which are sensitive to interruption by vertical or large-scale development;
- River Derwent and its adjacent floodplain habitats, which are vulnerable to pollution from run-off associated with adjacent pasture fields;
- Network of mature hedgerows and stone walls which provide enclosure and are sensitive to changes in farming practice, potentially resulting in lack of maintenance;
- Veteran field and hedgerow trees that are recognisable landscape features;
- Patches of woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure and are also provide valuable ecological habitats;
- Distinctive historic halls, which are symbiotically linked with the parkland landscapes that surround them; and
- Parkland sensitive to changes in agricultural practice and lack of succession planning for mature trees.

**Forces for Change**

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Ecological Character**

- **Conserve** the River Derwent and its adjacent floodplain habitats;
- **Conserve and enhance** patches of broadleaved woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure and are also provide valuable ecological habitats;
- **Encourage** sensitive succession planting for areas of parkland and estate landscapes;
- **Protect** distinctive historic halls, which are symbiotically linked with the parkland landscapes that surround them;
- **Encourage** reversion of coniferous woodland to broadleaved, especially on old deer park sites;
- **Encourage** the conservation and restoration of historic buildings and landscape features.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Conserve and maintain** the network of mature hedgerows and vernacular stone walls;
- **Conserve** veteran field and hedgerow trees that are recognisable landscape features.
Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** open views to Whinlatter and Grizedale Pike to the south (with Broom Fell and Kirk Fell in the foreground) from interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments.
AREA 6: SETMURTHY COMMON AND EMBLETON

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

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).

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- High Fell Fringe (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Contained, broad, dome-shaped hill, accommodating Setmurthy Common (also known as Watch Hill), punctuated with angular plantation woodlands;
- The south and east of the area is flatter and more open and is dominated by views of Skiddaw;
- Relatively large fields enclosed predominately with fences and hedges, many of which are in poor condition;
- Scattered farmsteads with a range of building styles;
- Embleton is a linear village, stretching along the former main road to west Cumbria. The distinctive grey micro-granite from the large village quarry is used on 19th century buildings;
- 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; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape away from the edge of Cockermouth and the A66 where the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by traffic noise along this busy road.

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 small linear settlement of Embleton follows a minor road corridor; to the north of the busier A66 (the latter introduces a source of noise and movement). The former Keswick to Cockermouth railway, now the A66 road, has left its mark on the area, with well-built station buildings still surviving. Features such as the remains of a stone circle to the west of Big Wood and in contrast, Cockermouth golf course to the north west 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. Along the A66 corridor, particularly close to Cockermouth, the landscape is heavily influenced by the constant traffic noise along this busy road. Over the summit from the A66 corridor and away from Cockermouth, the area has a strong sense of tranquillity, due to the general absence of settlement.

‘Open vistas of mountains and farmland. The dramatic view along the A66 towards Keswick, which is available for everyone to see.’

Local Resident, 2007 Public Consultation Questionnaire
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Small-scale and intimate settlement pattern, consisting of farmsteads and the small, linear settlement of Embleton, which is vulnerable to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect existing scale and character;
- Framed views northwards into the Derwent Valley, that are sensitive to interruption by vertical or large-scale developments;
- Open views and strong intervisibility with Skiddaw, Grizedale Pike and Whinlatter to the south and east. These are vulnerable to interruption by vertical or large-scale developments; and
- Network of mature hedgerows and vernacular stone walls at field boundaries, which provide enclosure and are vulnerable to changes in agricultural practices.

Forces for Change

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Retain small-scale and intimate settlement pattern, consisting of farmsteads and the small, linear settlement of Embleton;
- Ensure new large-scale buildings designed appropriately to respect local vernacular building form, setting and materials;
- Conserve and enhance existing mature hedgerow and stone wall network and encourage reinstatement of redundant hedge lines; and
- Encourage and support the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric (e.g. fenestration) and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments) where appropriate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Protect framed views northwards into the Derwent Valley and maintain open views and strong intervisibility with Skiddaw, Grizedale Pike and Whinlatter to the south and east from interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments.
AREA 7: BASSENTHWAITE LAKE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- 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 valley with steeply sloping dale sides and heather on Barf on the west;
- Absence of development affecting the lakeshore;
- Mature woodland on the north and east shores;
- Vast expanse of grey water contrasts with the 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 eastern edge, provides a number of access points to the Lake, in contrast to the western edge which is inaccessible due to the A66;
- Distinctive area of accessible woodland clumps and parkland at Mirehouse on eastern shore, with many veteran and mature broadleaved trees and close associations with the romantic movement; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape away from the A66 and A591 main road corridors.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Bassenthwaite Lake (one of the largest waterbodies in the Lake District) sits within a broad upland, glacially-eroded vValley 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 contribute to strong recognisable sense of place. There is a clear sense of land dropping gently from Skiddaw massif and draining away towards the coast.

The dramatic, yet simple contrasts, both in colour (between the dark greens and browns of mainly coniferous woodland-clad dale sides, with seasonal splashes of colour where broadleaves occur and views of areas of heather higher on Skiddaw, 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 from all sides, and towards large-scale coniferous plantations on slopes of Whinlatter and Wythop to the west and at Dodd Wood on the east, further contribute to recognisable sense of place and distinctive character. The eastern shore of Bassenthwaite Lake is disturbed by A66 noise; otherwise the ADC is predominantly tranquil.

A distinctive and accessible area of parkland with many veteran and mature trees and patches of broadleaved woodland along eastern shore is associated with Mirehouse, an estate with important literary connections with the Romantic Movement. During spring and summer, the flowers and meadows contribute a range of colours and visual interest to the character of this area. The overall strong sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed along the A66 and A591 road corridors by the constant traffic noise along these busy roads.
‘Pride of place in the view must be given to Bassenthwaite Lake, directly below and seen in its entirety, intensely blue on a day of bright skies and then forming a beautiful picture enhanced often by beautiful sails of many yachts. All this can be viewed from a position of repose in fragrant and springy heather. On a warm day some resolution is needed to get back on one’s feet and move on.’

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright’s Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells, Dyer1994.88 (v Unlock Pike 8)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Bassenthwaite Lake and associated lakeshore habitats, which are vulnerable to pollution from adjacent agricultural run off associated with pastoral farmland, other waste facilities (e.g. septic tanks) and changing water levels;
- Open views towards Ullock Pike and Skiddaw to the east and other surrounding High Fells, which are sensitive to interruption by vertical elements or large-scale development;
- Large areas of woodland, along the upper lakeshore, which provide a sense of enclosure; and
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity on the lake, which is sensitive to disturbance by boat-related activities.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Climate change and the Bassenthwaite Restoration Project affecting water quality in rivers and lakes and changing aquatic habitats;
- Move to more continuous cover forestry management reducing landscape scars and supporting soil conservation;
- Alien fish and plants affecting native species in the Lake; and
- Increasing traffic associated with tourism and recreation pressurising the road system and leading to inappropriate highway improvements and further loss of tranquillity.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Protect Bassenthwaite Lake and associated lakeshore habitats from pollution, siltation and changing water levels; and
- Encourage reversion of woodland to broadleaved where possible.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Encourage sensitive succession planning for areas of parkland and estate landscapes,
Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** open views towards Ullock Pike and Skiddaw to the east and other surrounding High Fells, from interruption by vertical or elements or large-scale development;
- **Retain** large areas of mature woodland, along the upper northern and eastern lakeshores to provide a sense of enclosure;
- **Maintain** the strong sense of tranquillity on the lake; and
- **Reduce** noise pollution and ensure no further upgrading of the A66.
AREA 8: LOWESWATER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the north-western edge of the National Park. It includes Loweswater Lake and the fells to the north and south.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Angular Slate High Fell (G); and
- High Fell Fringe (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Relatively low, smooth profile open fells in the north and south of the area contrasting with the more enclosed, verdant, wooded and intricately-patterned Loweswater valley in the centre;
- The western part of the area has a very different feel with its open views out to the coastal plain and its towns and villages;
- Loweswater Lake with its attractive wooded lakeshores provides popular walks but is not widely visible from across the area. Signs around the lake highlight the significant problem with blue-green algae which can turn the whole lake a remarkably vivid green;
- In contrast to many central parts of the Lake District, the area feels quiet, with relatively few visitors;
- Small areas of commercial forestry around Lamplugh Fell and significant forest cover around the tarn of 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;
- Raven Crag, at the north end of Mellbreak, is a prominent feature in the central part of the area;
- Cultural associations with Beatrix Potter; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape characterised by scattered settlements.

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 drystone walls, but these are not particularly noticeable on the ground, and the fells retain their open quality. 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 significant forest amphitheatre around the tarn of Cogra Moss. The darker colour and tall, coniferous vegetation in these areas contrast with the surrounding open fells. Holme Wood to the south-west of the lake adds a very distinctive character to the lakeshore with its mix of mature broadleaf and coniferous trees.

The Loweswater valley is settled and enclosed. Most buildings are in traditional vernacular slate stone, often whitewashed. It is well vegetated, including woods and hedgerows with many mature trees, and consequently feels much softer. Large amounts of hedgerow restoration in the past 25 years have significantly altered the landscape. The scale of the valley landscape is much smaller and intimate, with views enclosed by the surrounding hills, and a much smaller pattern of mostly irregularly-shaped fields. The steep rounded form of Mellbreak is a prominent feature within the valley.
Whilst there is a scattering of hotels and guesthouses, development is discrete and does not intrude on the largely rural and agricultural feel to the area. 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.

\[\text{‘one of the most beautiful and little-visited of the lakes.’} \]

Grevel Lindop, A Literary Guide to the Lake District, 2005

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- The sense of openness in the north and south of the area, coupled with open, far-reaching views towards Grassmoor to the east, which are sensitive to interruption by vertical, large or small-scale developments;
- The western part of the area will be particularly sensitive to developments on the coast;
- Overall strong sense of tranquillity, which is vulnerable to potential increases in tourist-related activity and associated traffic;
- Hedgerow and stone wall field boundary network, which provides enclosure and is sensitive to changes in agricultural practices;
- Forestry plantations around Cogra Moss and the woodlands around Loweswater lakeshore which will have a significant impact on the area;
- Water quality in Loweswater; and
- Strong intervisibility with Crummock Water.

Forces for Change

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Protect Loweswater lakeshore habitats from pollution, siltation and changing water levels and reduce enrichment to mitigate algal blooms.

Ecological Character

- Conserve Loweswater and Cogra Moss tarn and associated rich ecological habitats; and
- Conserve and enhance areas of woodland for their nature conservation value.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Encourage more sympathetic design and management of coniferous plantations and reversion to broadleaved where appropriate;
- Conserve and enhance hedgerow and stone wall field boundary network; and
• **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate.

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**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

• **Retain** sense of openness in the north and south of the area;
• **Protect** open, far-reaching views from interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
• **Retain** strong intervisibility with Crummock Water to the west; and
• **Maintain** overall strong sense of tranquillity.
AREA 9: LORTON VALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Lorton Vale is situated in the northeast of the Lake District National Park, to the north of Crummock Water and south of Cockermouth.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Broad vale, encompassing the gently meandering course of the River Cocker, flowing from Crummock Water in the south towards Cockermouth in the north;
- Intricate patchwork of pasture fields following the river channel, divided by a combination of mature hedgerows containing mature trees, and 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.
- Linear village of Lorton displays a variety of buildings, from medieval defensive, rugged 17th century, to more formal stone and rendered houses and cottages, all strung out distinctively along sinuous roads, with large open areas between, without a nucleated core; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape due to the relative absence of major roads and their associated traffic noise.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

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

This mature landscape of hedgerows, many with mature trees, 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 an ancient solitary Yew Tree, which still stands in Lorton Vale.

‘... a Yew-tree, pride of Lorton Vale,
Which to this day stands single, in the midst
Of its own darkness, as it stood of yore ...
Not loathe to furnish weapons for the Bands
Of vast circumference and gloom profound
This solitary Tree! - a living thing
Produced too slowly ever to decay;
Of form and aspect too magnificent
To be destroyed.’

‘Yew-Trees’ Wordsworth

Vernacular (predominantly stone) farmsteads punctuate the surrounding green pasture fields, and the overall feel of the area is one of tranquillity, stillness and relaxation. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity, which is seasonally disturbed by traffic noise, particularly from tourists, on the B5289 that
crosses the area. The sense of tranquillity is due to the relative absence of major roads, lack of night-time light pollution and small-scale settlement pattern. The meandering River Cocker helps enhance the sense of naturalness and therefore the sense of tranquillity.

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Gently meandering course of the River Cocker, which is a distinctive landscape feature and is vulnerable to canalisation or embanking works;
- Mature network of hedgerows and predominantly intact stone walls which contribute to landscape pattern and are vulnerable to changes in agricultural practice;
- Views to Loweswater Fell to the west and Whitside and Kirk Fell to the east, which contribute to recognisable sense of place and are sensitive to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale development;
- Sinuous belts of woodland following the river corridor, which provide a sense of enclosure;
- Predominantly rural character with associated relatively strong sense of isolation and tranquillity; and
- Small-scale and intimate settlement pattern, consisting of dispersed farmsteads and the small, nucleated settlements of Thackthwaite and Low and High Lorton, which are sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character.

**Forces for Change**

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- **Retain** sinuous belts of broadleaved woodland following the river corridor.

**Ecological Character**

- **Conserve** the meandering course of the River Cocker and protect river habitats from pollution.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Conserve** and **enhance** network of hedgerows and maintain and enhance stone walls, traditional hay meadows and in field and boundary trees;
- **Retain** small-scale and intimate settlement pattern, consisting of dispersed farmsteads and the small, nucleated settlement of Thackthwaite;
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate; and
- **Encourage** sensitive siting, design and scale in new building schemes.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- **Retain** views to Loweswater Fell to the west and Whitside and Kirk Fell to the east; and
- **Maintain** rural character with associated relatively strong sense of isolation and tranquillity.
AREA 10: BROOM, LING AND KIRK FELLS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Angular Slate High Fell (G).

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 a general absence of 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;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the heather moorland and upland bog; and
- Minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences.

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 fell sides 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.

The area has a very strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the heather moorland and upland bog. Apart from the distant hum of traffic noise of the A66, there is a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences all of which enhance the overall strong sense of tranquillity.

‘Ling Fell is dome-shaped, like the top of a Christmas pudding. A Christmas pudding in its pristine state, has no ridges. Neither has Ling Fell.’

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright’s Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells, Dyer1994.37 (vi Hopegill Head 6)
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Type, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Undeveloped, rural character with associated strong sense of isolation, remoteness and tranquillity;
- Regular pattern of straight drystone walls and enclosures, which contribute to recognisable landscape pattern and are vulnerable to changes in land management and agricultural practices;
- Strong intervisibility with valleys to the north and west;
- Strong sense of openness throughout with uncluttered skylines; and
- Patchwork of heather, which is vulnerable to overgrazing.

Forces for Change

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Encourage** replacement of conifers with broadleaved trees on cleared conifer site.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** upland heath habitats; and
- **Maintain** habitat mosaic, controlling spread of bracken when necessary.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Retain** the regular pattern of straight dry-stone walls and enclosures.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** the undeveloped, rural character with associated strong sense of isolation, remoteness and tranquillity;
- **Maintain** strong intervisibility with valleys to the north and west; and
- **Retain** strong sense of openness throughout area with uncluttered skyline.
AREA 11: BASSENTHWAITE AND DERWENT ALLUVIAL PLAIN

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Wide, flat alluvial plain between Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite Lake;
- Spectacular open views towards surrounding fells;
- Land cover contrast between green colours of improved green fields and fawn of wetland at the southern end of Bassenthwaite;
- Situated within the same Upland Valley as Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite Lake and overlooked by High Fells, with mature coniferous woodland on the lower slopes of Skiddaw (Dodd Wood) to the east and Whinlatter Forest to the west, providing a strong sense of enclosure;
- Noticeable absence of farmsteads, houses and buildings on the break of slope; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape in the west. In the rest of the area the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by the traffic noise on the A66.

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 Whinlatter 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. There is, however, noticeable contrast between the green colours of improved fields and fawns of wetland at the southern end of Bassenthwaite.

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 lake). The river corridor is less dominant as a landscape feature here than within its upper course (as it meanders through Borrowdale). The west of the area has a strong sense of tranquillity due; however, overall sense of tranquillity is disturbed due to the constant presence of traffic noise on the busy A66 and the visibility of the edge of Keswick.

‘A high mountain ridge leaps like a rainbow from the woods and fields of Brackenthwaite and arcs through the sky for five miles to the east, where the descending curve comes down to the village of Braithwaite.’

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright’s Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells, Dyer1994.36 (vi Hopegill Head 2)
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Type, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Views towards surrounding fells, which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Wetland habitats associated with Bassenthwaite Lake, which are vulnerable to pollution from adjacent agricultural runoff associated with pastoral farmland and changing water levels;
- Series of low hedgerows, which provide enclosure and are sensitive to changes in agricultural practice or land management;
- Strong intervisibility with adjacent Skiddaw High Fells and Whinlatter Forest to the west; and
- Absence of farmsteads, houses or buildings on the break of slope.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Climate change and diffuse pollution affecting water quality in the River Derwent and Newlands Beck;
- Re-wetting of previously drained land associated with Bassenthwaite Restoration Project;
- Loss of traditional skills and a reduction in the use of appropriate local materials eroding distinct characteristics of the landscape; and
- Increasing traffic associated with tourism and recreation pressurising the road system and leading to inappropriate highway improvements.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Conserve and maintain the characteristic series of low hedgerows; and
- Retain overall absence of buildings.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Protect dramatic views towards surrounding fells from interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Retain strong intervisibility with adjacent High Fells and Whinlatter Forest to the west; and
- Reduce noise pollution from the A66 and ensure no further upgrading.
AREA 12: GLENDERAMACKIN VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Glenderamackin Valley 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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Intricate patchwork of small pastoral fields and small traditional hamlets, criss-crossed by minor roads and the sinuous corridor of the Glenderamackin River;
- The distinctive saddle shape of Blencathra forms a prominent backdrop in views to the north;
- Smooth rounded fell sides of Clough Head, Threlkeld and Matterdale Commons dominate views southwards;
- Heavily wooded River Greta Gorge to the west of Threlkeld with a series of impressive railway bridges now forming part of a popular cycle/walk way from Keswick to Threlkeld;
- Strong influence on the landscape from linear east-west running A66 and old Keswick to Cockermouth Railway lines;
- Archaeological features scattered within the area, including site of a Roman Fort, camp and road;
- Predominantly a weak sense of tranquillity due to the constant traffic noise along the busy A66 which dominates the area; and
- Threlkeld village and its nearby farmsteads use a very distinctive type of slate-stone with its characteristic rusty-brown staining, so unlike other parts of the Lake District.

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 hedges, small clumps of deciduous trees and patches of 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.

‘Starting as a trickle from a marsh below the col linking Bannerdale Crags and Blencathra, it [Glenderanackin River] soon gathers strength and aims purposefully for a gap in the hills to the south, eager to be away from its desolate place of birth and join other waters in a tranquil and pleasant passage through Lakeland . . .’

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright’s Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells, Dyer1994.101 (v Souther Fell 3)

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 an attractive combination of traditional rendered houses, mainly limewashed and the rusty-stained angular slate-stone buildings, contribute to the overall recognisable sense of place within the area. The sense of tranquillity within the
area is disturbed by the constant traffic noise along the busy A66. Archaeological features are scattered throughout the area including the site of a Roman fort, camp and road reflecting its long use as a transport corridor.

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Small-scale settlement pattern, consisting of traditional historic, vernacular hamlets, which are sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character;
- Network of minor and predominantly rural roads, that are vulnerable to potential increases in traffic volume;
- Strong intervisibility between Blencathra to the north and Thelkeld and Matterdale Commons to the south;
- Archaeological features, which are vulnerable to potential disturbance from visitors; and
- Recognisable landscape pattern of hedgerows and vernacular stone walls.

**Forces for Change**

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increasing traffic demands for highway upgrading on the A66, and the potential re-opening of the railway between Penrith and Keswick.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Ecological Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Retain** the small-scale settlement pattern;
- **Protect** traditional historic and vernacular hamlets from the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character;
- **Retain** network of minor and rural roads;
- **Conserve** archaeological features, which are vulnerable to potential disturbance from visitors or walkers;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** recognisable landscape pattern of hedgerows and vernacular stone walls; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate.
Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** strong intervisibility with Skiddaw High Fell to the north and Thelkeld and Matterdale Commons to the south from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Reduce** noise pollution from the A66 and **ensure** no further upgrading.
AREA 13: BUTTERMERE AND CRUMMOCK WATER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the northeast of the Lake District National Park, to the south of Loweswater.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F);
- Rugged, Angular Slate High Fell (G); and
- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Buttermere and Crummock form part of a unique twin lake system, flanked by an amphitheatre of steep-sided high fells, which are generally devoid of dense vegetation cover;
- The highly recognisable north-west ridge of Fleetwith Pike runs down to the key valley head farm of Gatesgarth;
- 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 Crummock Water, is a constant focal point in the area, whilst the dominant peaks of Grassmoor, Fleetwith and Haystacks provide instantly recognisable landscape features, contributing to a strong recognisable sense of place;
- The dramatic Scale Force (the highest waterfall in the Lake District) has been a popular attraction for generations of visitors;
- The almost hidden hanging valley of Rannerdale, to the east of Crummock Water, is renowned for its spectacular blue-purple carpet of bluebells in spring;
- Predominantly a very strong sense of tranquillity due to perceived naturalness of the landscape, a relative absence of major roads, dwellings and minimal sources of artificial noise;
- Settlement comprises a small number of isolated dwellings on the east side of Crummock Water and the traditional village of Buttermere which nestles on the valley floor between the two lakes;
- The north of Crummock Water is dominated by the mixed woodland of Lanthwaite Wood and the distinctive, smooth, rounded shape of High Park (on site of a former moated Pele tower);
- To the south of the lake and lying to the west of Buttermere village lies the important semi-natural, ancient oak woodland of Scales Wood, with an adjacent area of wood pasture. The non-native conifers of Burtness Wood (which sits alongside the deciduous Scale Wood) form rather incongruous features in the landscape;
- Views of Buttermere from Crummock Water are restricted by the enclosing high fell topography;
- Strong contrast between the intimate and enclosed feel on the valley bottom and the strong sense of remoteness and exposure on top of the surrounding high fell;
- The feeder streams of Buttermere and Crummock are part of the River Derwent SAC and are important spawning areas for migratory salmonids.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Both lakes have a strong sense of enclosure as a result of the surrounding High Fells and steep valley sides. To the south of Buttermere, Fleetwith Pike and Haystacks provide recognisable landscape features, with Mellbreak and Grassmoor towering over Crummock Water and contributing to recognisable sense of place. The imposing fell sides facilitate extensive views across the lakes and contribute to a strong sense of enclosure. A path that runs around Buttermere Lake also offers clear views of the dramatic pikes of the High Stile range to the south west, Robinson to the north east, Fleetwith Pike and Haystacks (which has a strong association with Wainwright to the south) and Grassmoor to the north.
There is a sense of inaccessibility to the northern end of Buttermere, with access via the steep, snaking Honister Pass at the south eastern end of the lake. A general absence of built elements and main roads contributes to the overall strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness within the area, particularly in locations at distance from Buttermere village and the minor road, which follows the lake shores (B5289).

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 mosaic of upland habitats and the large expanses of dark green coniferous woodland, whilst the changing hues of the lake and the grey-blue of the drystone walls all contribute to the landscape colour palette. Wainwright (whose ashes have been scattered on Haystacks to the south of Buttermere) was just one of the many artists who has been inspired by the rich colourful landscape of this area.

Rannerdale Valley (a hanging valley on the eastern shore of Crummock 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 of Whiteless Pike dominates views eastwards towards the Skiddaw Fells.

Large expanses of semi-natural ancient oak woodland, with very little understorey, cover the lower western valley sides of Buttermere, alongside which the predominantly coniferous woodland to the south sits rather incongruously. At higher levels, in the valley sides and fells, a patchwork of predominantly open heathland habitat is apparent. The commons within this ADC are extensive and offer grazing rights to many farmers.

The traditional historic village of Buttermere, nestled to the north west of Buttermere Lake and adjacent to Mill Beck, has (uniquely for a Lakeland village) four working farms in the heart of the village. Built up around the church, this popular tourist village has a strong vernacular character, with building materials exhibiting the underlying geology of the area. St James Church, Buttermere, is famous for the memorial to Alfred Wainwright, the famous walker and author of guide books. His famous mountain ‘Haystacks’ can be seen from the church window. Despite the popularity with tourists, the valley remains tranquil, largely due to the absence of main roads on the unforgiving surrounding High Fell and dwellings other than Buttermere Village.

\begin{quote}
‘Mellbreak and Crummock Water, essential partners in a successful scenery enterprise, depending on each other for effectiveness. Crummock Water’s eastern shore, below Grasmoor, is gay with life and colour – trees, pastures, farms, cattle, traffic, tents and people – but it is the view across the lake, where the water laps the sterile base of Mellbreak far beneath the mountain’s dark escarpment, where loneliness, solitude and silence prevail’ that make the scene unforgettable.’

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright’s Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells, Dyer1994.100 (vii Mellbreak 2)
\end{quote}

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Open views to and from the surrounding fells, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall, vertical or large-scale developments;
- Strong sense of tranquillity throughout, especially within the almost hidden hanging valley of Rannerdale to the east of Crummock Water and on the surrounding high fells;
- Strong sense of tranquillity on the lakes, resulting from the absence of motorised craft;
- Strong intervisibility with the surrounding amphitheatre of high fells, which are generally devoid of dense vegetation cover;
- Strong vernacular character resulting from use of local building materials form and detailing;
* Water quality in the lakes and their feeder streams;
* Carpet of bluebells within Rannerdale Valley (in spring) which is vulnerable to disturbance and damage from walkers and visitors as well as grazing;
* Overall absence of built elements and overall predominantly rural character and rural road network;
* Patches of heather and remnant gorse on the higher valley sides, which are sensitive to grazing pressure;
* Mature network of hedgerows and interlocking vernacular stone walls and iron railings, which are vulnerable to changes in land management and agricultural practices; and
* Clumps of deciduous trees, broadleaved woodland and wood pasture vulnerable to lack of management and grazing controls.

**Forces for Change**

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- **Conserve** and **enhance** clumps of deciduous woodland and the wood pasture adjacent to Scale Wood.

**Ecological Character**

- **Protect** and **conserve** the carpet of bluebells within Rannerdale Valley from inappropriate grazing, walkers and visitors;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** diversity and mosaic of upland heath habitats;
- **Protect** spawning areas for migratory salmonids and enhance habitats for juvenile fish; and
- **Protect** lakes and associated lakeshore habitats from pollution, enrichment, siltation and changing water levels.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Maintain** strong vernacular character resulting from the use of local building materials, forms and detailing by conserving and restoring existing historic building stock and associated landscapes and by designing new buildings to fit in;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature network of hedgerows and interlocking vernacular stone walls;
- **Retain** general absence of built elements and maintain overall rural character and rural road network.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- **Retain** intervisibility with surrounding amphitheatre of high fells (stiles and pikes);
- **Protect** open views to and from the area from interruption by tall, large or small-scale developments;
- **Maintain** strong sense of openness and tranquility throughout, especially on the lakes and within the hanging valley of Rannerdale to the east of Crummock Water; and
- **Maintain** strong sense of remoteness and exposure on top of surrounding high fells.
AREA 14: GRIZEDALE PIKE AND WHINLATTER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Angular Slate High Fell (G).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Framed views out of the area towards Derwentwater to the east and Red Pike (above Buttermere) to the west;
- Expansive panoramas from the hilltops, encompassing many lakes and valleys;
- 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, bracken and scree. Colours change seasonally;
- There are well-used footpaths along most of the peaks, ridges and valleys;
- Whilst this is a wild landscape and the open moorland peaks create a perceived naturalness, 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; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape especially at distance from Whinlatter Pass located in the main valley.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

From the valleys (which are V-shaped, with steep scree-covered sides) there are framed views out towards Skiddaw, Newlands, Crummock Water and Buttermere. From the hill tops there are expensive panoramas encompassing many lakes and valleys.

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 bracken and heather. Together they give a relatively simple texture to the landscape, and colours change seasonally from grey, brown and purple during the Autumn and Winter months, to green in Spring.

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 Grisedale and Causey Pike 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 their visibility on neighbouring ridge skylines 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. 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 Whinlatter Pass, and the many visitors to the forest visitor centre and recreational trails. Overall, the
area has a strong sense of tranquillity. There is a relative absence of dwellings and settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences. The sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed around Whinlatter Pass due to traffic noise and car rally teams practising on the tracks through the woods. However the dense woodland surrounding the majority of the road minimises the impact of traffic noise on the sense of tranquillity.

‘Grassmoor is a very formidable object above Lanthwaite, its tiered crags seeming almost impregnable. The direct climb, up the angle between the north and west faces, is a continuously steep and rough scramble and a severe test in route selection.’

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright’s Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells, Dyer 1994.13 (vi Grasmoor 6)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Type, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- The predominantly undeveloped character of the area, other than buildings and car parking associated with Whinlatter Forest;
- Framed views to Derwent Water to the east and Red Pike to the west, which are vulnerable to interruption by new woodland or, vertical or large-scale developments;
- Areas of heather, which are vulnerable to overgrazing; and
- Overall strong sense of tranquillity, despite traffic on Whinlatter Pass and visitor facilities associated with Whinlatter Forest;

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Reduction in non-native conifer woodland and increase in native broadleaved regeneration, with the aim of developing mixed age and mixed species stands through natural regeneration;1

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- Conserve areas of upland heath.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Take account of the Whinlatter Forest Design Plan for further guidance on guidelines and objectives for the forest; and
- Encourage and support the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments) where appropriate.

1 See Whinlatter Forest Design Plan (http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/englandnwefdwhinlatterfdptext.pdf)
Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** the undeveloped character of the area;
- **Protect** framed views to Derwent Water to the east and Red Pike to the west from interruption by new woodland or, vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** overall strong sense of tranquillity.
AREA 15: NEWLANDS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Newlands valley is on the western side of the central Lake District National Park, between Derwentwater and Buttermere.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells (F); and
- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- The distinctive profile of Cat Bells, Maiden Moor and High Spy separates Newlands valley from Derwentwater, with the path erosion running along the ridge;
- The three-branched form of the valley, with each branch containing its own stream, joining mid-way down the valley;
- A settled upland valley, in its lower part, with deciduous vegetation, giving a sense of shelter and enclosure from the surrounding fells;
- Settlement pattern of distinctive, vernacular hamlets and farmsteads on the edges of the valley floor with drystone walls making an important contribution. Upstream the valley becomes wilder, the open bare upland valleys devoid of habitation gently sloping upwards to the valley heads – e.g. Newlands Pass and Valley Head area;
- The twisting Newlands Pass, historic route into Buttermere;
- A long history of mining and mineral extraction; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape especially on the Derwent Fells away from the road crossing over Newlands Pass, due to the relative absence of dwellings and minimal sources of artificial noise.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

There are many features, which give the Newlands valley its distinct, magnificent and varied 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 distinctive pointed top of Causey Pike together with the higher hills of Robinson, Hindscarth and Valley Head, which frame the southern end of the valley. The valley itself has three branches, containing the Newlands, Keskadale, Rigg and Scope becks, with each branch forming a finger off the main valley, taking you into hidden landscapes, each with a unique character, many of which have passes into adjacent valleys. 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, whilst the Newlands beck valley feels very wild, surrounded by the high, steep scree slopes and crags of Dale Head, High Spy and Hindscarth. Remnant ancient upland oak woods such as Keskadale and Birkriigg cling on to the flanks of Causey Pike – reflecting what would once have been a far more wooded landscape.

Much of Newlands valley, in its lower sections, 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. Drystone walls make a significant contribution to the character of the landscape.

The Newlands valley was settled in the 14th century, following the draining of Uzzicar tarn. There has been mineral extraction here since Elizabethan times, continuing until the beginning of the 19th century. Minerals mined here included copper, lead and zinc 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. The
area is generally very tranquil especially on the Derwent Fells between Newlands Pass and Derwent Water due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the landscape. In the lower area of Newlands Valley around the village of Newlands and in proximity of Portinscale the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by road noise especially near the A66. There is also some night-time light pollution from the villages and neighbouring Keswick.

‘[Newlands] present themselves an arrangement of vast mountains, entirely new, both in form and colouring of rock; large hollow craters scooped in their bosoms, once the seeming seats of raging liquid fire, though at present overflowing with the purest water, that foams down the craggy brow.’

West's 1778 Guide

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Newlands, Keskadale, Rigg and Scope becks, which are vulnerable to diffuse and point pollution from agriculture and old mineral workings;
- Views to Catbells ridge, and the higher hills of Robinson, Hindscarth and Dale Head;
- Archaeological record of disused industrial mines, which are vulnerable to disturbance from walkers and visitors; and
- Strong sense of tranquillity.

Forces for Change

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- Protect Newlands, Keskadale and Scope becks from pollution;

Cultural and Historic Character

- Conserve archaeological record of disused industrial mines;
- Maintain and restore drystone walls and hedges in central valley; and
- Encourage and support the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric (e.g. fenestration) and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate.
Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** open, uncluttered views to Catbells ridge and the higher hills of Robinson, Hindscarth and Dale Head; and
- **Maintain** strong sense of tranquillity.
AREA 16: KESWICK AND DERWENT WATER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

Keswick and Derwent Water Area of Distinctive Character is situated to the south east of Bassenthwaite Lake, south of Skiddaw and Blencathra and at the northern end of Borrowdale. The town of Keswick nestles at the northern edge of Derwent Water.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Expanse of Derwent Water, with its small islands including the distinctive villa on Derwent island and a number of other early villas developed by Joseph Pocklington on its shore and strongly wooded western shores;
- The bustling market town of Keswick occupies a unique setting, with a surrounding amphitheatre of impressive fells;
- Keswick’s present form and character reflect three main phases of growth from medieval market town, with its fossilised burgage plot pattern of parallel yards, to 18th century water-powered industrial town, to the railway induced Victorian tourist resort;
- The town’s identity is also the result of an amazing variety of building materials, seen nowhere else in the Lake District. Every colour of brick, terracotta, stone and slate is clearly evident throughout the town, a reflection of the railway development and Victorian prosperity;
- The approach from Thirlmere along the A591 has fine examples of traditional bank barns, built in a distinctive local style using cobbles, split cobbles and thin slate levelling courses;
- Bleaberry Fell, Catbells and Skelgill Bank are important local landmarks;
- Views into the ‘jaws of Borrowdale’;
- Skiddaw and Latrigg provide an overwhelming backdrop to Keswick and are both important landmarks;
- Easily accessible and popular landscape destination for visitors and tourists since the 18th century period;
- Strong cultural and literary associations with Coleridge, Southey, Wordsworth and Ruskin – who were all influential in attracting the first visitors to the area; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape surrounding Derwent Water and away from the main roads. Keswick, the A66, A591 and B5289 have disturbed sense of tranquillity due to traffic noise on the busy roads and visibility of the roads and urban development.

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 wooden rowing boats, contributes to a sense of arrival at the northern end of the lake (closest to Keswick), although this welcome is diluted by the introduction of many motor boats moored here.

Keswick, set comfortably within the surrounding soft landscape with its many mature trees, 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, the bustling Market Place/Market Square is now pedestrianised, surrounded by a variety of imposing frontages of shops and hotels, and contributes to...
recognisable identity. Of particular significance is the Moot Hall (1813 building on site of Medieval structure), a unique historic building, probably the most readily identifiable, well known building in the Lake District.

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, extensive areas of primarily deciduous 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, rises above, with the dramatic outline of the Skiddaw massif, perhaps the most dominant feature of the town 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. The area varies in strength of tranquillity. There is a strong sense of tranquillity surrounding Derwent Water and away from the main roads due to the perceived naturalness of the landscape and presence of the lake and streams flowing through the wooded edges of the valley. However, around Keswick, and the A66, A591 and B5289 the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by road noise, views of the roads and urban development. In addition at night there is light pollution from Keswick.

‘... Around and abound
With endless rebound!
Smiting and fighting,
A sight to delight in;
Confounding, astounding,
Dizzying and deafening the ear with its sound.’

Lodore Falles, Derwentwater, Southey, Poet Laureate 1813-1843

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Woodland on the western shores of Derwentwater, which provides a sense of enclosure and important ecological habitats;
- Generally green setting and edge to the town of Keswick, which hides buildings within several views from the surrounding landscape, and is sensitive to any possible town expansion;
- Open views to Castlerigg, Catbells and Skelgill Bank High Fells, which are vulnerable to interruption;
- Original burgage plots within Keswick, that are sensitive to potential new developments, which do not respect existing townscape scale and vernacular character;
- Derwent Water, which is vulnerable to potential pollution associated with adjacent pastoral fields and Keswick Town; and
- Overall sense of tranquillity at distance from Keswick and the main road network.

**Forces for Change**

The forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:
Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** broadleaved woodland on the western shores of Derwentwater.

Ecological Character

- **Protect** Derwent Water and associated lakeshore habitats from pollution, siltation and changing water levels.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** original burgage plots within Keswick.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** the generally green setting and edge to the town of Keswick;
- **Retain** open views to Castlerigg, Catbells and Skelgill Bank High Fells;
- **Maintain** the wide variety of building materials resulting from railway and Victorian prosperity; and
- **Maintain** overall sense of tranquillity.
AREA 17: ST. JOHN’S IN THE VALE AND NADDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A landscape which slowly unfolds as you move through the valley with dramatic views of the fells all around;
- Strong field pattern punctuated with single and pollarded trees, framed on either side by steep-sided adjacent High Fells, with stone-scattered intakes below the fell wall and small field barns;
- Approaching from the south the vast bulk of Blencathra (forming part of the Skiddaw massif) is a prominent landmark;
- Strong contrast between the lush green pasture fields, punctuated with trees and soft clumps of woodland in the valleys, and the adjacent rugged-craggy high fells with their slanting bedding planes and screes.
- Castlerigg Stone Circle, a strong and powerful landscape feature, set within a dramatic and evocative setting;
- The abandoned micro-granite quarries, strung along the lower fell sides form significant landscape features of the post railway exploitation;
- The Manchester Corporation/Water Authority workers houses at Fisher Place and Stanah are of an urban style and show the influence of major investment in the Thirlmere Reservoir and local settlements;
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by towering adjacent High Fells;
- Many mature pollards;
- Cultural associations with John Richardson, builder, poet and vicar;
- Strong sense of tranquillity and a sense of openness and perceived naturalness of the landscape;
- Intricate corridor of the tree-lined Naddle Beck, to the west of St John’s in the Vale; and
- Distinctive tiered geology of High Rigg.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The experience of this Area of Distinctive Character unfolds, moving through the St John’s valley landscape. The small-scale and intricate nature of lush green pasture fields, mature deciduous trees and clumps of woodland within the valley bottom, contrasts with the large-scale, rough texture and muted colours of adjacent High Fells (with jagged Borrowdale Volcanic geology). There is a sense of long-term habitation with stone traditional farmsteads along the valley floor, packhorse routes along the valley side, many pollarded trees, and stone walls.

Approaching from the south, the mighty bulk of the Skiddaw range and Blencathra in particular, comes into view, framed by the valley and the approach into Keswick on the crest of the A591. This striking view conveys a strong feeling of enclosure and dominates the horizontal and vertical composition of elements within the valley. Approaching from the north, the strong impact of the exposed slanting bedding planes on High Rigg is particularly striking.

The relatively narrow corridor of the Naddle Beck, separated from St John’s in the Vale by High Rigg and Low Rigg Fells, is a recognisable landscape feature. Mature trees and vegetation delineate the course of the river, which is crossed by several traditional stone packhorse bridges.
In the north west corner of the area, and separated from the rest by the Naddle Beck is Castlerigg, with its neolithic stone circle providing an intangible link with the past use of this landscape. Its raised open location gives panoramic views of the surrounding fells in all directions.

The rugged nature of the exposed slanting rocks and screes flanking the valley sides contributes to a sense of wildness above the valley floor. Throughout the area, a powerful sense of tranquillity is apparent with an absence of villages, despite the B5322 road being the main route for traffic travelling on to Penrith via the A66. There is a dispersed settlement pattern of isolated farmsteads and cottages. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity and a sense of openness and perceived naturalness of the landscape. In addition there is a relative absence of large settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences which enhance the sense of tranquillity.

‘[St John’s in the Vale] is esteemed one of the most celebrated scenes of beauty in the country: but it did not answer our expectation. The ground, consisting of patches of fenced meadow, adorned with farm-houses, and clumps of trees, was beautifully tumbled about in many parts: but the whole was rather rich, then picturesque: and on this account, I suppose, it hath obtained it’s celebrity. It’s circular form, every where within the scope of the eye, wanted that variety, which the winding vale affords.’

Gilpin, 1772

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Mature single trees which are distinctive landscape features;
- Soft clumps of woodland lining the course of St. John’s Beck and mature vegetation lining Naddle Beck, which provide enclosure and are sensitive to changes in agricultural practices;
- Open views to Blencathra, High and Low Rigg Fells, especially from Castlerigg Stone Circle, which are vulnerable to interruption by vertical or large-scale developments;
- Predominantly rural character and overall strong sense of tranquillity.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Types(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve**, and **encourage** replacement mature single trees, including ash pollards which are distinctive landscape features; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** clumps of woodland, including those lining the course of St. John’s Beck,

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** small field barns, walls and pack horse bridges.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** open views towards surrounding fells, which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** rural character and overall strong sense of tranquillity.
AREA 18: THRELKELD & MATTERDALE COMMONS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the northeast of the Lake District National Park, to the south-east of the Skiddaw Range, flanked by Helvellyn in the south and overlooking Thirlmere Reservoir to the west.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- High Fell Fringe (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A relatively simple, fell landscape, which is draped by large expanses of blanket bog and heather moorland;
- Juxtaposition of open moorland with irregular straight edged dark coniferous plantations;
- 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;
- The texture of the landscape is predominantly smooth, aided by the uniformity of the moorland vegetation;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the relative absence of main roads, dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences; and
- Traffic noise and movement disturbs the tranquillity in the north of the area.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character is characterised by uniformity in colour and texture offered by the blanket bog and heather moorland, which is draped over the fells. This relatively simple fell landscape is almost completely devoid of settlement and man-made elements, (apart from the old coach road which traverses the area, suggesting greater access in the past), 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. Strong vertical elements are the 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, although in addition herds of red deer can sometimes be seen. 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.

The area has a predominantly strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and away from the forestry plantations, perceived naturalness of the landscape. It is also an area of low noise away from the A66 with a relative absence of dwellings and few obvious signs of human influence.

‘On stern Blencathra’s perilous height
The winds are tyrannous and strong;
And flashing forth unsteady light
From stern Blencathra’s skiey height
As loud the torrents throng …’

Coleridge, c.1802
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Large expanses of heather moorland, which are sensitive to overgrazing and inappropriate burning;
- Strong sense of isolation, exposure and tranquillity, as a result of the absence of main roads and almost complete lack of settlement; and
- Far reaching and predominantly open views from higher points to the Skiddaw massif and Helvellyn which contribute to recognisable sense of place and are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Manage Mosedale Beck to reduce erosion and siltation of Bassenthwaite Lake.

Ecological Character

- Conserve and enhance large expanses of blanket bog and heather moorland.

Cultural and Historic Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Maintain strong sense of isolation, exposure and tranquillity; and
- Protect far reaching and predominantly open views from higher points to the Skiddaw massif and Helvellyn from interruption by tall, vertical or large-scale developments.
AREA 19: GREAT MELL AND LITTLE MELL VALLEYS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- High Fell Fringe (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A gentle rolling landscape, with the bulging domes of Great Mell Fell (with its distinctive wooded eastern side) and 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 tops of the Mells provide extensive panoramic views towards Saddleback, Helvellyn and Martindale;
- Significant coniferous blocks are dominant in closer views;
- The heather dominated Gowbarrow to the south of the area rising up from Ullswater;
- The rolling hills predominantly covered by pastoral farmland, interspersed with many clumps of coniferous and deciduous woodland, which often frame views;
- Many small rectangular fields with wet, rushy areas in hollows;
- Scattered farmsteads and small hamlets, and a feeling of being ‘tucked away’ south of the Mells; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape away from the traffic noise of the busy A66 and A50591 due to the openness of the landscape and absence of large settlements and night-time light pollution.

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 two 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, Saddleback, Caldbeck Fells and the North Pennines. Views, in most directions throughout the area, are framed by blocks of conifer trees.

Pastoral fields, the main land use within the area, are predominantly lined by mature hedgerows, with a few dry stone walls. 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 and 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. The area is predominantly a tranquil landscape due to the openness of the landscape and absence of large settlements and night-time light pollution. Close, however, to the A66 and A50591 the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by traffic noise on the busy roads.
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Woodland on the eastern side of Great Mell Fell, which provides a sense of enclosure;
- Open views to and from Great and Little Mell Fells, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Network of mature hedgerows and field trees, which are sensitive to changing agricultural practices and land management; and
- Generally strong sense of tranquillity throughout the area, coupled with the predominantly rural character of the minor road network.

Forces for Change

Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Types(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Conserve and enhance woodland on the eastern side of Great Mell Fell.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Conserve and enhance the network of mature hedgerows.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Maintain the strong sense of tranquillity throughout the area; and
- Protect open views towards surrounding areas, which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments.
AREA 20: EAMONT VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated within the north east of the National Park, north of Ullswater and close to Penrith.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Upland Valley (H);
- Upland Limestone Farmland (I); and
- High Fell Fringe (J).

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 Parkland;
- Large pastoral fields (generally demarcated by hedgerows, but with walls and field barns on the higher limestone ground from Dalemain towards Dacre and Hutton), set back from the River Eamont, dominate this character area;
- The course of the River Eamont contributes to recognisable sense of place;
- Outcrops of limestone crags south west of Stainton;
- In places, the topography allows far reaching views across the surrounding landscape to Barton Fell and High Street in the south and the Pennines to the east;
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape, especially away from the A66, due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of settlements; and
- Dalemain Country House and surrounding designed landscape parkland, and deerpark bounded by iron railings.

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 Barton Fell to the south, which can be seen from higher points within the area, no obvious landmarks serve as focus points. Estate woodland and parkland, which is punctuated with mature and veteran trees, surrounds Dalemain, Dacre Castle and some of the other halls dotted in the landscape, with fallow deer a feature of the deerpark at Dalemain. Dalemain, with its medieval Pele tower, is surrounded by 18th century designed park and garden.

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 near the river, 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 following the rolling topography of the area contributes to a recognisable landscape pattern. To the north-east between Dalemain and Hutton, the land rises onto limestone, the field boundaries suddenly change to limestone and limestone field barns are a feature, with strips of broadleaved woods contributing seasonal colour. In close proximity to the A66, A392 and the B5320, sense of tranquillity is disturbed by sound and movement associated with these main roads.

Settlement is concentrated in the villages of Pooley Bridge, and hamlets of Dacre, Barton, Hutton, Stainton, Sockbridge, Tirril and Yanwath; all of which, with their local stone character, fit comfortably
within the rolling hills. Dacre Castle and Church, Barton Church and Dalemain Country House with its adjacent designed landscape parkland, also provide focal points within the landscape. The area is predominantly a tranquil landscape especially away from the A66 due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of settlement, night-time light pollution away from Penrith and minimal sources of artificial noise. In the north of the area the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by traffic noise on the busy A66, M6 and views of the traffic on the roads and Penrith.

|I am no solitary, but repair  
To woods and streams what time my duties spare: 
Musing my fancies, silent and unseen. 
I build my hovel ‘mong thy alders green! – 
Emont! I wish – I will not say I pray – 
Thou wouldst not wash my little works away! |

*Emont Vale, Wilkinson 1824*

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Predominantly intact hedgerow network, which is vulnerable to changes in land management and agricultural practices;
- Far reaching views to the Barton Fell and the High Street Fells in the south and the Pennines to the east, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- The River Eamont, which is vulnerable to pollution from run off associated with adjacent pastoral fields;
- A sense of tranquillity throughout the area, which is vulnerable to increased traffic on the predominantly rural road network; and
- Sparse and small-scale settlement pattern, consisting of the hamlets of Dacre, Barton, Sockbridge and Tirril, which are sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local building materials, scale and character.

**Forces for Change**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

In addition to the generic guidelines for managing landscape change within the relevant Landscape Character Types, guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- **Protect** the River Eamont from pollution.

**Ecological Character**

- No guidelines recommended.
Cultural and Historic Character

- Conserve and enhance the hedgerow network;
- Conserve and enhance limestone walls and fieldbarns;
- Retain sparse and small-scale settlement pattern, consisting of the hamlets of Dacre, Barton Sockbridge and Tirril; and
- Conserve and enhance designed parkland areas and retain and enhance mature infield and boundary trees.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Protect far reaching views to the Barton Fell and High Street in the south and the Pennines in the east from interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- Maintain the sense of tranquillity throughout the area.
AREA 21: ENNERDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

Ennerdale is the most westerly of the Upland Valleys within the Lake District National Park.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Angular Slate High Fell (G);
- Upland Valley (H); and
- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Craggy ridges of Borrowdale Rock form a dramatic backdrop and evoke a sense of enclosure;
- Outside of the nuclear settlement of Ennerdale Bridge, at the western most edge of the area, there are only a few scattered and isolated dwellings and farmsteads;
- The only major Lakeland valley with no public road along it and virtually no habitation beyond the western most edge; Due to its location and relative inaccessibility, Ennerdale receives few visitors but is an important recreational resource for the urban communities of west Cumbria;
- The eastern part of the valley, which is narrower and becomes more enclosed by the high rocky fells and narrower and is dominated by the conifer forests planted in the early part of the last century by the Forestry Commission. The steep rocky slopes of Kirk Fell, Great Gable, Steeple Pillar and Brandreth enclose the valley head. Pillar rock forms an imposing feature in the valley and is regarded as one of the birthplaces of mountaineering;
- This contrasts with the open pastoral farmland to west end of valley with its rich network of hedgerows and mature trees giving the west end a much gentler feel;
- The openness and proximity to the coastal plain gives this end of the valley a much lighter and more open feel;
- To the east of the lake, a small compact valley bottom with fields and wall boundaries;
- The woodlands in the valley are increasingly diverse with areas of semi-natural ancient oak woodland, mature non-native conifers, areas of clear fell, recent conifer planting and areas open to natural regeneration;
- There is a very strong sense of enclosure within parts of the forest where the only built features are a small number of bridges (some incongruous in the landscape), the forest roads and the hostels at Gillermitheraite and Black Sail;
- At the east end of the valley there is a harsh boundary between the grazed fell and the remains of the conifer forest most of which has now been felled. This contrasts with the area to the south of the lake where the Side provides one of the best examples of altitudinal succession in the Lake District;
- The River Liza is a mobile, high energy river and has seen almost no human intervention along its length. As such it is one of the most geomorphologically important rivers in England;
- The lake which provides water for the west coast has a stone and concrete revetment around its north-western most part; despite these built features there is a strong sense of tranquillity; and
- Predominantly very tranquil due to the lack of roads and other built structures and the relatively small number of visitors.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

There is a very strong sense of tranquillity within this area, with Ennerdale and Black Sail Youth Hostels and the Low Gillermitheraithe Field Centre, to the east of the lake, and the small village of Ennerdale Bridge, to the north-west, providing some of the only built elements. Coupled with very few roads or motor vehicles and a strong sense of enclosure provided by the dramatic backdrop of surrounding High Fells, this landscape has a sense of isolation and wilderness, particularly towards the eastern end of the valley.

This is a landscape of stark contrasts between spruce plantations on the valley sides, large areas of recent clear fell, wet heath; and montane 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 valley and also provide orientation.

Pillar Rock, presents one of the most dramatic mountain faces in England and can lay claim to being one of the birth places of climbing and mountaineering. It effectively splits the valley in half, with the lake forming the other half. Infrastructure associated with the ‘reservoir’ detracts from the natural feel around the western end of the lake (with concrete walls, fish pass and revetments around much of the lake).

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 and on the fells. 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. The area has a very strong sense of tranquility due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the landscape especially on the banks of Ennerdale Water. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of other people away from the road and track along the northern bank of the lake. There is also a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences. From the higher fells there are dramatic long distance views across the coastal plan and the Solway Firth to Scotland and the Isle of Man.

‘Wake, England, wake! ’tis now the hour, To sweep away this black disgrace –
    The want of locomotive power, In so enjoyable a place.
Nature has done her part, and why, Is mightier man in his to fail?
I want to hear the porter’s cry, ‘Change here for Ennerdale!’

Canon Rawnsley and the Lake District Defence Society opposing the plan to run a railway through the valley, published ‘Poetical Lamentation on the Insufficiency of Steam Locomotion in the Lake District, in the Pall Mall Gazette, 1883

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Dispersed and small-scale settlement pattern, consisting of the small village of Ennerdale and scattered farmsteads, which is sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character;
- Strong sense of isolation and tranquillity, particularly at the lakeshore and throughout most of the area;
- Large areas of woodland, which provides a sense of enclosure;
- Dramatic open views to the surrounding peaks of Great Gable, Steeple and Pillar, which contribute to recognisable sense of place, and are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Water within the River Liza, River Ehen and Ennerdale Water which is sensitive to the potential impacts of farming and forestry activities; and
- Predominantly rural and undeveloped character.

**Forces for Change**

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- The Wild Ennerdale Partnership, is the key driver for change, leading towards a naturalisation of the landscape, increased sense of wildness, more diverse and dynamic habitats with less distinction between forestry and farmed land and removal of intrusive built structures; and
Reduction in non-native conifer woodland and planting native woodland on gill and valley sides, transforming the existing character through reinforcement of positive attributes.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic *guidelines for managing landscape change* set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- **Encourage** low intervention management on the River Liza and Ehen and mitigate any impacts from farming and forestry activity, especially on pearl mussel and fish populations.

**Ecological Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Retain** dispersed and small scale settlement pattern, consisting of the small village of Ennerdale and scattered farmsteads.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- **Enhance** the sense of wildness in the valley and enable natural processes to play a greater role in the development of a more diverse and dynamic landscape;
- **Protect** the incredibly strong sense of isolation and tranquillity, particularly at the lakeshore and throughout most of the area;
- **Protect** dramatic open views to the surrounding peaks of Great Gable, Steeple and Pillar, which contribute to recognisable sense of place, from interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** rural and undeveloped character.
AREA 22: BORROWDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

Borrowdale is situated to the south of Keswick and Derwent Water in the north eastern part of the Lake District National Park.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- Rugged, Angular Slate High Fell (G).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Extremely diverse and intricate patchwork of fell, farmland, rivers, woodland and settlements, contained within the dramatic valley, which sits between the underlying smooth Skiddaw Slates and the Rugged, Craggy Borrowdale Volcanic geology;
- The extensive sinuous atlantic oak woodland with its important assemblages of mosses and lichens clothing the valley sides, is a key landscape feature;
- Overlooked by a series of imposing, large-scale High Fells (including the northern end of the Scafell massif, 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 into the main valley of Borrowdale;
- A number of traditional, small-scale farmsteads are nestled tightly within these side valleys. The villages of Rosthwaite and Grange in Borrowdale are focal points in the valley bottom, and their appearance is a contrast of limewash, render and rubble of the 17th century farmhouses, to the neat exposed green slate from the local quarries for the formal more imposing 19th century houses and hotels;
- Larger scale hamlets of Rosthwaite and Grange sit in the valley bottom, where lush pastures are divided by a network of stone walls which rise onto the lower sides of the surrounding fells;
- The lush pastures of the valley floor are divided by a network of rubble stone walls, which rise onto the lower sides of the surrounding fells;
- Water and the many watercourses have a huge influence on the character of this landscape, with seasonally changing amounts of rainfall, which at times can lead to immense cascading discharges of water down waterfalls, along the valleys, and into the main river Derwent with their distinctive gravel banks and important vernacular bridges such as Grange and Ashness. Most of these water courses have been highly modified by man over centuries for agricultural improvement;
- The valley has strong cultural associations with mountaineering and mining and has inspired writers such as Wordsworth, Beatrix Potter, Ruskin, Wainwright, Dalton, and Walpole;
- The volcanic green slate quarries and mines at Honister and Rigg Head form a distinct feature of industrial archaeological importance. Similarly, the world famous graphite or wad mines at Seathwaite are of both landscape and socio- economic importance, giving rise to the celebrated Keswick pencil industry;
- Significant native woodland contributes to the natural beauty of the area, with dramatic seasonal colour changes;
- Pollarded trees a strong feature of the landscape and evidence of past and current management; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil valley due to the perceived naturalness of the landscape, the presence of the River Derwent and relative absence of large settlements.
Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This relatively narrow and contained valley encompasses a diverse patchwork of different elements, including dramatic, smooth and craggy Fells, pastoral farmland with many veteran trees and pollards, which is divided by an interlocking network of traditional stone walls with occasional hedgerows and, extensive mature native woodland. The woodland is a rare survival of extensive stands of Atlantic oak woodland, which has important assemblages of bryophytes (mosses). The valley also holds the famous ancient yews known as the Borrowdale Yews, celebrated in verse by Wordsworth.

The strong sense of containment, which contributes to the intimate scale of the valley-bottom landscape, is a result of the imposing, craggy 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 broadleaved woodland, set against the muted greys and browns of the surrounding High Fells, exhibits strong contrast in summer. The woodland also contributes major seasonal colour changes when clothed in spring and autumn colour, and in winter the visually important assemblages of woodland lichens and mosses, and the watercourses add further highlights depending on the weather.

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 crags 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 spectacular views from the Northern reaches of the valley towards Derwent water, and its timeless woodland, beck and pastures, and remote combination of Tarn, farmhouse and stone bridge at the valley head, creating an intimate and almost hidden landscape.

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. The area has a very strong sense of tranquillity, locally disturbed in places by traffic noise on the B5289. The sense of tranquillity is due to perceived naturalness of the landscape and the presence of the River Derwent. There is also a relative absence of large settlements and night-time light pollution and minimal sources of artificial noise.

‘His own home- two rooms of a farmhouse- was in the hamlet of Watendlath, the smoke from whose chimneys he could see now lazily curling beneath him. He had indeed a fine view. On these tops you could walk for miles and scarcely be compelled to descend. Beloved names came to meet him as he looked. Towards Derwentwater, Brown Dodd and Ashness Fell and High Seat; towards Thirlmere, Armbrath and Watendlath Fell; towards the Langdales, Coldbarrow and Ullscarf and High White Stones. The ranges lay all about him in shapes more human than those of his friends, moulded and formed, now sharply with rocks and steeples and slanting cliffs of shining colour, then gently in sheets of flaming bracken lifting to smooth arms and shoulders embossed like shields of metal. Wild profusion, and yet perfect symmetry and order. One colour faded to another, purple cliff above orange sea, deeps of violet under shadow of rose, and a great and perfect stillness everywhere.’

From Rogue Herries Part IV, Hugh Walpole
**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Open views to surrounding large-scale High Fells (including Scafell, the Central Fells and Glaramara Ridge) which are sensitive to interruption by large scale or tall vertical developments;
- Small-scale and intricate settlement pattern, consisting of the small farmsteads and hamlets, which are sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and character;
- Large areas of semi-natural deciduous woodland along the valley sides, which provide a sense of enclosure and an important ecological habitat;
- Mature network of hedgerows, combined with a strongly recognisable series of vernacular stone walls, which contribute to recognisable sense of place and are sensitive to changes in land management or agricultural practices;
- Strong sense of tranquillity throughout, especially within the hanging valley of Watendlath;
- Predominantly rural character throughout, with a series of minor rural roads crossing the landscape;
- Water within the sinuous River Derwent, several smaller streams, becks and waterfalls, which is sensitive to potential pollution from run off associated with adjacent pastoral fields, and potential changes to water levels;
- Much of the valley bottom land may be significantly influenced by any changes in the management regime of the river;
- Vernacular stone bridges, which cross the rivers and are historic landscape features; and
- Mining and tourism development at Honister has a significant impact on the surrounding landscape.

**Forces for Change**

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Regeneration of native woodland;
- Viability of maintaining agricultural flood defences leading to the naturalisation of river channels and the loss of in-bye agricultural land;
- Sustained pressure on the use of Grains Gill and impacts on tranquillity of the Three Peaks Challenge around Seathwaite; and
- Increase in large agricultural buildings for over wintering stock and in size of new residential properties leading to greater visibility and loss of landscape quality.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- **Conserve** and **expand** semi-natural deciduous woodland along the valley sides.

**Ecological Character**

- No guidelines recommended.
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Ensure** a holistic and sustainable approach is taken to the future management of the River Derwent and any consequent effects on farming in the valley;
- **Retain** small-scale and intricate settlement pattern, consisting of the small farmsteads and hamlets;
- **Conserve and enhance** mature network of hedgerows and stone walls, especially at the valley head;
- **Conserve and enhance** distinctive ash pollards and other mature open-grown trees in farmed land and on valley sides; and
- **Conserve** vernacular stone river bridges.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** open views to surrounding large-scale High Fells (including Scafell, the Central Fells and Glaramara Ridge);
- **Protect** views from interruption by vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** strong sense of tranquillity throughout, especially within the hanging valley of Watendlath;
AREA 23: THIRLMERE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A large-scale steep-sided upland valley, lacking habitation and predominantly occupied by a large reservoir, framed by craggy Borrowdale fells, which are draped with a layer of coniferous woodland;
- 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 locally, 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 coniferous woodland (which is being converted to native woodland around the lakeshores) covering the lower slopes;
- Large body of water within a relatively narrow valley, which contrasts with other natural post-glacial lakes;
- Features of cultural heritage range from Castle Crag Hill Fort to the castellated, red sandstone straining well, a distinctive roadside feature alongside the A591 (grade II listed), built by Manchester Corporation in the 1890s;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape especially away from the valley floor around the A591 where areas are locally disturbed by traffic noise. General lack of development, particularly on the western side gives a strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness.

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 Upland Valleys, evoking a sense of calm. Other than the pumping station on the east bank, the area lacks signs of habitation, adding to the sense of calm. Farmhouses and clusters of buildings are restricted to the ends of the valley. Recent tree felling has opened up views across the lake from the A591.

Within the coniferous woodland (habitat for red squirrels and 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. There are remnant stands of juniper on the higher western slopes.

Thirlmere Reservoir, like Haweswater, was artificially created (the dam to the northern end of the Reservoir was built in 1893), and flooded farmsteads in the valley. As with many large reservoirs the water level drops in summer, revealing a wide band of bare exposed rock and creating an unnatural banded effect. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity away from the valley floor around the A591. The sense of tranquillity is due to the perceived naturalness of the landscape and relative absence of dwellings and settlements. The sense of tranquillity is disturbed around the A591 by traffic noise especially in the peak tourist season.
The slightly curved shape of the lake means that the whole reservoir cannot be seen when standing at either end, adding an element of surprise when travelling through the landscape. From the quieter western lakeshore, spectacular views across the water to the Helvellyn Range to the east can be gained. Recent thinning of non-native trees around the reservoir margins has opened up major new views of the water. Literary connections include works by Southey, Wordsworth and John Richardson.

‘Thither the rainbow comes – the cloud –
And mists that spread the flying shroud;
And sunbeams; and the sounding blast,
That, if it could, would hurry past;
But that enormous barrier holds it fast.’

Fedelity, Wordsworth – capturing the changing moods of Helvellyn and of Red Tarn which lies below the summit.

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Water within Thirlmere reservoir, which is sensitive to diffuse pollution;
- Open views to and strong intervisibility with surrounding Borrowdale Fells and Armboth Fell, Raven Crag and Helvellyn ridge, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Changes in woodland composition and cover impacting on the open field sides and the sense of enclosure;
- Historic tower and other buildings associated with the reservoir and dam falling into disrepair; and
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity, particularly along the western side.

**Forces for Change**

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increasing use of car parks and intensification of recreational activities;
- Development and increasing use of Quiet Road along the western shore; and
- Increasing demands for water and potential drier summers changing water level and exposing the reservoir margins.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- **Protect** water within Thirlmere reservoir from pollution.

**Ecological Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Cultural and Historic Character**
• **Conserve** and **enhance** expanses of woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure, **encourage** reversion to broadleaved woodland where appropriate; and

• **Conserve** the historic tower and other buildings associated with the reservoir and dam;

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

• **Retain** open views to and strong intervisibility with surrounding Borrowdale Fells and Armboth Fell, Raven Crag and Helvellyn ridge; and

• **Maintain** the relatively strong sense of tranquillity along the western shore.
AREA 24: HELVELLYN RANGE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

The Helvellyn Range forms a ridge running north south between Thirlmere and Ullswater, to the east of the Central Lake District.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Magnificent open, panoramic views of an extensive mountain massif - including Striding Edge, Swirral Edge and Red Tarn and across to the North Pennines when visibility permits;
- A forbidding atmosphere, in some atmospheric conditions;
- 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 area;
- Helvellyn range visually dominates the Thirlmere valley and St John’s in the Vale to the west, as well as Glenridding/Ullswater to the east;
- Many walkers on the summit and paths, resulting in perhaps the busiest summit in the Lake District;
- Former mine workings in Glenridding, including huge spoil tips of Greenside mine; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and its perceived naturalness. There is also a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The Helvellyn range contains a wide range of dramatic landforms. The deep dark waters of Red Tarn, with the bare rock of Striding Edge and Swirral Edge high above are classic examples of glaciated scenery. Helvellyn also possesses 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 range also contains remnant arctic flora e.g. moss campion, formerly far more extensive, which contribute patches of colour to the bare ridges in season.

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.

The Helvellyn massif is popular with hillwalkers. From the top of the ridge - including the summits of Stybarrow Dodd, Raise, Helvellyn, Nethermost Pike and Dollywaggon Pike - there are panoramic views in all directions, including much of the Lake District, the North Pennines and towards the Solway and Scotland.

The Greenside Mine workings above Glenridding have a dominating presence locally, with the scale of its old tips. The area has a very strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perceived naturalness. There is also a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences especially high up on the fells.
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of isolation, remoteness and tranquillity throughout;
- Unique plant communities, which are sensitive to potential climate change and trampling or disturbance by visitors and walkers; and
- Strong intervisiblility with Thirlmere Valley, St. Johns in the Vale and Ullswater Valley.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Retreat from marginal land leading to a change in vegetation structure.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** unique plant communities, which are sensitive to potential climate change and trampling or disturbance by visitors and walkers.

Cultural and Historic Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** strong sense of isolation, remoteness and tranquillity throughout; and
- **Retain** strong intervisiblility with Thirlmere Valley, St. Johns in the Vale and Ullswater Valley.

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From 'A Masque of Poetry' by Edmund Casson

'I like to think of mountains thus:
   A wallowing hippopotamus,
   Helvellyn rolls its massey length
   In an uncouth and knotted strength;
   And the stray sleet showers on its side
   Pick out the crinkles in the hide.'
AREA 25: ULLSWATER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the north east of the Lake District National Park.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F);
- Upland Valley (H); and
- High Fell Fringe (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Unique curving ribbon shape of Ullswater facilitates many stimulating views and an element of surprise throughout the area, including localised areas of wild daffodils in early spring;
- Strong sense of the landscape evolving from south to north with the enclosed, steep-sided upland feel of the south of the lake giving way to an open, flatter more lowland feel in the north;
- Intricate patchwork of different habitats gives a strong sense of place;
- Important areas of wood pasture on the north west side of the lake and significant areas of deciduous woodland clinging to the steep slope on the opposite side of the lake;
- Large areas of juniper on the south-west and east sides of the lake have a prominent impact on the landscape;
- Great Mell Fell and Little Mell Fell are prominent landmarks at the north end of the lake, whereas the Helvellyn Massif dominates views from high ground at the southern end of the lake;
- Dunmallard Hill at the Northern tip of the lake is a locally distinctive landmark. This steep-sided, wooded hill with an Iron Age hillfort on the top visually separates Ullswater from the Eamont river valley;
- Aira Force is an important historic designed landscape and tourist hotspot and a very popular base to explore the neighbouring low fells and Gowbarrow Deer Park;
- The large village of Glenridding, nestling at the foot of the Helvellyn Fells, has a very strong identity as a former mining community, once dependant on the prosperous Greenside Lead Mine (largest in England), the village bears the evidence with the old stone terraces and the 20th century workers houses;
- At Glenridding, the tourist-related facilities of hotels, guest houses and shops along the A592 contrast with the working character of buildings stretching up the valley;
- The steamers, their jetties and the boat houses on the lake shore are distinctive features;
- Little built development along the lake outside of the main settlements; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape, especially away from the A592, due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley. There is also a relative absence of dwellings to the east of Ullswater away from the lake.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The unique curving 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. There is a strong sense that this landscape evolves as you move through it from south to north, with the enclosed, steep sided upland feel of the south of the lake giving way to a flatter, more lowland feel in the north. The area has strong associations with Wordsworth (not least owing to the local wild daffodils, now restricted to a few places on the shore), 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). One of the best known classic Lakeland views is from Glencoyne.

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, areas of wood pasture on the north-west side of the lake 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. Large areas of juniper on the south-west and east (Birk Fell) sides of the lake have a prominent impact on the landscape. The many hidden farms together with the contrasting villages of Pooley Bridge, Glenridding and Patterdale, which are built from rubble or quarry waste stone, some rendered and green slate roofs, further contribute to strongly recognisable sense of place within the area and attract many visitors. In addition, Dunmallard Hill is a locally distinctive landmark. This steep-sided, wooded hill with an Iron Age hillfort on the top visually separates Ullswater from the Eamont river valley.

Due to this mosaic of habitats, this area – the perceived scale of which depends largely 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 Howtown and from there to Pooley Bridge.

The vast expanse of water, the continuity of which is occasionally broken by yachts, steamers or house boats, and is framed by the often wooded, rugged craggy fells of the surrounding Borrowdale Rocks on either side, gives the area a sense of enclosure and wildness. There is generally little built development along the lake, outside the main settlements. 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 exhilarating feel.

The slow-moving yachts and steamers, and soaring birds of prey are often the only signs of movement on the lake, contributing to the strong sense of tranquillity, which is generally apparent throughout the area (at distance from the A592). The area has a sense of tranquillity especially on the fells east of the lake on the approaches to High Street and in the southern parts of the area around Glenridding. In these areas the sense of tranquillity is due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the heathland hillsides. The traffic noise and movement on the A592 disturbs the sense of tranquillity within the western side of the valley adjacent to the road and lake.

‘I wandered lonely as a cloud That floats on high o’er vales and hills, When all at once I saw a crowd, A host, of golden daffodils; Beside the lake, beneath the trees, Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.’

William Wordsworth 1770 – 1850

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to the Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Water within Ullswater, which is sensitive to diffuse pollution;
- Important areas of wood pasture on the north-west side of the lake and significant areas of deciduous woodland;
- Generally strong sense of tranquillity at distance from A592 road corridor;
- Open views to and from surrounding fells and strong intervisibility with Great and Little Mell Fells, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Iron-Age hillfort on Dunmallard Hill, which is sensitive to damaging footpath erosion and disturbance from tree planting; and
- Wear and tear of historic landscape from high numbers of visitors (usually arriving in cars) especially around Aira Force.

Forces for Change

The Forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** important areas of wood pasture on the north-west side of the lake; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of deciduous woodland.

Ecological Character

- **Protect** water within Ullswater from diffuse pollution.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** the Iron Age hillfort on Dunmallard Hill by protecting from damaging footpath erosion and manage tree planting and removal appropriately;
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation and restoration of historic parkland.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** open, uncluttered views and strong intervisibility with Great and Little Mell Fells and protect from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** relatively strong sense of tranquillity.
AREA 26: BAMPTON COMMON

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- High Fell Fringe (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Open expanses of acid grassland, rough heather moorland and blanket bog 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 broad Lowther Valley give a strong contrast to the desolate moorland;
- Upland farms, surrounded by semi-improved and improved pasture, appear as pockets of bright green in the moorland landscape;
- On lower ground, a complex patchwork of walled fields containing moorland, marshy ground, grazed fields and gorse give a mosaic of colours and textures in the landscape;
- Clusters of trees associated with farm buildings and large numbers of infield and boundary trees;
- The number of scattered farms, combined with the lack of visitors or tourist facilities gives this area a sense of a working landscape rather than a recreational one; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the heather moorland and valley. There is also a relative absence of settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

There are two main parts to this Area of Distinctive Character. The western part comprises a plateau covered in heather moorland, acid grassland and blanket bog, which slopes gradually up towards High Street on the western edge of the area. This plateau 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 plateau 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 semi-improved and 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, bog, heather moorland and gorse, giving a mosaic of greens, browns, purples and yellow.

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. The area has a strong
sense of tranquillity especially on the heather moorland in the west due to the openness and perceived
naturalness of the landscape. Throughout the area even in the valley there is a relative absence of
settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influence enhancing the
sense of tranquillity.

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to
this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Open expanses of acid grassland, heather moorland and blanket bog, which are vulnerable to
  overgrazing and inappropriate burning;
- Overall strong sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity;
- Open views across the Lowther Valley, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-
  scale developments;
- Complex patchwork of stone (volcanic rock) walls, which contribute to recognisable landscape
  pattern, and are vulnerable to changes in land management;
- Small-scale settlement pattern and vernacular built character, which is sensitive to the introduction of
  large-scale buildings, or those which do not respect local vernacular building materials, scale and
  character; and
- Predominantly rural character throughout, including along the minor road corridors.

**Forces for Change**

The Forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant
Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape
change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific
to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Ecological Character**

- **Conserve** and **enhance** rough heather moorland and blanket bog.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Conserve** open expanses of unenclosed moorland;
- **Conserve** complex patchwork of stone (volcanic) walls;
- **Retain** small-scale settlement pattern and vernacular built character;
- **Manage** the spread of bracken and scrub on important archaeological sites; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric (e.g.
  fenestration) and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where
  appropriate.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- **Maintain** overall strong sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity;
- **Retain** open views across the Lowther Valley; and
- **Maintain** rural character throughout, including along the minor road corridors.
AREA 27: LOWTHER VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character encompasses a distinctive limestone valley situated within the east of the Lake District National Park.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Upland Limestone Farmland (I); and
- High Fell Fringe (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Broad gentle, limestone valley with the River Lowther meandering through the landscape;
- Rugged and rough limestone outcrops of Knipe Scar and Burtree Scar, which contrast with adjacent green grassland;
- Variety of habitats, including designed 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, intrusive regular, geometric coniferous woodlands;
- An exceptional group of distinct historic settlements spread along the Lowther valley from Rosgill, Bampton Grange, Bampton, Helton and Askham;
- Askham is the finest example in the Lake District of a planned 13th century village, grouped around village greens with mature trees, and with former open field strips (now enclosed) surrounding. A superb very picturesque linear almost continuous building frontage of the 17th, 18th and 19th century, using sandstone, limestone, rubble, render and limewash, giving unity in variety;
- Helton, just to the south of Askham, is another fine example of attractive traditional buildings, set within a medieval field strip system;
- The limestone walls enclosing the strip fields surrounding Helton, contrast with the darker grey volcanic stone within the rest of the character area;
- The formally planned Lowther Village is a very important example of an estate workers village. Designed by Robert Adam and built in 1770 using local limestone walling, with dressed sandstone detailing;
- Strong sense of distant containment provided by high fells to the west;
- Strongly rural and somewhat isolated character, despite proximity to M6 corridor to the east;
- Ruins of Shap Abbey in the south of the area; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape, especially away from the traffic noise associated with the A6 and M6 in the east, due to the relative absence of roads and dwellings and the perceived openness and naturalness of the landscape.

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 isolated 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 in the lower valley, but with many walls as one moves up the valley). An intricate pattern of ancient, limestone-walled strip fields surrounding the village of Helton, contrasts with the darker grey volcanic stone within the rest of the character area. Views to the east all along the valley to the south of Askham are dominated by the rugged and rough limestone outcrops of Knipe and Burtree scars rising sharply from the softer valley giving the lie to the underlying geology of the whole area. Numerous limekilns are also evident.
There is a sense of timelessness within this landscape, as a result of the traditional historic character of the villages of Askham, Rosgill, Bampton, Bampton Grange and Helton (with their distinctive arrangements of rustic white cottages, with colourful contrasting window frames). The remains of Lowther Castle, the mature parkland landscapes associated with the Lowther Estate (including many veteran and mature trees), Shap Abbey and an array of archaeological features, also hint at the historic significance of this landscape. Woodland plantations frame views throughout the rolling landscape, though geometric blocks of coniferous plantation are a discordant element. 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, Bampton and Bampton Grange, and scattered farms). The area has a sense of tranquillity especially away from the A6 and M6. The sense of tranquillity is due to the perceived openness and naturalness of the landscape away from the busy road corridors. Throughout the area there is a relative absence of main roads or large settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise. To the east of the area the sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed by traffic noise from the busy A6 and M6.

‘The Muse prophetic sees the hand of taste
Conduct new beauties through the wild-wood waste; …
Sees the rude dome above your forest grow,
The sparkling grotto hide its wealth below;
Sees Phoenix-like, the mansion rise again,
And look majestic o’er her native plain,
’Tis done – already, glittering from afar,
Lowther’s white towers salute the morning star.’

‘Lowther’, Thomas Wilkinson, 1824

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Water within the meandering River Lowther, which is vulnerable to pollution from run off associated with adjacent pastoral fields;
- Mature parkland landscape, incorporating pastoral farmland, moorland and meadows and many mature single trees, all of which are vulnerable to potential encroachment from surrounding agriculture, changes in land management and lack of succession planning;
- The historic villages of Askham, Rosgill, Bampton, Bampton Grange and Helton, with their vernacular character of white-washed buildings and contrasting colour window frames, which are sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings within the centre or at the edges of the village, or those which do not respect local built character, scale and form;
- Limestone outcrops of Knipe Scar and Burtree Scar, which are landscape and ecological features and are vulnerable to damage from agricultural machinery or disturbance from walkers or visitors;
- Predominantly rural character throughout;
- Open views towards high fells in the west, scars and the distant Pennines in the east which are sensitive to the interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- Strong sense of tranquillity at distance from the A6 and M6 road corridors.

**Forces for Change**

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.
GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Protect the River Lowther catchment from pollution.

Ecological Character

- Protect limestone outcrops of Knipe Scar and Burtree Scar, which are landscape and ecological features.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Conserve and restore mature parkland landscape, including currently pastoral farmland, woodland, moorland and meadows and mature single trees;
- Conserve character of historic villages with the various characteristic vernacular styles described in the Distinctive Characteristics section; and
- Conserve and enhance field boundaries associated with medieval strip fields and deerarks.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Maintain rural character throughout;
- Protect open views to and from the area from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- Maintain strong sense of tranquillity at distance from A6 and M6 road corridors.
AREA 28: KINNISIDE COMMON

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F);
- Rugged, Angular Slate High Fell (G); and
- High Fell Fringe (J).

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 upland landscape, with very few trees outside of the conifer plantations in the west. Views are unbroken by built features;
- The fells are ecologically poor and in places heavily grazed. Nardus dominated grassland with bracken in the valley bottoms;
- There are virtually no boundaries or enclosures as the whole area is grazed as a common;
- Worm Gill, with its wide boulder-strewn valley bottom is a highly mobile and dynamic river system and an extremely important geo-morphological feature of the area;
- 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; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape, due to the openness of the hills, relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few signs of human influences.

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. 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 wilderness. 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 high fells dominate views to the east while to the west they are dominated by the coastal plain.

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. The openness and perceived naturalness of the landscape creates a strong sense of tranquillity. The relative absence of
dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few signs of human influences particularly away from the western boundary to the area also enhance the sense of tranquillity.

‘Caw Fell, like many of us who lack a good shape and attractive features, objects to having his picture taken and is not at all co-operative as a subject of illustration. From no point of view does the fell look like anything other than a broadly-buttressed sprawling uncorseted graceless lump with a vast flattened summit similarly devoid of a single distinguishing landmark.’

For those who Love the Hills – Quotations from Wainwright’s Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells, Dyer1994.33 (VII Caw Fell 1)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of wildness;
- Strong sense of openness throughout, currently interrupted in places by blocks of forestry;
- The River Lowther, which is vulnerable to pollution from run-off from adjacent fields;
- Strong sense of tranquillity throughout; and
- General sites of archaeological interest.

Forces for Change

The Forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- Encourage a grazing regime on the Common which encourages a more diverse mosaic of upland habitats to develop.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Protect sites of archaeological interest.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Retain the strong sense of wildness;
- Retain and protect open views to and from the area and the strong sense of openness throughout, particularly from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- Maintain strong sense of tranquillity throughout;.
AREA 29: WASTWATER & WASDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the west of the Lake District National Park.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Upland Valley (H); and
- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A landscape of contrasts, where England’s deepest lake is surrounded by some of the highest summits;
- Ancient unusual and complex thick ring garth and 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 continue under the water, to the deepest depths of the Lake);
- An over-whelming sense of majesty, drama and foreboding enclosure that the steep slopes provide;
- The unique and visually stimulating pattern of stone walls, comprising large rounded stones, which divide fields at Wasdale Head and spread high 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;
- Major erosion, litter and disturbance impacts from Three Peaks Challenge events;
- 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 Nether Wasdale 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;
- Scots Pine parkland entering valley from Gosforth junction (old golf course);
- Medieval deer park;
- Low Wood at eastern end of the lake;
- Vendace within the lake; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to openness and perceived naturalness of the valley. There is a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences away from Nether Wasdale.

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 scree slopes, 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, farmsteads and church, clustered at Wasdale Head) and other isolated farmsteads along the valley sides, along 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.
Areas of broadleaved woodland such as Low Wood, and parkland with open grown mature trees around the south-west end of the lake and the Netherwasdale Estate, provide a lush green contrast with the fells and provide historic and ecological interest.

Located at the head of Wastwater, the historic, remote and isolated hamlet of Wasdale Head (whose church St. Olaf’s, is the smallest in England) is set amidst a unique historic patchwork of ancient, wide, drystone walls made of large rounded beck-bottom stones, 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 peaks of Scafell, Scafell Pike and Great Gable. The area has a very strong sense of tranquillity due to openness and perceived naturalness of the landscape. There is a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise away from Nether Wasdale and the minor roads along the northern banks of Wastwater. There are also few obvious signs of human influences around the lake apart from the minor road.

‘The first awe inspiring and completely unforgettable view of Wasdale is the linear sombre lake lying beneath the towering, vertical, craggy cliffs and the all encompassing Screes, which plummet downwards and outwards – meeting the black water in cone shaped fans.’

Wasdale Management Plan, National Trust, n.d.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Wastwater and adjacent lakeshore habitats, which are sensitive to disturbance from walkers and visitors and also from pollution associated with adjacent agricultural activities;
- Scree slopes along the southern shore of the lake, which are important landscape, geological and ecological features, vulnerable to disturbance by walkers and climbers;
- Very strong sense of isolation and tranquillity throughout the area;
- Dramatic open views to Scafell Pike and the surrounding High Fells which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Unusual network of thick ring garth stone walls near Wasdale Head which denote a striking landscape pattern and are vulnerable to changes in land management;
- Small, historic St Olaf’s church which is a striking historic feature;
- General absence of built elements, other than the cluster at Wasdale Head and within Netherwasdale estate;
- Intricate pattern of pasture fields within the valley bottom; and
- Areas of parkland sensitive to changes in agricultural management and lack of succession planning.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above:

- Sustained pressure from the Three Peaks Challenge causing erosion scars and disturbance at the head of the valley.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:
Physical Character

- **Conserve** scree slopes along the southern shore of the lake; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of broadleaved woodland.

Ecological Character

- **Protect** Wastwater from pollution and **conserve** adjacent lakeshore habitats.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **maintain** unusual thick ring garth, and other stone walls near Wasdale Head.
- **Conserve** historic St Olaf’s church;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of parkland, encouraging succession planning for clumps of trees and individual open gown trees;
- **Maintain** the general absence of built elements, other than the cluster at Wasdale Head and within Nether Wasdale estate;
- **Conserve** the intricate pattern of ancient pasture fields within the valley bottom; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments) where appropriate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** very strong sense of isolation and tranquillity throughout the area;
- **Encourage** restoration of erosion scars associated with most popular routes;
- **Manage** large-scale challenge events to minimise disturbance to wildlife, litter and damage; and
- **Protect** dramatic open views to Scafell Pike and the surrounding High Fells from interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments.
AREA 30: SCAFELL MASSIF

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- The central and highest part of the Lake District contains magnificent, wild, remote and rugged mountain scenery, including England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike;
- Distinctive rock formations, steep rock faces, scree and the effects of glaciation contribute to its distinctive sense of place, and landmarks within the area include high peaks, tarns and passes. Views from this area are panoramic in all directions, but are not dominated by a single lake;
- Rocks contribute a craggy, jagged texture to the landscape. The colours, sounds and patterns of the landscape are constantly changing, affected by variation in light, weather and season. The landscape may be observed at a variety of scales, from panoramic views to the detail of a stone;
- The remoteness, tranquillity and isolation of the area, combined with the physical challenges it offers, makes it popular with walkers and climbers; and
- Powerful scenery, with relatively few human influences, creates a sense of timelessness.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character forms the heart of the Lake District, and includes some of the highest and most magnificent mountain scenery in England, including England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike.

Its highly dramatic sense of place comes from its elevation, remoteness, rugged, rocky terrain and distinctive landmarks. Such landmarks include the distinctive mountain profiles (Cinkle Crags and Bow Fell, for example), occasional tarns such as Easedale tarn and Styhead tarn, and, in the southern part of the area, the Hardknott and Wrynose mountain passes. There are memorable panoramic views over the Lake District and beyond in all directions from the highest points, but these views are not dominated by a single lake or valley. The area offers some of the most challenging mountain climbing in England and has historic links to early mountaineering.

The exposed volcanic rocks within this Area of Distinctive Character create a craggy and jagged texture to the landscape, with much exposed rock, steep rock faces, and scree and little vegetation in many places. There are many classic examples of glaciation features including u-shaped and hanging valleys, as well as tarns, moraines and rock striations. Where there is vegetation, it is low growing, predominantly acid grassland, blanket bog, heath, wet flushes and a few areas with remnant alpines and boreal species. Occasional small stunted trees (mostly rowan or birch) occur in sheltered gills and on rock faces out of reach of the sheep on the lower slopes.

The colours, sounds and patterns of the landscape are constantly changing, affected by variations in light, weather and season. The light can change in a split second, suddenly illuminating a patch of hill like a spotlight, or creating 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 can completely alter the experience of the fells. In particular, dense mist obscures landmarks, and can create a strong sense of disorientation and isolation. The slowest changes are seasonal ones- the presence of snow in winter, for example, and also the changing colours and patterns of the vegetation. The change in the colour of the bracken from green to bright orange-brown in autumn sunshine is particularly striking, but springs and wet flushes and heather contribute other more subtle effects to the pattern and texture of the landscape.
Visually, the landscape works at a variety of scales. On clear days, the eye is drawn to the magnificent views across the surrounding area to distant lakes and valleys. The elevation of the landscape 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 stone walls, patterns in the rocks and vegetation, or the movement of water in a stream.

The few built elements in the landscape are constructed of stone and include cairns, sheepfolds, occasional stone walls and engineered footpaths. At the summit of Wrynose Pass is the Three Shires Stone, a boundary stone which marks the location at which the historic counties of Lancashire, Cumberland and Westmorland met. The limestone monolith was cut in the Lancashire village of Cartmel in 1819 for the Furness roadmaster William Field, but was not erected until 1860.

This area is physically challenging to reach and its openness and perceived naturalness give it 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. Other human influences include vehicles crossing Hardknott and Wrynose passes, and the occasional roar of a low flying jet. Despite these influences, the sense of tranquillity is very strong, the scenery remains powerful, evocative and uplifting, and there is a sense of peace and timelessness up here, removed from towns, roads and the distractions of the modern world.

‘Oh my God! What enormous mountains these are, by me and yet below the hill I stand on … But Oh! What a look down just under my feet! The frightfullest cove that might ever be seen: Hugh perpendicular precipices and one sheep upon its only ledge … Just by it and joining together, rise two high pillars of bare, lead-coloured stone: I am no measurer but their height and depth is terrible.’

Coleridge, 1802

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of isolation, remoteness and tranquillity throughout;
- Strong intervisibility with adjacent Areas of Distinctive Character from the edges of this area;
- Water within tarns, which is vulnerable to pollution from walkers and climbers;
- Strongly rural and undeveloped character;
- Landmark features such as cairns;
- Unique range of ecological habitats including alpine and boreal species;
- Strong sense of openness; and
- Dramatic panoramic views across adjacent landscapes.

**Forces for Change**

The Forces for change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:
Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- Protect water within tarns from pollution; and
- Conserve and enhance the unique range of ecological habitats.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Conserve landmark features, such as cairns and sheepfolds; and
- Conserve character of roads across mountain passes, and prevent inappropriate road improvements.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Maintain strong sense of isolation, remoteness and tranquillity throughout;
- Retain strong intervisibility with adjacent Areas of Distinctive Character from the edges of this area;
- Protect views into and from the area from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Retain rural and undeveloped character;
- Retain strong sense of openness; and
- Conserve dramatic panoramic views across adjacent landscapes.
AREA 31: GRASMERE AND RYDAL

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

Grasmere and Rydal are located at the heart of the Lake District National Park.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells (F); and
- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Two, relatively small lakes surrounded by patches of soft woodland, nestled within a dramatic Low Fell backdrop, with occasional dramatic glimpses of the High Fells;
- The area has a strong feel of a designed landscape with a complex and varied pattern and a strong impact of seasonal change and colour;
- Several villas fronting onto the lakes, with ornamental planting and retained open space between the villas and the lakes;
- The area contains some very fine vernacular rendered farmhouses and stone barns, contrasted by ornate Victorian villas with mature designed grounds and woodland;
- Woodland cover in the valley bottom creeps up the fells side to the edge of open fell creating a diffuse and intricate boundary between the two;
- Sentinel conifers provide striking features in the landscape and occasional blocks of conifer plantation, especially on the slopes below Heron Pike create incongruous features;
- Scattered mature yew and juniper on the fell sides add texture to the bracken dominated slopes;
- The character of the area changes towards the north, having a stronger upland and agricultural feel. Woodland becomes less important and the surrounding high fells become more dominant.
- The valley bottom has significant areas of improved pasture surrounded by stone walls;
- The mature parkland associated with Rydal Hall, with its rich pasture and many veteran and mature open-grown trees and broadleaved woodland gives a serene, lush character to this part of the area;
- A welcoming landscape for visitors, who can experience an intimate sense of tranquillity and calm. However the area is bisected by the busy A591 which disturbs this;
- Grasmere and Rydal are contrasting villages in terms of history, character and identity, although both are heavily wooded. Grasmere has a scatter of older buildings near the dominant Parish church, and it expanded significantly in the post-railway period with hotels, villas, terraces and shops. A distinctive feature of this later period is the use of deep red haematite marking on the faces of the green slate walling, from the nearby quarries;
- Rydal village has a wooded character of parkland and mature native and ornamental coniferous trees. Stretching from the River Rothay up the hill towards the dominant Rydal Hall, the village consists of an attractive loose group of 17th to 19th century stone and rendered buildings; and
- Celebrated historic and cultural associations with Wordsworth, who came to settle in the valley.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The relatively small lakes of Grasmere and Rydal Water lie at the heart of a largely designed landscape that has the feel of wooded parkland or garden for the villas that create focal points in the valley. The open areas of pasture, created as viewing areas between the villas and the lakeshore provide small but rare areas of uniformity. The complex and intricate pattern of largely deciduous woodland, mature open grown trees and veteran pollards is punctuated by sentinel specimen conifers, alongside which sit small, incongruous patches of regular shaped conifer plantations. Seasonal bursts of colour in autumn or from the flowering patches of rhododendrons and azaleas can create a striking impression.
The valley has a sense of enclosure from the surrounding fells which highlights the sense of intimacy experienced within this area of landscape. Many of the fell slopes are dominated by bracken, adding to the seasonal variation of colour while a scattering of mature trees (principally yew and juniper) are significant features. Within this contained landscape, there is also a relatively strong sense of quietness; however tranquillity can be disturbed, particularly at weekends and during the summer months, by the influx of visitors and traffic noise from the A591 is a nearly constant feature of the valley. At the northern end of the area the valley, woodland becomes a less significant feature and the surrounding high fells dominate the feel of the landscape.

Rydal Water (which was once known as Rothaymere, due to its proximity to the River Rothay) and Grasmere, both have gentle lakeshores surrounded by lush pasture, which are in large part inaccessible to visitors. Small islands on the lake (thought to be formed from glacial drumlins) break up the expanse of water within the lake. The mature parkland associated with Rydal Hall, with its rich pasture and many veteran and mature open-grown trees and broadleaved woodland, gives a serene, established soft and lush character to the landscape in the south of the area.

Nestled at the northern end of Grasmere Lake, the distinctive historic village of Grasmere, which overlooks the River Rothay exhibits a range of grey and reddish stone buildings made largely of dressed slate. Small cottages create an intricate feel in parts of the village while in other areas hotels of a significant size dominate and overall the village lacks the sense of having a centre or focal point. The village is overlooked and enclosed by the surrounding fells and 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.

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 poems and writings.

‘Do the Westmorland valleys turn grey headed? O reader! This is a painful memento of some of us! Thirty years ago, a gang of Vandals (nameless, I thank heaven, to me), for the sake of building a mail-coach road that never would be wanted, carried, at accost of £3000 to the defrauded parish, a horrid causeway of sheer granite masonry, for three-quarters-of-a-mile, right through the loveliest succession of secret forest dells and shy recesses of the lake margined by unrivalled ferns … The Grasmere before and after this outrage were two different vales.’

Thomas De Quincey (lived in Dove Cottage, Grasmere), footnote to ‘Confessions of an English Opium Eater’, 1856

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- The high diversity and complexity of the landscape is sensitive to change;
- Water within Grasmere Lake and Rydal Water, which is vulnerable to pollution from diffuse and point source pollution;
- Open views to surrounding fells, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Large villas and Rydal Hall with their associated parkland and designed landscapes, which are vulnerable to changes and extensions which do not respect vernacular built character or introduction of inappropriate garden design features;
- Small woodlands, which provide a sense of enclosure and an important ecological habitat and mature individual trees and pollards (especially sentinel conifers) which are key landscape features;
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity at distance from major roads and popular tourist attractions; and
- Mature parkland associated with Rydal Hall, which contributes to recognisable sense of place.
Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increasing traffic associated with A591 leading to inappropriate road improvements;
- Sustained pressure from recreational activities impacting on tranquillity and footpath and vegetation damage and erosion; and
- Lack of appropriate management of designed landscapes leading to progressive loss of features.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Encourage** reversion of small blocks of conifers to more naturalistic broadleaved areas; and
- **Target** eroded paths and vegetation for management to improve condition.

Ecological Character

- **Improve** water quality and lakeshore habitats around Grasmere Lake and Rydal Water;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** small woodlands, which provide a sense of enclosure and an important ecological habitat; and
- **Protect** mature individual trees and pollards (especially sentinel conifers) which are landscape features and **encourage** sensitive succession planning.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** large villas, Rydal Hall and their associated parkland and designed landscapes and encourage succession planning;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature parkland associated with Rydal Hall which contributes to recognisable sense of place, and **encourage** succession planning;
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate; and
- **Encourage** sensitive succession planting for the designed planting on the fellsides, outside the formal park areas.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** open views to the surrounding fells within Grasmere village;
- **Encourage** road improvements which respect the intimate character and scale of the valley; and
- **Manage** visitor pressure to ensure opportunities for people to find tranquillity.
AREA 32: BROTHER’S WATER AND HARTSOP

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells (F); and
- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Memorable views of the area, including looking down towards Brothers Water from the summit of Kirkstone Pass;
- From high ground 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 one of the best groups of vernacular, rugged 17th and 18th century buildings in the Lake District, giving it a very strong sense of place and forming an integral part of the surrounding landscape;
- Distinctive landscape features of the Hartsop area are the small, rubble stone field barns or ‘hogg houses’;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the pastoral fields in the valley, wetland margins around the lake, wooded valley sides (including juniper) and craggy fells above; and
- Two very different waterbodies – the isolated reservoir of Hayeswater and the atmospheric, reed-fringed Angle Tarn.

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 meadows around the square-shaped lake of Brothers Water. Place Fell closes the view and forms the backdrop.

There are significant areas of rush and wetland around Brothers Water lakeshore and the fell sides have important areas of ancient semi-natural woodland and juniper. The side valley of Dovedale shows great diversity, 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 volcanic stone 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 and history. 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 in winter. The pollards at Hartsop are still cropped 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 a classic example illustrating the ‘Great Rebuilding in Stone’ of the late 17th century, which produced the characteristic limewashed farms, rubblestone barns and rugged field walls. This settlement displays typical Lakeland vernacular detailing, such as square squat or cylindrical chimneys, crow-stepped gables, open fronted galleries and thick oak plank doors. Within the building group, at Howe Green is a very rare survival of a mid-17th century dwelling, abandoned in the late 19th century, but now sensitively repaired by the National Trust for future educational visits. Hartsop is an old settlement, and distinctive open galleries are visible on some buildings. Just within the village is ‘The Howe’, a...
traditional un-modernised Lake District farmhouse with its associated buildings, one of which is a slate corn drying kiln, a rare reminder of past arable practices. It has been conserved for its rarity and sense of timelessness.

At the foot of Dovedale face and continuing along the west side of the valley bottom above Brother’s Water is Low Wood, a significant area of native woodland and wood pasture, in which are the remains of Hartsop Hall Mine. This lead mine operated at least as far back as the 17th century and closed in 1942. Four levels were driven northwards into the Fell side, but the production of ore was never outstanding. In addition, the isolated reservoir of Hayeswater, which occupies the valley to the north-west of the High Street summit, and Angle Tarn, a remote tarn in a shallow upland bowl to the north-east of Hartsop, are striking landscape features. Angle Tarn, with its irregular outline, islands, panoramic views, upland feel and reed-fringed edges, has a strong visual identity of its own. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity especially on the western valley sides surrounding Deepdale and Dovedale up to the Kirkstone Pass due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the craggy fells as well as the relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influence. In the valley surrounding the A592 there are areas where the sense of tranquillity is disturbed primarily by traffic noise.

‘Their mother had set them to thresh some corn, and they (probably thinking it hard to be so tasked when all others were keeping holiday) stole out to slide upon the ice, and were both drowned. A neighbour who had seen them fall through the ice, though not near enough to be certain, guessed who they were and went to the mother to inquire after her sons. She replied that ‘there were threshing in the barn’. ‘Nay’, said to the man, ‘they are not there, nor is it likely to-day’. The woman then went to the barn and the boys were gone. He was then convinced of the truth, and told her that they were drowned. It is said that they were found locked in each other’s arms.’

Dorothy Wordsworth’s account on the naming of Brothers Water, 1785

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Historic hamlet of Hartsop, which has a strong sense of place and vernacular character and is sensitive to the introduction of large-scale buildings within the centre or at the edges of the villages, or those which do not respect local built character, scale and form;
- Overall strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity, slightly diminished by the occasional traffic noise;
- Significant areas of mature deciduous woodland, including wood pasture on steep slopes, which provide a sense of enclosure and are important ecological habitats;
- Distinctive pattern with Dovedale valley of walled fields and stone walls, which are sensitive to changes in land management;
- Open views towards Brothers Water, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical elements or large-scale developments; and
- Water quality within Angle Tarn and Hayeswater reservoir.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.
GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Protect the water quality of all water bodies from point source and diffuse pollution.

Ecological Character

- Conserve and enhance and where appropriate extend wetland habitats around the lakeshore; and
- Conserve and enhance patches of mature deciduous and juniper woodland and wood pasture, which provide a sense of enclosure and are important ecological habitats.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Conserve the historic hamlet of Hartsop, which has a strong sense of place and vernacular character;
- Encourage and support the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments) where appropriate; and
- Conserve and enhance distinctive pattern within Dovedale valley of walled fields and stone walls.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Maintain overall sense of openness, remoteness and tranquillity;
- Retain open views towards Brothers Water; and
- Conserve and enhance the combination of ash pollards, mature open grown trees and impressive stone walls.
AREA 33: MARTINDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is located towards the eastern side of the Lake District, and encompasses a series of north-south ridges.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- 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 and are separated by a series of high, rugged ridges;
- There is an element of surprise when arriving in this area from Ullswater to the north;
- Small-scale and intimate landscape, with no through roads;
- The strong contrast between the ridges and the valleys in terms of their texture, openness, wildness, pattern and enclosure.
- The variety of large animal species, including red deer and ponies
- The very strong sense of history in the ancient church and hamlet of Martindale;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and perceived naturalness of Martindale Common and the broad ridge of High Street. The relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influence enhance the tranquillity.
- A settlement pattern of small scattered farmsteads and dwellings with a few incongruous large modern farm buildings;
- Scattered isolated stone barns throughout valley are very distinctive;
- Strong contrast between the improved pasture in the valley bottom and the bracken dominated lower slopes of the fell;
- Important ribbon of scattered native woodland on the lower fell slopes nearer the valley head (Martindale Forest); and
- Distant views from Boredale dominated by conifer plantation.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The underlying rocks in this area have been eroded by glacial and fluvial erosion into a series of north-south ridges separating the deep, sheltered valleys of Boredale, Howe Grain/ Bannerdale and Fusedale, which are dominated by their flanking rugged high fells, and contain streams flowing northwards into Ullswater. 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. The ridge dominates this character area when visible. There is a very strong contrast between the ridges and the valleys in terms of their texture, openness, wildness, pattern and enclosure

The valleys each differ in their sense of wildness and enclosure, they also have great seasonal variation in their vegetation, colour, and texture owing to the mosaics of vegetation present. Some areas of species rich grassland, including some old hay meadows survive in the valley bottoms. Boredale and Howe Grain/ Bannerdale contain improved pastureland in the valley bottoms, marked by a network of dry stone walls. Important ribbons of scattered patches of semi-natural woodland remain on the eastern lower fell slopes nearer the valley head, associated with the mediaeval Martindale Forest. The settlement pattern is mainly small scattered farmsteads and dwellings with a few incongruous large modern farm buildings. Farms are situated on the lower valley sides and distinctive, scattered, isolated stone barns occur throughout the valley. Narrow, winding no-through 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. The sense of time depth within this area is strong - 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. Martindale Forest was managed under Forest law during the mediaeval period, providing red deer and other meat for the royal household, the descendents of these deer still roam the remoter parts of this area, with a wall running the length of the High Street ridge (to the south of this area) 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 area has a very strong sense of tranquillity, particularly on the open ridges of Martindale Common. The tranquillity on these fells is due to the openness and perceived naturalness with a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influence. In the settled valleys the sense of tranquillity is slightly disturbed due to the presence of more dwellings and settlements. However within the valleys there are still areas of low noise with no night-time light pollution which are consequently highly tranquil.

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‘On that tall pike
(It is the loneliest place of all these hills)
There were two springs which bubbled side by side,
As it they had been made that they might be
Companions for each other: the huge crag
Was rent with lightning – one hath disappeared;
The other, left behind, is flowing still.’

‘The Brothers’ [Kidsty Pike] Wordsworth

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**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Type, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Dramatic views to surrounding landscape from ridges, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Varied wildlife throughout the area;
- Remnant hay meadows vulnerable to changes in management;
- Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity;
- General absence of traffic; and
- Areas of ancient semi-natural woodland vulnerable to grazing pressure.

**Forces for Change**

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- No guidelines recommended.
Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** the biodiversity of the area;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** hay meadows; and
- **Encourage** regeneration and extension of ancient woodland sites.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Restore** scattered small barns; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** dramatic views to surrounding landscape from High Street ridge, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** the strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.
AREA 34: HAWESWATER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A long, curving reservoir that contains the flooded villages of Measand and Mardale Green;
- This artificial lake (one of the largest, which is constant in width over most of its length, except its narrow southern tongue) occupies the whole of the valley bottom, with dramatic craggy fells in the southern section falling down the dale sides towards the water;
- At times of low water the unvegetated, exposed rocky shore catches the eye;
- Strong sense of mystery and eeriness apparent throughout the valley, partly due to the lost villages;
- Strong sense of isolation and wildness on account of the restricted access, deep black water and general foreboding nature of the valley;
- Distinct lack of pastoral fields or settlement pattern within the contained valley corridor;
- Important area of oak woodlands at Naddle Forest, along the approach to the lake and first section of lakeshore, and funnelling up Naddle Beck, contrasting strongly with the open character of the rest of the valley and giving seasonal colour;
- Surviving elements of Burnbanks model village, which was constructed by Manchester Corporation for the workers building Haweswater Dam and reservoir; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by a relative absence of dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and low levels of traffic.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The valley becomes increasingly dramatic towards the southern end with a strong sense of enclosure at the valley head where steep, craggy fells and screes fall dramatically into the lake. Vegetation cover is a mosaic of acid grassland with patches of rushes, bracken, and areas of gorse and hawthorn. There are intrusive small blocks of coniferous planting all along the valley and less incongruous patches of deciduous woodland. The interaction of the rugged and craggy, angular fells combined with the large, blue-grey expanse of water (very dark in some light conditions), 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.

An important area of oak woodlands (designated as SSSI) at Naddle Forest, along the approach to the lake and the first section of lakeshore, and funnelling up Naddle Beck, contrasts strongly with the open character of the rest of the valley and giving seasonal colour and a range of wildlife opportunities. A solitary Golden Eagle can be seen soaring over the water at times, contributing strongly to the sense of place (Haweswater Valley provided the last nesting habitat for Golden Eagles in England before one of the last remaining pair died a few years ago).

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. The unvegetated, rocky shore is
exposed at times of low water and provides a stark contrast as a strong, bright, pale-coloured, horizontal line in an otherwise unstructured landscape of more muted colours.

The imposing dam at the northern end of the Reservoir is a striking landscape feature. Associated with the dam, at the north end of the reservoir, are a range of concrete water company features including roads, bridges and the surviving elements of Burnbanks model village, which was constructed by Manchester Corporation for the workers building Haweswater Dam and reservoir.

The lack of dry stone walls and any other obvious human elements and features associated with a valley floor, coupled with the craggy, rugged fell sides, rising up from the surface of the water, give an almost hostile appearance. The dramatic topography and general lack of built development contribute to a strong sense of isolation and wildness.

‘In truth, it is all very primitive and rough … The church is picturesque enough, with its gilt weathercock now so seldom seen, but it is by no means a rustic cathedral; the royal hotel – and the only one – is a wretched wayside public-house, where you can get eggs and bacon and nothing else – except the company of a tipsy parson lying in bed with his gin-bottle by his side.’

Eliza Lynn Linton describes Haweswater Village as it was before damming.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Water within Haweswater, which is sensitive to pollution from run off associated with adjacent agricultural activities;
- Strong sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity throughout;
- Absence of pastoral fields or settlement pattern;
- Imposing dam, which is a striking landscape feature;
- Management of visually intrusive blocks of coniferous planting; and
- Model village at Burnbanks.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Reduction in non-native conifer woodland and planting native woodland on ghyllsides transforming the existing character through reinforcement of positive attributes; and
- Potential for degradation of water supply infrastructure (e.g. Dam, roads, bridges and pumping station);

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Protect water within Haweswater from point source and diffuse pollution;
- Conserve, enhance and where appropriate create, new areas of broadleaved woodland; and
- Encourage removal or reversion to broadleaved trees of intrusive blocks of conifers;
Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** mosaic of upland habitats.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Retain** absence of pastoral fields or settlement pattern;
- **Ensure** historic integrity of Burnbank model settlement;
- **Conserve** archaeological sites; and
- **Encourage** and **support** the conservation or restoration of existing historic building fabric and landscape features (e.g. traditional paving, boundary treatments), where appropriate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** strong sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity throughout.
AREA 35: SHAP AND BIRKBECK FELLS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This extensive Area of Distinctive Character is situated on the eastern edge of the Lake District.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- Upland Valley H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- An extensive, bleak, open and remote moorland area, which feels very isolated;
- The landscape, predominantly grey and brown has a relatively rough, craggy texture, with colours, patterns and moods affected by weather conditions;
- Views out of the character area from higher land, with High Street dominating views to the west, and glimpses of M6 traffic movement and development outside the National Park to the east;
- Individual valleys with scattered farms and houses in the north, south and east (including Wet Sleddale reservoir) contrast with the surrounding open moorland;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape especially to the west. To the east the road traffic along the A6 corridor disturbs the sense of tranquillity; and
- Large areas of plantation woodland along the eastern fringe of the Shap fells, extending outside the National Park.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The key characteristic of this area is the extent of its bleak, open, empty, remote and inaccessible moorland. There is a very strong sense of isolation accentuated by the lack of people and visitor activity. 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. On the fell tops views are more expansive to uplands in all directions.

This large area of moorland is fairly rough in its texture with craggy outcrops in places on the steeper valley sides. Colours are predominantly grey and brown, but with, 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 movement of trains and traffic on main roads, a large quarry processing plant and large areas of coniferous plantation woodland along the eastern fringe of the Shap fells, and extending outside the National Park.

Around the edges of the area are narrow settled valleys - Swindale in the north, Bannisdale in the south and Wet Sleddale in the east. The valleys contain less improved grassland than most resulting in more muted colours of browns, greens and greys and lacking the stark contrast between the bright green valley bottom and the valley sides more commonly found in the Lake District. Around the farmsteads the regular pattern of stone walls and small patches of broadleaved trees and woodland contrast with the surrounding moorland. Small patches of broadleaved woodland offer seasonal colour and ecological interest, but blocks of coniferous trees are incongruous features particularly noticeable on the approach to Wetsleddale reservoir. Swindale and Wetsleddale valleys contain built infrastructure associated with the construction of dams in the 1930s with characteristic concrete structures including roads, bridges and dams.

Overall, the area has a strong sense of tranquillity. The sense of tranquillity is greatest on the moorland east of Gatescarth Pass on the hills surrounding Mosedale, including Shap Fells. This is due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the landscape. There is also a relative absence of dwellings or settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influence. The sense of
tranquillity becomes more disturbed close to the A6 corridor. The disturbance is mainly due to traffic noise and pylons along the road corridor.

The wall walks the fell  
Grey millipede on slow stone hooves  
Its slack back hollowed  
At gulleys and grooves  
Or shouldering over  
Old boulders  
Too big to be rolled away’

Norman Nicholson, 1981

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of openness and isolation throughout the area, coupled with a strong sense of tranquillity (at a distance from the A6 road corridor);
- Dramatic views in all directions, especially towards High Street to the west, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- Predominantly undeveloped character throughout.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Conserve, enhance and, where appropriate, extend patches of broadleaved woodland in the valleys.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Conserve and enhance the regular field pattern of stone walls.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Retain strong sense of openness, isolation and tranquillity throughout most of the area;
- Protect dramatic views in all directions, especially towards High Street to the west, which are sensitive to interruption by all vertical or large-scale developments; and
- Retain the predominantly undeveloped character throughout.
AREA 36: CALDER VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

The Calder Valley is situated at the western edge of the Lake District National Park, to the north east of Seascale and Sellafield.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Lowland (D);
- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- High Fell Fringe (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Gently meandering narrow course of the River Calder which is fringed by patches of mixed woodland with a few dominant exotic conifers lower down the valley;
- Predominantly flat valley floor, comprising predominantly pastoral fields, divided by a combination of mature hedgerows and occasional walls;
- Relatively steep valley sides, which provide views across and along the valley; an irregular patchwork of field boundaries;
- Many old stone-faced kests (hedgebanks) and redundant hedgelines; significant areas of rough upland grazing with the pattern of old intake boundaries;
- 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;
- Very distinctive vernacular style in some buildings using the local red sandstone which is also a feature of wall boundaries;
- Dominating presence of Sellafield nuclear plant at the western end of the valley (the river runs through the centre of the plant) can be seen from higher up the valley; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape especially to the north east away from Sellafield nuclear site. The sense of tranquillity is due to the openess and perceived naturalness of the pastoral landscape.

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, stone-faced kests (hedgebanks) 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 red sandstone ruins of Calder Abbey, set amongst mature single trees, provide 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. The village of Calder Bridge exhibits a pattern of traditional whitewashed stone buildings with many exhibiting use of the local red sandstone. 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. Overall the area has a sense of tranquility. In the north and east of the area the sense of tranquility is strong due to the openess and perceived naturalness of the pastoral landscape. In addition there is a relative absence of dwellings, minimal...
sources of artificial noise. In the south and west the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by the visual dominance of Sellafield nuclear site and traffic noise along the A595.

‘Step into the inn garden at the bridge, and see how beautifully the brown waters swirl away under the red bridge and its ivied bands, while the waving ferns incessantly checker the sunshine. It is a mile to the Abbey, thought the churchyard, and along the bank of the Calder, where again the most beautiful tricks of light are seen, with brown water and its white foam, red precipitous banks, and the greenest vegetation, with a wood crowing all… the ruins are presently seen, spring sheer from the greenest turf…’

Harriet Martineau, August 1802

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Small patches of broadleaved woodland along the course of the River Calder, which are distinctive landscape features;
- Mature hedgerow network which is sensitive to changes in land management or changing agricultural practices;
- Ruins of Calder Abbey, which are a landmark feature within the landscape;
- Distinctive vernacular building style and use of red sandstone in built structures;
- General absence of settlements and predominantly rural character; and
- Small-scale field pattern.

Forces for Change

In addition to the Forces for Change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Transformation of the conifer forest of Scalderskew into an open native broad-leaved woodland;
- Neglect of hedges and stone-faced kests (hedgebanks) around enclosure land reducing the potential landscape and wildlife benefits of hedgerows and in many places leading to substitution by wire fences.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** small patches of broadleaved woodland along the course of the River Calder, which are distinctive landscape features.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Mitigate** the effects of any major developments on the west coast around Sellafield;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature hedgerow and wall network, especially distinctive stone-faced kests (hedgebanks);
- **Conserve** ruins of Calder Abbey, which are a landmark feature within the landscape;
- **Retain** general absence of settlements and predominantly rural character.
- **Encourage** new developments which respect or strengthen local vernacular building style; and
- **Retain** small-scale field pattern.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- No guidelines recommended.
AREA 37: BLENG AND IRT VALLEYS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)
- Lowland (D);
- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F);
- High Fell Fringe (J); and
- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics
- Two valleys which link the lowland plain to the upland fells and are set against the distinctive backdrop of the High Fell Fringe;
- Gently undulating, peaceful landscape dominated by pastoral farmland in the west and the large forests of Blengdale and Miterdale to the east where the landscape becomes 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 in the west, and views towards the edges of the High Fells to the east;
- Fine, large houses of the late 18th and 19th century, built by wealthy shipping owners of West Cumbrian ports, form a distinctive element of the local landscape. Good examples include Irton Hall, Steelfield Hall and Greenlands, all with mature gardens and landscaping;
- Areas of parkland associated with country houses;
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape, especially towards the east away from the busy coast route and towns of Santon Bridge and Gosforth;
- The large dark conifer block in Miterdale contrast sharply with the lighter coloured fell sides and natural contours. The conifer fringe on the eastern edge of Whin Rigg is intrusive from many vantage points
- Distinctive Irton ‘Pike’ at the western end of Whin Rigg, whose top cleared of conifers provides views along the coastal plain, including the intimate Ravenglass Estuary;
- Blengdale forest includes some of the largest and tallest conifers in Cumbria; and
- Historic Native Woodland, late medieval settlement and veteran trees in Miterdale.

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. These are often associated with areas of parkland like planting with many mature trees, associated with scattered large country houses. The small and mainly irregular fields are generally divided by a combination of hedges and dry stone walls. In the west this area is dominated by large predominantly coniferous forests. There are some harsh boundaries between these forests and the more rugged fell to the west whilst the forests generally link well to the clumpy woodland to the east. 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. Some areas of historic medieval settlement at the head of Miterdale and east of Whin Garth add to the sense of place.

A strong sense of tranquillity is apparent in this area as a result of the fairly sparse settlement pattern and undulating topography. The coastal 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. The area has a sense of tranquillity. The most tranquil areas are located in the east especially in and around Miterdale Forest and the fells around Whin Garth and upper River Bleng. In addition there is a relative absence of dwellings and minimal sources of artificial noise. The tranquillity in the west of the area is disturbed by the greater density of settlements and dwellings and therefore the higher traffic noise on the A595 and network of minor roads.

‘The lees Aa tell isn’t malicious, they’re nobbut gert big exaggerations’.
Stanton is the location of the annual ‘World’s Greatest Liar’ Contest, commemorating Will Ritson, born 1808

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Generally strong sense of tranquillity;
- Openness across the landscape which is vulnerable to interruption by large scale or tall vertical elements;
- Clumps of woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure in the east;
- Native woodlands (surrounded by conifer) and valley bottom farmland in the upper valley of the River Mite;
- Parkland type areas vulnerable to change in agricultural management and lack of succession planning for mature trees;
- Vernacular dry stone walls and mature hedgerows, which are vulnerable to changes in land management or agricultural practices;
- Sparse and small-scale settlement pattern, comprising predominantly vernacular buildings within Eskdale Green, Gosforth and Santon Bridge, which is vulnerable to the introduction of buildings within, or at the edges of settlements that are out of scale and do not respect existing character; and
- Water within the rivers and becks, which is vulnerable to diffuse and point pollution.

**Forces for Change**

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- **Conserve** and **enhance** clumps of woodland and encourage reversion of conifers to broadleaved species;
- **Reduce** stark contrast between fell and conifer forest through native broadleaf planting, open space and feathering of conifer forest in the upper Bleng;
- **Ensure** continued connectivity between significantly forested eastern half and more clumpy woodland in the east; and
- **Develop** more mixed and structurally diverse forest with big conifers in Blengdale valley.

**Ecological Character**

- **Protect** water within the rivers and becks from point source and diffuse pollution.
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** vernacular dry stone walls and mature hedgerows;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of parkland planting, **encourage** succession planning for mature trees; and
- **Retain** sparse and small-scale settlement pattern, comprising predominantly vernacular buildings within Eskdale Green and Santon Bridge.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** general strong sense of openness and tranquillity throughout the area.
AREA 38: GREAT AND LITTLE LANGDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

Great and Little Langdale Valleys are situated at the heart of the Lake District National Park, to the west of Ambleside and southwest of Grasmere.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Classic, U-shaped, long, narrow valley of Great Langdale, with its patchwork of meadows, woods, walls and veteran trees;
- Shorter and less enclosed hanging valley of Little Langdale, more wooded and less agricultural in nature the Great Langdale;
- Several small tarns, including corrie tarn of Stickle tarn reflecting sky locally;
- The three settlements of the area, Elterwater, Chapel Stile and Little Langdale are products of a working industrial landscape. Elterwater with its gunpowder workers housing, Chapel Stile with its green slate quarrying community terraces and church and Little Langdale, a loose group of buildings with strong building evidence of nearby extensive slate quarries;
- In Great Langdale, a string of regularly placed traditional rugged farmsteads along the south facing slopes, forms a strong visual character of the area;
- Vernacular farmhouses are weatherproofed with render and limewash, and the many rubble stone barns and outbuildings contribute significantly to the character and human scale of the lower valley sides;
- Strong historic and cultural associations with mountaineering, with popular Bowfell, Crinkle Crags and Scafell Pikes nearby and the Old Dungeon Ghyll hotel providing strongly recognisable landscape features;
- Strong sense of isolation, remoteness, contrast and tranquillity, despite proximity to the Central Lakeland settlement of Ambleside and large numbers of walkers;
- Pollarded Ash trees and remnant stands of juniper on the fell sides;
- Langdale Pikes are a dominant feature, provide a true sense of scale in the landscape and are visible for many miles from the south;
- The most famous and important Neolithic activity recorded in Cumbria is the Langdale Axe Factory (from around 6000 BC), which created many thousands of, axe heads from the green volcanic tuff stone found on the Pike O’Stickle; and
- Scattering of sometimes-untidy farmsteads are dominant features in the open valley bottom 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 and isolation, particularly at the valley head. The valley runs from Ambleside in the east, to the steep, dominating and highly distinctive form of the Langdale Pikes in the west, encompassing a network of small, irregular, walled meadows along the valley bottoms and scattered barns, intakes with remnants of wood and veteran trees, and a ring garth wall, which contrast strongly with the bare rock and bracken of the dramatic higher Fells. Unusually for a large glaciated valley, it does not contain a lake, though the classic corrie tarn of Stickle Tarn tucked below the bulk of Pavey Ark is a striking glaciation feature.
Little Langdale, a shorter, less enclosed hanging valley to the south of Great Langdale contains two small tarns and has a more wooded and rather less agricultural feel than Great Langdale. There are significant stands of juniper especially around Blea Tarn, which visually is dominated by conifer plantations. It 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. this was once a Roman route. The valley 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.

The distinctive rounded, rugged, rocky shapes of the Langdale Pikes are a dominant feature, provide a true sense of scale in the landscape and are visible for many miles in views from the south;

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) is overlain by a patchwork of fellside habitats (with occasional tree cover)

Field barns, bank barns, other stone outbuildings and pollarded ash trees so typical of hill farming practices are an important feature both visually and culturally within this ADC. There is a scattering of sometimes-untidy farmsteads in the open valley bottom. A few, small but locally dominant conifer plantations sit incongruously in the landscape. A ribbon of mature deciduous trees gives contrast along the river in the valley bottom. The river has been highly modified in the past and is now enclosed within high banks of excavated river gravel

Little Langdale and Chapel Stile are small-scale, intimate vernacular settlements with very different characters, Chapel Stile being heavily influenced by the style of its quarry cottages, dominated by scatterings of traditional stone houses within the wider-scale valley landscapes, which have developed alongside the local industries of slate quarrying and gunpowder manufacture;

The area has strong historic and cultural associations with mountaineering, with popular routes on 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

The area contains the most famous and important Neolithic activity recorded in Cumbria, the Langdale Axe Factory (from around 6000 BC) which created many thousands of axe heads from the green volcanic tuff stone found on the Pike O’Stickle. There is also Rock art at Copt Howe signifying man’s activity in the valley for several thousand years

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity especially in the west of the area due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the fells and deep river valleys. The sense of tranquillity is more disturbed in the east near Skelwith Bridge and Ambleside due to the greater density of dwellings and settlements. In addition locally there is disturbance from traffic noise on the A593 particularly in the south.

‘In Langdale Pike and Witch’s Lair,  
And Dungeon-Ghyll so fouly rent,  
With ropes of rock and bells of air  
Three sinful secton’s ghosts are pent,  
Who all five back, one after t’other,  
The death-not of their living brother.’

‘Christable’, Coleridge, c.1800
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Remnants of woodland and veteran trees, which are striking landscape features;
- Open views towards imposing Langdale Pikes, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Strong sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity throughout the area (away from the A593 road corridor);
- Small-scale and intimate settlement pattern, throughout the area which is vulnerable to the introduction of buildings either within village centres or settlement edges, which do not respect existing settlement scale and character;
- Old Dungeon Ghyll Waterfall, which is vulnerable to pollution and vegetation damage from gill scramblers;
- Veteran pollarded ash trees which are sensitive to lack of management and remnant strands of juniper on the fell sides, which are sensitive to overgrazing;
- Strongly rural character throughout the area; and
- Historic features such as ring garth wall and Neolithic axe factory which are sensitive to damage.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Sustained pressure from recreational activities causing lasting scars; and
- Sustainability of management of the river channel in Great Langdale will potentially have a major impact on valley bottom land.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Conserve, enhance and where appropriate extend remnants of broadleaved woodland, and veteran trees, which are striking landscape features;

Ecological Character

- Protect water within the Great & Little Langdale Rivers, and Old Dungeon Ghyll Waterfall from point source and diffuse pollution; and
- Conserve and maintain pollard ash trees and remnant strands of juniper on the fell sides, which are sensitive to overgrazing.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Conserve and enhance small-scale and intimate settlement pattern and character; and
- Protect and conserve historic and archaeologically important elements.
Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Maintain open views towards imposing Langdale Pikes;
- Retain strong sense of tranquillity throughout most of the area;
- Maintain strong sense of remoteness and isolation;
- Retain strongly rural character throughout the area;
- Encourage restoration of erosion scars associated with most popular routes and manage access to sensitive sites; and
- Protect open views to and from the area from tall vertical or large-scale developments.
AREA 39: UPPER WINDERMERE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Broad Windermere Lake (the colour of which changes with seasonal weather and light, with frequent mist inversions) surrounded by a soft and accessible foreshore, and well wooded along the western shore;
- Popular holiday destination town of Ambleside, with its fascinating history, evolution and building character. From Medieval hillside settlement, to a cluster of water-powered mills on Stock Ghyll, to post-railway Victorian tourist resort. All phases are clearly visible in the buildings and identity today;
- Late 17th century Bridge House, so small yet so well known, is the most distinctive Lake District curiosity alongside the busy A591;
- Superb series of grand houses for wealthy Lancashire industrialists form a key component of the eastern shore of Windermere Lake, such as Dove Nest, Brockhole, Cragwood and Langdale Chase, all set within garden designs of high quality;
- Strong sense of openness at the lakeshore, with dramatic views to the High Fell setting of Fairfield Horseshoe to the north and Langdale Pikes to the north west;
- Sense of business within the landscape, as a result of the popularity of this area as a visitor attraction;
- Mix of woodland, parkland and pasture fields follows the lakeshore, interspersed with mature ornamental exotic trees;
- Upright slate and flag walls - formed from Brathay flags;
- Cultural connections with early tourism industry, including Picturesque viewing stations such as Queens Adelaide’s Hill and Claife Station;
- Old steamer passenger boats – Teal and Tern;
- Waterhead honey pot site attracting visitors feeding the mass of water birds, boat hire and the promenade; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape although it is locally disturbed by the presence of Ambleside and the A591 on the eastern shore and the associated traffic noise and high density of dwellings and settlements.

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 and further west, the Langdale Pikes.

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 weather and seasons. A series of
large houses line the lakeshore, each with associated formal gardens, mature planting (much of which is ornamental) and parkland.

Set back further to the north of the lake, the town of Ambleside sits comfortably within the surrounding enclosure of high fells. Its setting 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, giving a parkland feel. The buildings show striking differences, reflecting the evolution of the town. On Chapel Hill, at the foot of Kirkstone pass, an intimate, organic cluster of historic buildings displays a ruggedness of rubble, boulders, thick roofing slates, and render and limewashed walls. Interestingly, there is much evidence of reused Roman masonry in this part of Ambleside. More formal 18th and 19th century buildings face onto the Market Place, but the most dominant and imposing buildings are of the post railway Victorian age, with confident use of grey and green slate walling, intricate barge boards, fancy roof details for hotels, guest houses, terraces shops and public buildings. Upright slate and flag walls, formed from Brathay flags are a local distinctive feature. 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, some areas still provide 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 an arboretum of mature specimen trees, such as beech, redwood, gingko 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 treeed 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.

Away from the roads especially the A591 and Ambleside the area has a sense of tranquillity. The sense of tranquillity is particularly strong on the fells to the east of Ambleside due to the openness and perceived sense of naturalness. There is also a strong sense of tranquillity on Loughrigg Fell away from the busy valley below. The sense of tranquillity is weakest and most disturbed in and around the busy town of Ambleside especially at peak times when there is a high density of tourists and more traffic noise. Outside Ambleside the sense of tranquillity is also disturbed along the road corridors especially the A591 to Windermere due to road noise and the presence of dwellings along the eastern shore of Lake Windermere.

'A glimpse through trees surprises and entices as high fells and expansive vistas of lofty crags unfold ahead. Across serene scenes of grazing sheep, a rocky tree covered knoll is the quintessential Lake District. Shimmering palettes of Azalea and Rhododendron painted on rock, dancing with light through a canopy of oak, ash and lime towering and cloaking steep fell sides. Beyond the embrace of man, impossibly tall firs split the canopy pointing skyward, immense and magnificent. Waters lapping at the feet of Rome. Footprints of legions etched forever on meadows and grassy mounds, a shadow of Ambleside's beginnings. And at its heart an icon. Emblematic and a fascination for visitors form far and wide. Small but perfectly formed. An understated 'apple store' at the core of the Lakes.'

Ambleside Properties Management Plan, National Trust, 2004
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Water quality within Lake Windermere, which is vulnerable from diffuse and point source pollution associated with adjacent agricultural fields, motorised craft and water-related recreation activities;
- Patches of soft, mature woodland, parkland and mature individual trees along lakeshore and slate flag stone walls, which are recognisable landscape features and contribute to recognisable sense of place;
- Distinctive, predominantly Victorian slate buildings with 17th and 18th century buildings of note within Ambleside, that are vulnerable to extensions which do not reflect existing built character and scale;
- Relatively contained settlement pattern of Ambleside and Waterhead, which is sensitive to development which does not respect the existing landscape setting;
- Strong sense of openness and tranquility at the lakeshore and on the lake;
- Wray Castle and its associated historic buildings and designed parkland landscape;
- Strong sense of tranquillity along the western shore.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increase in invasive species (Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed) affecting key landscape characteristics;
- Increased recreational changes and types of use on Windermere;
- Woodland management moving towards continuous cover bringing landscape and soil conservation and water quality benefits;
- Lack of management and non-replacement of parkland and individual trees;
- Scale and size of vernacular styles of buildings and use of inappropriate building materials on the eastern shore of Windermere resulting in the loss of local landscape characteristics;
- Increasing traffic associated with tourism and recreation pressurising the A591 affecting tranquillity and safety of pedestrians and cyclists; and
- Master plan for Ambleside.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** water within Lake Windermere from pollution.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** patches of soft, mature woodland, parkland and mature individual trees along lakeshore, which are recognisable landscape features and contribute to recognisable sense of place; and
- **Encourage** succession planning to ensure long term future of such features.
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** distinctive slate flag walls and vernacular slate buildings within Ambleside;
- **Protect** the relatively contained settlement pattern of Ambleside and Waterhead, from development which does not respect the existing landscape setting;
- **Conserve** Wray Castle and its associated historic buildings and designed parkland landscape; and
- **Conserve** and **restore** the historic buildings and landscape features.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** strong sense of openness along the lakeshore; and
- **Retain** strong sense of tranquillity along the western shore.
AREA 40: TROUTBECK VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F);
- Upland Valley H; and
- High Fell Fringe (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Very strong sense of tranquillity within this long, intimate and relatively narrow valley;
- A gradual transition from complex lowland valley character to open mountain landscape in the upper valley (with fewer buildings);
- 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 copses of deciduous and mixed woodland on the valley sides;
- Historic, ancient walls survive in many places, including within hamlets;
- Well wooded in the lower part of the valley, with a mix of copses, parkland trees and trees in field boundaries;
- Strong and instantly recognisable enclosure pattern of in-bye and intake land, with undulating, glacial topography and larger fields in the upper valley and patches of wood pasture;
- Meandering course of the Trout Beck is lined with a mixture of improved meadows and pasture;
- Spectacular views along the valley towards Windermere Lake from the north eastern (higher) end of the valley, and the conifer skyline of the Claife beyond;
- Troutbeck is an exceptionally distinctive linear village, being a series of vernacular building groups strung along a sunny-facing hillside for over 2km;
- The village stretches from Town End to Town Head, an harmonious arrangement of rubble stone barns, peppered with rendered and limewashed 17th century Yeoman farmsteads. Town End House is a particularly distinctive historic building and together with the large barn opposite, creates the finest small group in the Lake District;
- The village is the classic place to study and appreciate 17th century vernacular architecture, with cylindrical chimneys, oak mullion windows, thick slate roofs and typical bank barns;
- Route of the Roman road –‘High Street’ passes through the valley;
- Troutbeck Park Farm is spectacularly sited on the lower slopes of Kirkstone Pass (one of the farms owned by Beatrix Potter);
- At 1489 feet (454 metres), it is the highest road pass in the Lake District. Consequently it provides stunning views over the Lakeland fells; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape away from Troutbeck and Town End. The sense of tranquillity is due to a perceived sense of naturalness and relative absence of dwellings away from the settlements.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The lower end of the Troutbeck Valley, to the east of Lake Windermere, encompasses a patchwork of rich 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 impressive grey stone walls and hedgerows, contributes to localised sense of place. The lower end of the valley is well wooded, with a mix of copses, parkland trees and trees in field boundaries.
There is a gradual transition from complex lowland valley character to open mountain landscape in the upper valley (with fewer buildings). A series of dispersed and relatively isolated farmsteads spreads along the valley sides.

Historic, ancient walls survive in many places, including within hamlets. At the heart of the valley, the meandering course of the Trout Beck, which is lined with a colourful and diverse patchwork of rich meadows, 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, despite the presence of the A592 running up the valley towards Kirkstone Pass.

In the higher reaches of the valley, the character becomes much wilder, with a strong and instantly recognisable enclosure pattern of inbye and intake land, with undulating, glacial topography, larger fields, and patches of wood pasture and semi-natural woodland on the slopes, with large expanses of open fell above. There are spectacular views along the valley towards Windermere Lake from the north eastern (higher) end of the valley. The distinctive ridge of the Tongue closes the view at the Northern end of this area, with the remaining upper reaches of the Troutbeck hidden from view.

There is a general sense of isolation and tranquillity throughout the valley, which is further heightened by the scattered settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads, apart from the very distinctive appearance and shape of Troutbeck village. Troutbeck, with its cluster after cluster of rendered limewashed houses and cottages, large vernacular farm buildings, interspersed with trees, open spaces and field walls, further contributes to the strong recognisable sense of place. Town End, a Yeoman farmstead dating back to the early 17th century and of national significance, after one family ownership (the Browne family) for generations, is now owned by the National Trust and open to the public.

There are strong links with Beatrix Potter, who as well as being a writer, was a farmer. She is best known in farming circles for the Herdwick sheep which she began to breed after buying Troutbeck Farm in 1927.

The most popular ascent of the area is that of The Tongue. It is one of the 214 hills listed in Wainwright’s Pictorial Guide to the Lakeland Fells, which makes it a popular attraction for walkers. The area has generally a strong sense of tranquillity especially in the north and eastern parts of the valley. In these areas there is a perceived sense of naturalness and relative absence of dwellings. Trout Beck also enhances the sense of tranquillity.

‘had great pleasure watching a pair of buzzards sailing round and round over the top of Wansfell. There was an old shepherd half way up the side of Troutbeck, much bent and gesticulating with a stick… Four or five sheep loomed over a wall at least three feet high on out right and escaped the dog’s observation, whereupon the ancient shepherd, a mere speck in the slanting sunlight down the great hillside, this aged Wortswthian worthy, awoke the echoes with a flood of the most singularly bad language.’  
Beatrix Potter, c.1895

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Very strong sense of tranquillity away from the A592;
- Dispersed and relatively isolated settlement pattern, which is vulnerable to the introduction of buildings or developments, which do not respect the existing scale and local vernacular building materials;
- Strong sense of isolation and predominantly rural character throughout;
• Open views towards Lake Windermere and the high fells, including the Kentmere ridge;
• Significant intensification of caravan and chalet site on the valley sides, including evening lighting; and
• Areas of woodland, parkland and wood pasture which are sensitive to lack of management.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

• Increased pressure from tourism related developments affecting the quality of the landscape; and
• Increasing traffic associated with tourism and recreation pressurising the A592 and leading to inappropriate highway improvements and increased signage clutter.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

• **Conserve** and **enhance** broadleaved woodland, parkland and wood pasture.

Ecological Character

• **Conserve** and **enhance** patchwork of rich meadows and pasture.

Cultural and Historic Character

• **Retain** dispersed and relatively isolated settlement pattern;
• **Conserve** and **enhance** hedgerows and walls;
• **Resist** intensification of caravan and chalet sites on the valley sides; and
• **Conserve** and **restore** historic buildings and landscape features.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

• **Maintain** very strong sense of tranquillity throughout the area;
• **Maintain** strong sense of isolation and predominantly rural character throughout;
• **Ensure** highway improvements respect and reflect local character and materials retain high landscape quality; and
• **Maintain** open views towards Lake Windermere and uncluttered skylines to the north.
AREA 41: KENTMERE FELLS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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 Longsleddale.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged/ Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Overall, a very simple and open rugged mountain landscape, dominated by outcrops of rock and scree, acid grass and bracken with occasional small patches of woodland and juniper;
- Predominantly un-enclosed common land, though enclosure becomes more apparent on lower slopes and towards the southern edge of the area, where it slopes down towards Kentmere and Longsleddale;
- Very strong sense of tranquillity within the area as a result of difficulty of limited vehicular access, topography and altitude and an almost complete lack of settlement;
- Kentmere reservoir, constructed in 1848 to store water for the many industrial mills along the valley of the River Kent;
- Wild and remote with long distance views;
- Large crags and screes and classic glacial scenery at head of valley;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the Kentmere Fells as well as the relative absence of dwellings and settlements; and
- Kentmere Hall.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Kentmere Fells is a dramatic, large-scale, upland landscape of high mountain ridges and plateaux cut by the wild higher reaches of the Troutbeck and Kentmere Valleys with glacial dale head features. The continuity of the open moorland habitat, which covers the fells, is interrupted in places by small clumps of broadleaved trees and woods, and the occasional juniper or hawthorn. Rocky outcrops, large crags and screes, hinting at the underlying geology and occasional patches of vibrant yellow gorse, add texture and visual interest, to an otherwise muted, green-brown landscape.

Large numbers of scattered disused sheepfolds and intakes and allotments can be found around the periphery of the high ground. The remains of the mediaeval Troutbeck Park and numerous quarries, hushes and spoil tips are of historic interest. The remote upland tarn of Skeggles Water, and the larger reservoir of Kentmere, constructed in 1848 to store water for the many industrial mills along the valley of the River Kent, provide additional features, reflecting the weather. The upland area between the two valleys is traversed in several places by bridleways, with footpaths to the south.

The character of the area changes to the south, in close proximity to the byway, which runs from Staveley into Longsleddale, and where the landscape slopes down towards the valleys of Longsleddale and Kentmere. Here, pastoral farmland, clumps of mainly deciduous woodland and mature single trees, replace moorland, resulting in a gentler appearance. Numerous small becks flow through the area with areas of bog in places. The area is almost completely devoid of settlement and built-up elements, with occasional farmsteads providing the only evidence of human interaction.

The Kentmere Horseshoe, one of the classic Lake District Fell walks, follows the Great Ridge and upper valley of the River Kent. On a clear day, magnificent views of many of the big fells and lakes including Windermere, Coniston and the Langdales can be gained. The Kentmere Fells have a very strong sense of
tranquillity due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the moorland as well as the relative absence of dwellings and settlements. The sense of tranquillity is disturbed to the south by road noise and views of the traffic on the busy A591 and the settlements that line the road.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Patches of mature woodland and juniper;
- Remains of Troutbeck Park, other historic boundaries and historic quarries;
- Strong sense of openness and remoteness throughout;
- Strong sense of tranquillity at distance from the A591 road corridor; and
- Moorland habitat mosaics.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Conserve and enhance clumps of trees, mature woodland and juniper and other scrub as well as mature single trees, which are characteristic landscape features.

Ecological Character

- Conserve and enhance moorland and scrub, which is sensitive to over-grazing.

Cultural and Historic Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Retain strong sense of openness and lack of development throughout; and
- Maintain strong sense of tranquillity (at a distance from the A591) which is vulnerable to disruption from increased visitors or pressure on roads and tracks.
AREA 42: KENTMERE VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated within the east of the Lake District National Park. Kentmere Valley, to the north east of Windermere.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Upland Valley (H);
- Rugged, Angular Slate High Fell (G); and
- High Fell Fringe (I).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A very long and relatively narrow valley, broadening in the central section with the river Kent meandering along the valley floor;
- Narrow single track road with grassy wildflower rich verges;
- Strong feeling of enclosure and isolation due to the surrounding fells;
- Lower slopes enclosed with stone walls, giving way to hedges along the valley floor;
- Large numbers of in field and boundary trees;
- Pasture and meadow framed by patches of predominantly broadleaved woodland with some patches of conifers giving a well wooded appearance;
- With the exception of the busy village of Staveley at the entrance to the valley, there is an overall strong sense of isolation and tranquillity. The loose-grouped village of Kentmere, plus occasional scattered farmsteads dotted along the valley sides represent a sparse settlement pattern;
- Kentmere Village, with its very prominent church, fine fortified Kentmere Hall, rugged vernacular rubble and render buildings, together with ancient organic enclosure walls, forms a distinctive landscape component in views along the valley; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape especially in the north due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the steep sides to the surrounding fells and river valleys.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Within the Kentmere Valley, there is a strong sense of isolation, 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 at Kentmere village, before the head of the valley, which contributes to the strong sense of tranquillity that is apparent throughout. No public vehicular access exists beyond Kentmere village adding to the sense of isolation in the upper section of the valley.

The narrow road (with grassy wildflower rich verges) runs parallel to the river Kent, with the eastern valley sides rising up steeply beside it, and is lined primarily by stone walls, which are replaced by hedges along the valley floor. The southern end of the valley is narrow and enclosed, with views of pastoral farmland framed by hedgerows and mature trees, including Ash, Birch, Oak and Hawthorn. The narrow, sinuous river meanders across the valley floor with patches of marshland on either side. The valley sides are well wooded with patches of deciduous (with some conifer woodland), which frame views and add seasonal colour. The more northerly sections of the valley are a more open landscape allowing far-reaching views of wooded low fells. The area has many mature (mostly deciduous) trees scattered over the rolling hills, and valley sides and floor. On the fell tops acid grass and bracken with some heather, replaces trees and the semi-improved grassland within intakes.

The village of Kentmere is a central feature within the valley, and with few trees to screen it from it from the surrounding landscape, it dominates views along the valley. The village is a very loose group of vernacular buildings, stretching from Kentmere Hall, with its late 14th century fortified tower in the west,
to the hillside group at Green Quarter in the east. The village can be reached by crossing a small bridge over the River Kent. The much-reduced Kentmere Tarn sits just south of the village, surrounded by flat, drained land with some dairy farming evident here, in contrast with the sheep farming which is evident throughout the rest of the valley. Glacial erratics are a feature around Kentmere, often built into the walls.

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.

At the mouth of the valley, Staveley is a busy working village and its prosperity since medieval times is a result of water-powered industries, in particular bobbins and textiles. Mill buildings and the impressive 19th century stone terraces are significant elements in the street scene and overall village character, as also are examples of earlier vernacular rendered houses, terraces and building groups.

‘If familiar with the old description of the district [the traveller] will look for Kentmere Tarn, and wonder to see no trace of it. It is drained away; and fertile fields now occupy the place of the swamp, reeds and shallow water which he might have seen but a few years ago. While the tarn existed, the mills at Kendal were but very irregularly supplied with water. Now, that the streams are collected in a reservoir, which the travellers sees in coming down the pass of Nanbield, and the intercepting tarn is done away with, the flow of water no longer fails.’

Harriet Martineau, 1854

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of enclosure and isolation, coupled with an overall strong sense of tranquillity;
- Grassy wildflower rich verges;
- Network of vernacular stone (volcanic and scree material) walls and mature hedgerows in the central section of the valley and on the valley floor;
- Extensive areas of woodland that provide ecological habitats and a sense of enclosure;
- Mature, single deciduous infield and boundary trees which are important landscape features;
- The upland vegetation mosaic which is sensitive to over-grazing; and
- Dramatic, open views from many places in the valley, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:
Physical Character

- Protect water within the river catchment which is vulnerable to pollution; and
- Retain and encourage sympathetic management of deciduous woodland and restoration of coniferous blocks to broadleaved woodland.

Ecological Character

- Conserve grassy wildflower rich verges;
- Conserve and enhance heather moorland; and
- Encourage sympathetic management of marshy areas along the valley bottom.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Retain the strong sense of enclosure and isolation, coupled with an overall strong sense of tranquillity;
- Conserve and enhance the network of slate and volcanic stone walls and mature hedgerows; and
- Conserve and enhance mature, single deciduous infield and boundary trees which are striking landscape features.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Protect open views to and from the area from tall vertical or large-scale developments.
AREA 43: LONGSLEDDALE VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the east of the National Park.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Upland Valley (H); and
- Rugged Craggy Volcanic High Fells (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A long, narrow, enclosed, isolated and predominantly rural valley, flanked with woodlands, 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 single-track road with grassy flower rich verges 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 Longsleddale towards the centre of the valley;
- Network of stone walls and mature hedgerows lining field boundaries;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape especially north of Bridge End due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the narrow valley; and
- Large patches of broadleaved woodland and wood pasture along valley sides.

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 rich 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) 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 Longsleddale, with hedges and fences demarcating the small fields) set back from the narrow River Sprint, which is lined with trees. The valley sides are well wooded (mainly deciduous, including areas of wood pasture with some small patches of coniferous), focusing views and adding seasonal colour.

The valley changes in character as you move from the lower enclosed wooded valley with improved pasture on the flat valley floor to rugged fell landscape of crags and scree. Above the fell wall the vegetation is largely acid grass with some rushes, bracken and occasional patches of broom and juniper.

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 Longsleddale (which has a church) are present within the valley. This results in a generally strong sense of tranquillity.

Many mature in-field and boundary trees are scattered on the valley bottom and sides giving a parkland-like 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. Above Sadgill the character of the valley changes, with the High Fell backdrop becoming more dramatic and rugged with craggy edges and outcrops apparent, several waterfalls and frequent scattered remains of sheepfolds. The area has a very strong sense of tranquillity especially to the north of Bridge End due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the narrow valley. In addition there is a relative absence of dwellings and settlements,
minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences. The sense of tranquillity in the mouth of the valley is disturbed by the traffic noise on the busy A6.

‘The narrow road, which was the only link between the farmhouses sheltered by the crags at the head of the valley and [the] far-away regions of town and civilisation … was lined with masses of the white hackberry or bird-cherry, and ran, an arrowy line of white, through the greenness of the sloping pastures. The sides of some of the little becks running down into the main river and many of the plantations round the farms were gay with the same tree, so that the farmhouses, gray-roofed and gray –walled, standing in the hollows of the fells, seemed here and there to have been robbed of some of their natural austerity’.

Longsleddale inspired the ‘Long Whindale of Mrs Humphrey Wards Victorian novel Robert Elsmere (1888)

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of enclosure and isolation within the valley;
- Contained and small-scale settlement pattern comprising isolated farmsteads and Garnett Bridge and Longsleddale hamlets, which is sensitive to the introduction of buildings or developments, which do not respect the existing scale and character and local vernacular building materials;
- Grassy wildflower-rich verges;
- Mature hedgerows with hedgerow trees and walls line the road corridors, which provide a strong sense of enclosure and frame views;
- Broadleaved woods and trees sensitive to lack of management or replacement;
- Pattern of stone walls (volcanic);
- Overgrazing impacting on the vegetation mosaic; and
- Overall strong sense of tranquillity.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Encourage appropriate management and expansion of broadleaved woodland and wood pasture to give a more natural woodland line; and
- Encourage reversion of coniferous woods to broadleaved woodland.

Ecological Character

- Conserve grassy wildflower-rich verges that provide an important ecological habitat; and
- Conserve and enhance upland mosaics of vegetation, including blanket bog.
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** the contained and small-scale settlement pattern comprising isolated farmsteads and Garnett Bridge and Long Sleddale hamlets;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature hedges, walls and in field and boundary trees, and **discourage** proliferation of post and wire fences;
- **Encourage** re-planting of hedgerows which have been lost and new open grown trees;
- **Conserve** vernacular character resulting from use of local building materials, forms and detailing; and
- **Conserve** striking field pattern of stone walls and hedges.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** the sense of enclosure and isolation within the valley; and
- **Retain** overall strong sense of tranquillity.
AREA 44: ESKDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

Eskdale is situated at the south western corner of the Lake District National Park, in close proximity to the western coast.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (See Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells (F); and
- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Long valley 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 mountain character at the eastern end of the valley;
- Strong enclosure pattern of pink granite stone walls criss-crossing the dale sides, which are clad in heather moorland and rough grass at higher altitudes;
- Use of local pink granite, as boulders, river cobbles or quarried stone has created the most distinctive and recognisable building character in the Lake District. Also the use of St. Bees red sandstone in the 19th century for stone dressings, adds to the identity and sense of place;
- Large patches of woodland, broadleaved, mixed and coniferous give a well wooded feel apart from at the eastern end of the valley;
- Steep and dramatic twisting path of Hardknott Pass leads visitors into and out of the valley at the eastern end;
- Muncaster Castle, with its extensive gardens and woodland is a striking landscape feature perched on a high shelf above the floor of the valley at its western 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); and
- Predominantly a tranquil valley especially at the foot of the High Fells in the east. The strong sense of tranquillity is due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley in addition to the relative absence of settlements and night time light pollution.

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 east, towards the broader, flatter coastal plain in the west. 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 pink granite stone walls, dividing in-bye and in-take, gives a strong landscape pattern, which is particularly notable when viewed from the surrounding High Fells above.

The rugged surrounding High Fells with their rocky crags and screes and open moorland, (including the dramatic form of Scatell 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. A number of high mountain tarns are perched above the valley sides, including Blea Tarn and Stony Tarn add interest and reflect the weather patterns. 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), and the rugged gills that cascade down the fell-sides to meet it, is a feature of the whole valley, 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. A fascinating pattern of walls surrounds the small hamlet of Boot, which sits adjacent to a steep wooded gorge. Boot is an attractive, compact group of traditional buildings, in particular the very fine 17th century corn mill, which epitomises the vernacular use of rough granite.

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 (broadleaved, mixed and coniferous) and trees 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). Here, Muncaster Castle with its 14th century fortified tower though extensively re-modelled in the 19th Century, overlooks the valley from a high ledge, and with its extensive gardens and woodland, and neighbouring extensive conifer plantations is a striking landscape feature. The path of the popular Ravenglass to Eskdale narrow-gauge railway known as ‘La’al Ratty’ is also a feature.

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.

The valley overall has a strong sense of tranquillity especially at the foot of the High Fells in the east. The strong sense of tranquillity is due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley enhanced by the ruggedness of the surrounding fells and the cascading and rushing River Esk, which adds a sense of wildness. The sense of tranquillity is slightly disturbed by the minor road that runs the length of the valley especially in the peak of the tourist season when the road becomes busy.

‘As if to take some relief – the narrow, winding tortuous valley road, hauls itself out of the flat valley floor, up the eastern face of the valley head wall, with a final gasp – reminding itself at the top of the memorable, visual legacy of the valley it left behind.’

National Trust Management Plan, August 2002

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Water within the river, tarns and becks, which is vulnerable to point source and diffuse pollution;
- Strong enclosure pattern of vernacular pink granite stone walls on the dale sides and hedges in lower parts of the valley that contribute to recognisable sense of place and is sensitive to changes in land management or agricultural practices;
- Soft clumps of mature woodland, that provide a sense of enclosure;
- Stone packhorse bridges, which provide recognisable landscape features;
- Steep, wooded gorge which has a strong sense of enclosure and provides several key ecological habitats;
- Strong sense of isolation, tranquillity and sense of place throughout; and
- Predominantly isolated and small-scale settlement pattern.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.
GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Protect water within the river, tarns and becks from point source and diffuse pollution; and
- Conserve and enhance broadleaved woodland and encourage reversion of conifer plantations to deciduous woodland;

Ecological Character

- Conserve and enhance mosaic of woodland habitats on higher ground; and
- Conserve and enhance steep, wooded gorge which has a strong sense of enclosure and provides several key ecological habitats.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Conserve and enhance strong enclosure pattern of granite stone walls on the dale sides and hedgerows on lower parts of the valley that contributes to recognisable sense of place;
- Conserve stone packhorse bridges, which provide recognisable landscape features; and
- Conserve vernacular character resulting from use of local building materials (especially the local pink granite), forms and detailing.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Maintain strong sense of isolation, tranquillity and sense of place throughout; and
- Retain the predominantly isolated and small-scale settlement pattern.
AREA 45: ULPHA AND CORNEY FELL

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This upland Area of Distinctive Character is located in the south west of the National Park, inland from Ravenglass and between Eskdale and Dunnerdale.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)
- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fells (F); and
- Rugged/angular slate high fell (G).

Distinctive Characteristics
- Often elevated, open and expansive with dramatic views of the coast and estuary to the west and the Scafell range to the east from many areas including from narrow fell roads;
- A rich archaeology of settlement and working of the land, which contrasts with the present apparently empty and natural landscape;
- The lack of tall vegetation and development mean that the changing effects of light, weather and season are particularly important to the appearance and atmosphere of the landscape;
- Extensive tracts of degraded peatland habitat;
- Distinctive features in the area include Devoke water, discreet areas of improved pasture carved out of the fell associated with shielings and consolidated as farms;
- Single-track, unenclosed fell roads across an elevated landscape; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area especially on the fells where there is a strong sense of openness and perception of naturalness.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Today this area has a sense of emptiness and apparent naturalness, but this may not always have been the case in the past. There is evidence of prehistoric cairns, field systems and enclosures, medieval settlement and later industrial archaeology associated with mining on the fells.

To the north and east, a strong sense of enclosure is provided by the landscape of adjacent high fells, including the Scafell range whilst to the west, there is a stronger sense of openness, as a result of panoramic views towards the coastline. Sellafield power station is also a dominant industrial feature within several views north-westwards from this area.

The landscape is almost entirely devoid of trees (apart from incongruous, rectilinear coniferous plantations), or structures such as buildings or stone walls. The ground cover is a mixture of acid grassland, bracken and mires, with many rock outcrops and areas of scree. Changes in light according to weather conditions are notably apparent in this landscape.

The most distinctive landmarks in the area are the large tarn of Devoke Water, and areas of enclosed and improved land (Woodend and Birkerthwaite) 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, particularly when the cloud level is low.

Sense of tranquillity is relatively strong throughout this area, other than at shift change times at nearby Sellafield power station, when for a short time, the roads become a rat-run for fast-moving cars. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the strong sense of openness and perception of naturalness. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of dwellings, settlements and busy roads. There is a sense of wildness and isolation on the hills devoid from general signs of overt human impact and noise.
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Rich archaeological record, which is sensitive to damage and disturbance;
- Strong sense of openness, which is vulnerable to development;
- Strong sense of tranquillity throughout;
- Strong intervisibility with the coastline and seascape to the west;
- General absence of settlement, built structures or enclosure; and
- Mire habitat, which is sensitive to trampling pressure and overgrazing.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Pressure for roadside fencing on moorland roads to reduce roadkill.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- **Restore** upland plant communities, including degraded peatland communities.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** the rich archaeological record, which is sensitive to damage and disturbance; and
- **Retain** general absence of settlement, built structures or stonewalls.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** strong sense of openness, which is vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large scale developments;
- **Protect** open and panoramic views westwards towards the coastline and seascape; and
- **Maintain** strong sense of tranquillity throughout.

‘The Kirk of Ulpha to the pilgrim’s eye
Is welcome as a start, that doth present
Its shining forehead through the peaceful rent
Of a black cloud diffused o’er half the sky.’

St John’s Church, Ulpha, is described by Wordsworth in Duddon Sonnet XXXI
AREA 46: UPPER DUNNERDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park, to the south-east of Eskdale. It follows the upper reaches of the River Duddon from Wrynose Bottom to the southern extent of Dunnerdale Forest.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- An intimate and enclosed, relatively narrow valley, following the upper reaches of the River Duddon;
- Craggy, small farms in upper valley;
- 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, large intake fields- walls dominant;
- Eastern edge of the valley is accessed via the dramatic, steep and winding fell road over 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 glaciated valley);
- Intimate scale intensified by the rough, rocky texture of surrounding pikes, crags and gills; and
- 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 by an 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 tree-lined course of the River Duddon, as it snakes through the narrow, enclosed landscape. Further south, the dense, regular, predominantly dark green form of Dunnerdale Forest further contributes to the strong sense of enclosure. These coniferous plantations cloak the western valley side, dominating this area and are currently in a state of flux.

Settlement pattern is extremely sparse, consisting of isolated Lakeland vernacular farmsteads dotted amongst associated pasture fields. There is a strong sense of inhospitability 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 gills to come alive with rushing, tumbling water. The area has a very strong sense of tranquillity due to the perceived sense of naturalness associated with the presence of the River Duddon, relative absence of dwellings and settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and night time light pollution.
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Open views to surrounding High Fells, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Very strong sense of isolation, remoteness, wildness and tranquillity; throughout most of the area;
- Sparse road network and settlement pattern;
- Intricate pattern of stonewalls (delineating field boundaries), which are sensitive to changes in land management or agricultural practices;
- Water within the River Duddon, which is vulnerable to point source and diffuse pollution;
- Mature broadleaved trees lining the river corridor; and
- Traditional vernacular farmsteads, which are sensitive to extensions or changes, which do not respect existing or historic character.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Dunnerdale Forest conversion of intrusive, non-native conifers to native woodland linking with the ancient semi-natural woodland in lower Duddon.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** mature broadleaved trees as landscape features along the river corridor;
- **Protect** water within the River Duddon from point source and diffuse pollution; and
- **Encourage** conversion of conifer plantations to deciduous species.

Ecological Character

- **No guidelines recommended.**

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** intricate pattern of stonewalls (delineating field boundaries); and
- **Conserve** and enhance traditional vernacular farmsteads.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** open views to surrounding High Fells from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- **Maintain** very strong sense of isolation, remoteness, wildness and tranquillity; throughout most of the area; and
- **Retain** sparse road network and settlement pattern.
AREA 47: LOW FURNESS FELLS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Low Fell (K).

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 tarns, mires and heather moorland;
- The intimate-scale, accessible designed, naturalistic landscape of Tarn Hows, with its tarn reflecting the weather and surrounded by an intimate patchwork of green grassland, mires, bracken, spruce and larch-clad fells;
- Some of the oldest Alder in England near Boon Crag;
- Dramatic and long-distance views to the wrinkled dark grey ragged rock of the surrounding Coniston Fells, with long-distance framed views to the Little Langdale valley and the Langdale Pikes to the north and along the Yewdale valley to the east;
- 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 significantly with the seasons; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area locally disturbed by traffic noise on the A593. The sense of tranquillity is due to the perceived openness and naturalness of the moorlands.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The texture of this landscape is highly varied, with a combination of craggy rock outcrops, protruding from smooth upland heath, which cloaks the fell sides and a rich mosaic of habitats of many kinds from mires and tarns to bracken and heather moorland. In places, parkland, coniferous, deciduous and mixed woodland plantations provide striking landscape features and seasonal colour changes within views across the area.

The designed landscape of Tarn Hows is a popular tourist attraction and landscape feature within this area. The combination of natural habitats (including lush green grassland, mires and bracken) in juxtaposition with designed elements such as the lake, single mature ornamental exotic trees, green spruce, larch and deciduous woodlands and subtle human elements (such as footpaths, which follow the flow of the landscape) creates a sense of unity and balance within the area. The small-scale contrast between the dark coloured tarn and 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 long distance views to the more open, exposed, hummocky, scree and bracken covered surrounding Coniston Fells, Little Langdale valley and the rugged craggy, grey Langdale Pikes 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 and is a classic honeypot attraction, attracting large numbers of visitors.
Sense of intimacy and scale varies, moving through the many folds, peaks and troughs in the landscape. To the north west, 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, especially away from Tarn Hows, 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. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the perceived openness and naturalness of the moorland. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of settlements, dwellings and roads. However, the tranquillity is locally disturbed around the A593 through the presence of traffic noise. Around Tarn Hows, especially the southern end, tranquillity is affected by the numbers of cars on the narrow roads and large numbers of visitors to the lake, though the extensive woodland around the northern part of the lake hides many of the visitors walking around the lake from view much of the time.

‘I added seven stones to the fabric [of the summit cairn] but declined looking down, for a wished not my present tranquillity to be disturbed by giddiness.’

Thomas Wilkinson, early 19th century

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Upland heath which is sensitive to over-grazing;
- Mature, ancient Alder deciduous tree species, which are striking landscape features;
- Dramatic, open views from the Fells, which are sensitive to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Dramatic views to the Coniston Fells, Little Langdale, the Langdale Pikes, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall, vertical or large-scale development;
- Important designed landscape of Tarn Hows, sensitive to changes in design of planting and insensitive access improvements.
- Generally strong sense of isolation and tranquillity throughout; and
- Water within Tarn Hows and associated tarn-edge habitats, which are sensitive to pollution.

**Forces for Change**

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Spread of bracken where grazing activity is reduced;
- Increased traffic on small roads and car park development changing the character of minor roads and tracks;
- Pressure on sensitive habitats from increasing accessibility;
- Loss of important landscape features such as stone walls and hedgebanks and pollards due to financial pressures in agri-environment schemes;
- Fluctuations in forestry practices due to the changing nature and economics of forestry;
- Climate change impacting on long-term integrity of designed and other historical landscapes (a key feature within this landscape type); and
- Increasing visitor numbers to Tarn Hows potentially leading to inappropriate road and footpath improvements in surrounding lanes.
GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** water within Tarn Hows and associated tarn-edge habitats from point source and diffuse pollution;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature, ancient Alder trees and other mature deciduous specimen tree species, which are striking landscape features; and
- **Mitigate** landscape impact of any access improvements.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of upland heath;
- **Control** spread of bracken; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** wetland habitats around lake.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** designed landscape around Tarn Hows, **encourage** succession planning, especially for woodland and exotic specimen trees;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** walls, hedgebanks and pollards.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** dramatic views to Yewdale Valley, Coniston Fells Little Langdale and the Langdale Pikes;
- **Protect** open views to and from the area from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- **Ensure** highway improvements respect and reflect local character and materials to retain high landscape quality; and
- **Maintain** generally strong sense of isolation and tranquillity throughout.
AREA 48: CLAIFE HEIGHTS AND LATTERBARROW

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south east of the Lake District National Park, to the southwest of Ambleside.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Low Fells (K); and
- Lowland Valley (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A hummocky patchwork of woodland, wet pasture, mires and tarns;
- Dramatic views across Lake Windermere to the east and Esthwaite Water to the west; and panoramic views from Latterbarrow;
- Sinuous form of Elterwater, situated at the eastern confluence of the Great and Little Langdale valleys and surrounded by patches of soft woodland;
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by woodland and hedgerow-lined lanes;
- Latterbarrow forms a dramatic backdrop within views westwards across Windermere outside the area;
- Coniferous dominated woodland on the south Claife ridge;
- A network of quiet, narrow winding lanes enclosed by hedgerows;
- Flag (or shard) walls are a localised feature;
- Hawkshead is a unique, late medieval market town, with the greatest concentration of listed buildings in the Lake District. Very distinctive pattern of narrow streets, squares and courtyards, some cobbled, with rendered and limewashed houses and cottages, rare examples of upper floor timber – framed buildings. Some Victorian slate stone imposing buildings, with the 16th / 17th century large, elevated parish church forming a focal point for the wider area;
- Hawkshead has strong historic and cultural associations with Beatrix Potter and Wordsworth;
- Canon Rawnsley connections with Low Wray;
- The picturesque Grade II Listed viewing station at Claife Station; and
- Strong sense of tranquillity in the landscape extending from the western shore of Windermere. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of dwellings and settlements and minimal sources of artificial noise.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This landscape encompasses an unusual patchwork of hummocky grassland and tarns, nestled within a strongly wooded backdrop. Higher points such as Latterbarrow and Colthouse Heights 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, mires and wetlands, nestled amongst surrounding lush green grassland. Boundaries are a mix of hedges and walls, with some locally distinctive flag boundaries, made from large vertically-placed flagstones made from slate. Field barns and other features associated with hill farming are also an important historical and visual aspect of this landscape. 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, with seasonal colour and interesting textures where the woodland is deciduous.
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, contributes to a strong recognisable sense of place within the village. Hawkshead 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.

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity associated with the perceived naturalness of the woodland and pastoral fields that dominate the landscape. In addition the relative absence of dwellings and settlements and minimal sources of artificial noise also enhance the sense of tranquillity. There is a slight disturbance to the tranquillity in the north at Skelwith Bridge and adjacent to the A593 which passes through the area, due to traffic noise.

‘Beloved Hawkshead … thy paths, thy shores
And brooks, were like a dream of novelty
To my half-infant mind …
… My morning walks
Were early: oft before the hours of school
I travelled round our little lake, five miles
Of pleasant wandering – happy time …’

Wordsworth, c. 1779

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Patches of broadleaved woodland, which are sensitive to lack of management or conversion to conifers;
- Water within Elterwater and other waterbodies, which is vulnerable to diffuse and point source pollution;
- Felling and species change in coniferous woodland;
- Dramatic, panoramic open views across Lake Windermere and surrounding fells, which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Flag boundary walls, which are relatively unique features, rare within the rest of the Lake District landscape;
- Hedgerows, stone walls and field barns, which are sensitive to changes in agriculture;
- Compact settlement pattern and vernacular slate roofed and lime-washed walled buildings within Hawkshead; and
- Hawkshead village, which is vulnerable to the introduction of buildings at the centre or edges of the village that do not respect existing scale, building materials and character.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Lack of management of important landscape features such as stone walls, hedges, field barns and pollarded trees due to financial pressures in agriculture;
- Increased pressure for new residential developments on the edge of Hawkshead and potential loss of vernacular character and use of local building materials;
- Communication developments leading to increased visual clutter from mobile phone and radio masts; and
- Increased traffic on small roads and car park development changing the character of minor roads and tracks.
GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** patches of broadleaved woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure;
- **Encourage** conversion of coniferous woods to broadleaved species; and
- **Protect** water within the tarns from diffuse and point source pollution.

Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** walls and hedges, especially flag boundary walls, which are relatively rare features within the rest of the Lake District landscape;
- **Conserve** and **restore** field barns; and
- **Retain** compact settlement pattern and conserve and enhance slate-roofed and lime-washed walled vernacular buildings within Hawkshead village, which is vulnerable to the introduction of buildings at the centre or edges of the village that do not respect existing scale, building materials and character.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** dramatic panoramic open views across Lake Windermere and surrounding fells and also northwards from Latterbarrow from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Mitigate** landscape impact of any new communications infrastructure.
AREA 49: LOWER WINDEMRERE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

Lower Windermere Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park, and encompasses the settlements of Windermere and Bowness-on-Windermere.

Relevant Landscape Character Types

- Low Fell (K); and
- Lowland Valley (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Southern half of Windermere Lake, with its extensive ancient semi-natural woodland right down to the lake shores, punctuated by scattered large residences, provides a strong sense of enclosure;
- Set back from the immediate lakeshore to the east and west on rising ground, wooded and open rocky outcrops and knolls;
- Eastern shore dominated by large private houses, villas and hotels, with nationally important Arts and Crafts buildings, in particular Broadleys (Voysey) and Blackwell (Baillie Scott). Many houses have their own boathouses and jetties, as well as gardens / grounds laid out by eminent designers, some with exotic planting and parkland.
- Distinctive Belle Isle, with its iconic late 18th century round house, epitomising the picturesque ideals sits in a woodland setting to the west of Bowness on Windermere and punctuates open views across the lake;
- The Belsfield, largest and finest Italianate building in the Lake District, built in 1840 with its smooth rendered walls and crisp detailing, is the dominant feature overlooking Bowness Bay;
- 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, a unique Victorian creation following the arrival of the railway in 1847. Imposing and ornate hotels, in particular the Windermere Hotel, guest houses, terraces, shops, built in grey slate stone, often with buff sandstone or limestone dressings and fretted barge boards, produces a distinctive urban character;
- Bustling town of Bowness, a unique Victorian creation following the arrival of the railway in 1847. Imposing and ornate hotels, in particular the Windermere Hotel, guest houses, terraces, shops, built in grey slate stone, often with buff sandstone or limestone dressings and fretted barge boards, produces a distinctive urban character;
- Once separate settlements, Windermere and Bowness coalesced in the mid to late 20th century, with the building of large estates and residential infill of large grounds. However, the town still appears heavily wooded, when viewed from elevated positions;
- Cultural connections with growing tourism industry, including Picturesque viewing stations such as Queens Adelaide’s Hill and Claife Stations; and
- Predominantly a tranquil valley away from Bowness/ Windermere, Ferry Nab and Lakeside Piers and A590 and A592 due to the perceived naturalness of the landscape, and the relative absence of dwellings and settlements.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The shorelines of Lake Windermere have a soft and predominantly wooded and parkland character, and the lake narrows, moving southwards through the landscape. To the west, an almost continuous swathe of predominantly broadleaved woodland cloaks the shore, with patches of open farmland, parkland or grassland overlooked by farmsteads or large houses. The woodland has a dense, green understorey, which often comes alive in spring with swathes of bluebells, and contributes subtle textures and seasonal
colour changes. 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.

The eastern shore is speckled with large, predominantly private, houses (including a number of significant Arts and Crafts houses) with extensive gardens and parkland planting, 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 the 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.

The area has a predominantly strong sense of tranquillity on the western shores of the lake. The tranquillity is due to the perceived naturalness of the landscape and the relative absence of dwellings and settlements outside of Windermere. On the eastern shores of Lake Windermere, Bowness/Windermere town, Ferry Nab and the Lakeside Piers and the A590 and A592, which follow the eastern bank of the lake introduce traffic noise and sources of artificial noise, which disturb the sense of tranquillity on this side of the lake, especially in the peak tourist season.

‘The wind blew away the clouds and the stars shone out high over Swallows ... The deep blue of the sky began to pale over the eastern hills. The islands clustered ... became dark masses on a background no longer as dark as themselves. The colour of the water changes. It had been as black as the hills and the sky, and as these paled so did the lake. The dark islands were dull green and grey, and the rippled water was the colour of a pewter teapot.’

Swallows and Amazons Ch.21, Arthur Ransome

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Exotic planting and parkland along the lakeshore, which contributes to recognisable sense of place;
- Extensive areas of semi-natural woodland sensitive to changes in management;
- Open views across Lake Windermere, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by woodland;
- Strong sense of tranquillity at distance from the A590 and A592;
- Small-scale and intimate landscape pattern, which is vulnerable to the introduction of large-scale elements or loss of existing landscape features;
- Water quality, mires and lake edges; and
- Existing character of the main settlements sensitive to new or large scale development which does not reflect local vernacular and Victorian character.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Climate change changing the temperature of the lakes, increasing eutrophication;
- Redevelopment and enlargement of houses, boathouses and jetties on the lakeshores;
- Expansion of leisure development at Lakeside, Newby Bridge and Fell Foot in quieter areas of the Lake;
Continued pressure for access to water for recreational pursuits creating pollution and loss of tranquillity; Communication developments leading to increased visual clutter from mobile phone and radio mast; and Changes in fashion for garden design leading to introduction of new elements such as decking along eastern shores of the lake

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- Encourage sustainable management of broadleaved woodland, maintaining continuous cover.

**Ecological Character**

- Restore water quality, mires and lake edge habitats.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- Conserve and enhance exotic and parkland planting along the lakeshore, which contributes to recognisable sense of place;
- Conserve and enhance distinctive features of settlements such as decorative white barge boarding and high quality slate detailing; and
- Ensure lakeside developments such as boathouses, jetties etc reflect local vernacular styles and scale.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- Maintain open views across Lake Windermere;
- Conserve and enhance strong sense of enclosure provided by broadleaved semi-natural woodland;
- Maintain relatively strong sense of tranquillity at distance from the A590 and A592 road corridors;
- Mitigate landscape impact of any new communications infrastructure;
- Encourage restoration of designed grounds and parkland associated with lakeside houses, including succession planting of trees; and
- Retain small-scale and intimate landscape pattern.
AREA 50: CROOK

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

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

Relevant Landscape Character Types:

- Low Fells (K).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Small-scale, intimate hummocky rural landscape, consisting of a small-scale patchwork of pastoral fields, crossed by myriad narrow lanes, connecting the hamlets and scattered farms;
- Distinctive rocky outcrops and clumps of trees within fields are a defining landscape feature;
- A very peaceful landscape, with a strong sense of tranquillity at distance from the A5074 and A591;
- Hedges and walls lining roads often limit views across the landscape from the roads, but good viewpoints over the area can be reached by climbing up the small rocky outcrops;
- Recognisable sense of place is provided by views to higher areas, such as Lord’s Lot; and
- Predominantly a highly tranquil area, away from Windermere and the associated trunk roads, due to the relative absence of dwellings and settlements and minimal sources of artificial noise.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This area is characterised by an interesting, hummocky 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 woods, clumps of trees, and a scattering of traditional stone farmsteads. Patches of heather moorland punctuate the pastoral farmland, bringing variety to the landscape, with gorse providing vibrant splashes of colour amidst the low fell vegetation. Frequent rocky outcrops hint at the underlying geology throughout the area. The hummocky nature of the area disappears, replaced by more gently sloping pastoral land as the broad valley near Windermere is approached in the north-east of the area.

The nature of the topography combined with the land cover creates a highly 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 myriad narrow lanes (framed by hedgerows and walls), connecting the scattering of villages, hamlets and farms. There is a strong overall sense of tranquillity, particularly in the centre of the area, which is due to the relative absence of dwellings and settlements and minimal sources of artificial noise. The sense of tranquillity is disturbed locally adjacent to the town of Windermere and the traffic on the busy road corridors of the A5074 and the A591.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Overall strong sense of tranquillity and peaceful character throughout the area (at distance from the A5074 and A591 road corridors);
- Hedgerows and drystone walls lining road corridors, which are vulnerable to changes in landscape management or agricultural practices;
• Patches of woodland and clumps of trees are sensitive to lack of management;
• Small-scale settlement pattern and intimate landscape pattern; and
• Panoramic views across the surrounding landscape from Lord’s Lot and rocky knolls, which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments.

**Forces for Change**

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- **Conserve** and **enhance** small broadleaved woodlands, clumps of trees, gorse and scrub, **encourage** control of grazing to ensure regeneration.

**Ecological Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Conserve** and **enhance** hedgerows and walls lining road corridors; and
- **Retain** small-scale settlement pattern and landscape pattern

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- **Maintain** overall strong sense of tranquillity and peaceful character throughout the area (at distance from the A5074 and A591 road corridors); and
- **Protect** uncluttered panoramic views across the surrounding landscape from Lord’s Lot and smaller rocky outcrops from tall vertical or large-scale developments.
AREA 51: CUNSWICK AND SCOUT SCAR

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is located in the east of the National Park.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0):

- Coastal Limestone (C); and
- Low Fell (K).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Flower-rich limestone grassland with scattered juniper, gorse and hawthorn;
- Open fell tops with 360 degree views;
- Small-scale open, gently rolling low fell and farmland landscape, with a patchwork of pastoral farmland alternating with woodland clumps (both deciduous and coniferous);
- Patchwork of limestone dry stone walls and hedgerows delineating field patterns;
- Distinct west-facing line of steep, wooded limestone scarps;
- Gentle hilly topography of drumlins allows far-reaching views of the surrounding Low Fells from several locations;
- Heavily used recreational open access land for quiet pursuits;
- ‘Mushroom’ shelter/viewpoint 360 degree panoramic views – Lake District, Yorkshire Dales (including Ingleborough), Kent Estuary and Morecambe Bay;
- Radio and mobile phone mast dominance above Scott Scar quarry car park; and
- Predominantly a tranquil and peaceful area away from the A5074 and A591, due to the relative absence of large settlements or sources of artificial noise.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Pastoral farmland dominates land cover in the area, with medium-scale fields generally delineated by hedges and occasional limestone dry stone walls. Small clumps of predominantly broadleaved 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.

The area is unified by the prominent north to south limestone ridge running parallel to Whitbarrow, and ending in Sizergh Fell. Underbarrow, Cunswick and Bumbarrow scars together provide a very distinctive west-facing, mostly wooded (ancient semi-natural woodland) classic limestone scarp face. These rocky outcrops, strong reminders of the underlying geology of the area, provide light-grey patches of strong contrast amidst the rolling green of the pastoral farmland. In the south the character of the landscape changes, becoming more rugged and textured, with woodland and heathland dominating character. Extensive panoramic views in all directions can be obtained from the limestone ridge.

Settlement pattern is sparse, and consists of occasional limestone vernacular farm buildings and the small villages of Underbarrow, and just outside the Park, Brigsteer. As a result of this, and the general absence of main roads, tranquillity throughout the area is strong, apart from areas close to the A591 (mostly just outside the National park), such as Sizergh Castle and paths across Kendal Golf Course. To the west the area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the relative absence of large settlements, main roads or sources of artificial noise. In contrast the sense of tranquillity in the east is disturbed primarily by the traffic noise on the A5074 and the visual presence of the urban edge of Kendal.
‘I knew mountains long before I knew pictures: and these mountains of yours, before any other mountains. From this town of Kendal, I went out, a child, to the first joyful excursions among the Cumberland lakes, which formed my love of landscape and of painting.’

Ruskin, 1877

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Extensive stands of ancient semi-natural woodland along limestone scarp faces;
- Small clumps of woodland which frame views and provide a sense of enclosure;
- Patterns of limestone walls and hedges which are vulnerable to changes in agricultural practice;
- Open views across the area in all directions, including the coast to the south, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale built developments; and
- Sparse settlement pattern, which is sensitive to the introduction of buildings that do not respect existing settlement scale character and local vernacular building materials.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Pressure for further masts and wind farms cluttering the current openness and harming wider views to the fells, estuaries/coast and interrupting skylines

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Conserve and enhance extensive ancient semi-natural woodland along scarp face of limestone ridge.

Ecological Character

- Conserve and enhance rich limestone grassland with juniper, gorse and hawthorn scrub.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Retain sparse settlement pattern;
- Conserve and enhance limestone walls and hedges; and
- Conserve and enhance distinctive limestone vernacular styles and encourage the use of local vernacular building materials.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Retain small clumps of woodland on lower ground which frame views and provide a sense of enclosure; and
- Protect open views across the area towards wooded low fell beyond and the coast to the south from tall vertical or large-scale developments.
AREA 52: RAVENGLASS AND BOOTLE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

The Ravenglass and Bootle Area of Distinctive Character forms part of the coastal strip in the south west of the National Park.

Relevant Landscape Character types (see Section 4.0)

- Coastal Sandstone (E);
- Estuary and Marsh (A);
- Coastal Margins (B);
- Lowland (D); and
- High Fell Fringe (J).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Ravenglass, the only coastal settlement in the Lake District, has a very special character, at the estuary of the Rivers Esk, Mite and Irt;
- The village was formerly a busy port and market centre. Its continuous frontage of mainly rendered buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries, facing a broad main street, fossilises the medieval street layout. Viewed from the shore, the village grows out of the granite and red sandstone robust sea wall
- An open coastline with sand and shingle, sandy beaches and dunes, with the underlying geology occasionally showing in the form of low sandstone cliffs;
- The Ravenglass estuary with intertidal mudflats and saltmarsh framed by extensive sand dunes;
- Flat to gently undulating and sloping coastal landscape, which falls from east to west towards the sea;
- Predominantly pastoral farmland where the generally regular fields are divided by a mixture of hedgerows, dry stone walls, kests and wire fences;
- Kests (stone and turf walls) built using rounded river cobbles embedded in alternating layers of turf;
- Rising High Fells (including Black Combe 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, landmark features include Sellafield power station (to the north) and the windfarm (south of Silecroft) and Eskmeals firing range;
- 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; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area away from the A595 due to the openness and perception of naturalness of the coast along with the relative absence of dwellings and settlements and sources of artificial noise.

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, kests (walls built using rounded river cobbles embedded in alternating layers of turf) and wire fences, provides stark contrast with the vast expansive open seascape to the west and the dramatic rising High Fells to the east. The coastline is largely flat and open, with mudflats, salt marsh, sand and shingle, sandy beaches and dunes, with the underlying geology occasionally showing in the form of low sandstone cliffs. The Ravenglass estuary is framed by extensive sand dunes.

Looking westwards, extensive long-distance sea 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 Combe to the south and adjacent high fells to the north, provides a strong sense of 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 long 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 Silecroft and Kirksanton 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. Ravenglass is today primarily a cul-de-sac main street, although once the main coastal route to the south. Houses and terraces of the 18th to 19th century, generally rendered as weather protection in this very exposed position. A few late 19th century neat estate houses with sandstone dressings and blue woodwork illustrate the close links between Muncaster Castle and the village. Just outside the village is Walls Bath House, the tallest standing Roman building in Northern England. A general absence of roads adds to the sense of isolation and tranquillity. However, the fast moving vehicles on the A595 (T) running north-south across the area break the continuity of the surrounding pastoral landscape and disturb the general sense of tranquillity. Parts of Muncaster Castle, which evolved from a Pele tower, are thought to be approximately 800 years old. The site is thought to have Roman origins, with an important defensive location on a shelf high above the valley below. As with the stone walls and kests, the more vernacular buildings use rounded cobbles, whilst the late Victorian farms, houses and railway buildings have a solid formality with the more precise stonework and widespread use of dressed St. Bees red sandstone.

At its western 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. Large areas of lichen-rich dune grassland and dune heath frame estuarine habitats including intertidal mud and saltmarsh with sand and pebble beaches on the open coast with areas of honeycombe worm reef. The area is also a stronghold for the natterjack toad with their evocative calls, especially the Drigg Coast SSSI.

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perception of naturalness of the coast along with the relative absence of dwellings and settlements and sources of artificial noise. The sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed around the A595 due to traffic noise on this busy coastal road. In addition the west coast railway runs through the area, with occasional trains causing short term disturbance to the tranquillity locally.

The journey up Eskdale, from Ravenglass to Boot, is by a miniature railway, with the oddest little engine and a carriage or two of primitive simplicity. At each station on the upward winding track – stations represented only by a little wooden shed like a tool-house – the guard jumps down and acts as booking-clerk, if passengers there be desirous of booking. In a few miles the scenery changes from beauty to grandeur, and at the terminus no further steaming would be possible, for the great flank of Scawfell bars the way.'

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LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Open views towards the rising High Fells of Black Combe;
- Open views across a vast, expansive seascape to the west;
- Strong sense of openness throughout;
- Strong sense of unity and harmony;
- Strong sense of tranquillity away from the A595;
• Patchwork of walls, hedges and kests sensitive to changes in agricultural practice; and
• Wide range of coastal habitats sensitive to disturbance and inappropriate development.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:
• Rise in sea levels altering the shoreline, tidal flows and potentially inundating significant habitats;
• Increase in storm events changing the pattern and spread of habitats and altering the character of the landscape (e.g. through erosion of saltmarsh);
• Pressure to develop land leading to increasing amounts of engineered features such flood defence, drainage works and raising of levels, all of which detract from the flat, open and wild characteristics; and
• Increase in development around Sellafield and other similar industrial complexes resulting in visually intrusive buildings in open landscape.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

• No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

• Conserve and enhance wide range of coastal habitats, prevent coastal squeeze where appropriate, by encouraging managed retreat in areas potentially affected by sea level rise.

Cultural and Historic Character

• Conserve and enhance hedgerows, stone walls and kests at field boundaries; and
• Conserve and enhance locally distinctive vernacular building features, including distinctive villages, scattered farms and granite estate cottages associated with Muncaster Castle Estate.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

• Retain open uncluttered views towards rising High Fells (Black Combe) which provide a dramatic backdrop, and open uncluttered views across a vast, expansive seascape to the west;
• Retain strong sense of openness throughout; and
• Maintain overall sense of unity, harmony and sense of tranquillity.
AREA 53: LOWER DUNNERDALE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Rugged Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- Upland Valley (H).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Varied character, encompassing an intricate patchwork of habitats with woodland, pasture, meadows and farmland following the course of the River Duddon;
- Scattered settlement pattern including small historic settlement of Seathwaite and numerous isolated farmsteads, many at high altitude, some being abandoned;
- Extensive areas of woodland (mainly deciduous ancient semi-natural woodland, with some conifer content and some small conifer blocks) clothe the western valley sides, following the course of the gently meandering River Duddon with local concentrations of wild daffodil in spring;
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by surrounding fells;
- Vast expanses of woodland within Ulpha Park and Rainsbarrow provide a strong sense of enclosure and are recognisable landscape features;
- Deeply incised, intimate-scale, enclosed wooded gorge to the north of High Wallowbarrow;
- Distinctive, sinuous 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 connectivity of habitats, particularly woodland;
- Strong sense of isolation, wildness and tranquillity throughout the valley;
- Large intake fields on plateau above woodland ridge;
- Heather on High Wallowbarrow Crag, which is a popular climbing location; and
- Predominantly a very tranquil area due to the perception of openness and naturalness of the valley as result of the relative absence of settlement or dwellings.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

A strong sense of relative isolation, wildness and tranquillity is apparent throughout this character area as a result of the generally sparse settlement pattern and absence of major roads. An intricate patchwork of habitats with extensive woodlands (the broadleaved, ancient semi-natural woods locally carpeted with wild daffodils in spring) particularly on the western valley sides, herb-rich meadows, wetlands and pastoral farmland (delineated by traditional stone walls of differing patterns) contributes to a complex distinctive landscape pattern, with good connectivity between habitats. The fell sides are dominated by patches of scattered scrub and developing birch woodland, particularly on ex-industrial areas contributes distinctive winter purple stem colour and autumn yellow tones to the complex colour patterns.

There is a scattered settlement pattern, including the small historic settlement of Seathwaite and numerous isolated farmsteads, many at high altitude, some being abandoned hHistoric settlement patterns in the area are suggested by the pattern of prehistoric cairn fields, ring boundaries, hut circles and field systems on Thwaites Fell

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 in adjacent Broad Upland 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.

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Intricate patchwork of woodland, pasture, and meadows which contribute to recognisable landscape pattern;
- Patches of mainly deciduous ancient semi-natural woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure;
- Strong sense of isolation and tranquillity throughout;
- Distinctive field patterns, resulting from a network of various styles of stone walls and hedgerows, which is vulnerable to changes in landscape management;
- Open views towards the sea and High Fells, which are vulnerable to interruption; and
- General lack of development and a strong sense of community.

**Forces for Change**

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Pressure for infrastructure development such as water treatment and road improvements.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- Protect water within the River Duddon and catchment from point source and diffuse pollution.

**Ecological Character**

- Conserve and enhance intricate patchwork of woodland, scrub, pasture and meadows which contribute to recognisable landscape pattern and encourage habitat linkage;
- Conserve and enhance extensive broadleaved semi-natural woodlands and manage appropriately for important species occurring locally including the dormouse and wild daffodil; and
- Conserve and enhance coastal habitats, prevent coastal squeeze where appropriate, by encouraging managed retreat in areas potentially affected by sea level rise.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- Conserve and enhance distinctive field patterns, resulting from a network of stone walls and hedgerows;
- Conserve and enhance locally distinctive vernacular building features, including distinctive villages, scattered farms; and
- Protect archaeological sites.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- Maintain strong sense of isolation, wildness and tranquillity throughout; and
- Protect open views to and from the area from tall vertical or large-scale developments.
AREA 54: BROUGHTON AND TORVER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south west of the Lake District National Park, to the west of Coniston Water and east of Dunnerdale.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Coastal Margins (B);
- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F); and
- Low Fells (K).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Ridge and hummocky topography which encompasses a network of pastoral fields with rocky knolls delineated by hedgerows and slate stone walls;
- Frequent small patches of deciduous woodland with generally soft edges, frame surrounding fields;
- Strong sense of enclosure on lower-lying ground, contrasting with wide views from rocky knolls towards Torver Low Common;
- Views generally limited to short distances as a result of the surrounding higher landscapes and patches of woodland;
- Single, mature infield and boundary trees, mainly oak and ash, are a feature;
- Area of lowland raised mire at Heathwaite Moss;
- At the centre of Broughton in Furness is a unique mid 18th century formally laid out Market Square, with its Town Hall, tall merchants houses and central obelisk. Most of the town is rendered and has a very strong visual coherence;
- Broughton Tower, immediately north of the Market Square, developed from a 14th century fortified tower to an 18th and 19th century gothicised mansion. It forms a prominent landscape feature, enhanced by its extensive parkland setting;
- Good examples of rugged limewashed farmhouses, with large bank barns and outbuildings in grey slates and mudstones, are scattered over the area;
- Tranquillity is locally disturbed along the road corridors of the A593 and A5084;
- Predominantly a tranquil area due to openness and perception of naturalness of the landscape well the relative absence of settlements and sources of artificial noise; and
- Large area of coniferous plantation at Broughton Moor.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character is sandwiched between the hummocky, roughly textured landscape of Torver Low Common and Woodland Fell (Low Furness Fells) to the south east and the higher, Dunnerdale Fells to the north-west. This contributes to recognisable sense of place, but also to a strong sense of enclosure throughout the area. The ridged and hummocky topography results in an intimate mix of enclosed areas punctuated by rocky knolls allowing distant views of the surrounding fells.

Belts of linear broadleaved woodland, with predominantly soft edges, punctuate the network of rolling semi-improved pasture fields. Field boundaries are delineated by a combination of mature hedgerows and traditional stone walls. Single mature infield trees are also a feature with areas of mature parkland associated with Broughton Towers and other larger houses in the area. On the higher ground large areas of bracken with some small trees provide a contrast with the semi-improved grassland.

In addition to the corridor of the A593 main road, a number of steep, minor roads snake across the landscape, with many scenic viewpoints. Sinuous becks and narrow stream corridors are also a feature. Settlement pattern consists of a number of isolated traditional vernacular stone farmsteads and small, nucleated hamlets, such as Broughton Mills. The southern boundary of the area is dominated by the
small town of Broughton in Furness, with its formal Market Square laid out by the Lord of the Manor in 1760, surrounded by tall, simple Georgian terrace houses with frontages of painted render. The arrival of the railway in 1850 has left its mark, with the Victorian architecture of grey slate and sandstone detailing.

On Broughton Moor, there is a large area of forestry plantation to the northwest of the area, which is locally dominant. Heathwaite Moss is an area of lowland raised mire colonised by woodland around the fringes and provides contrasts in colour and texture with the surrounding pasture.

There is a strong sense that this area forms part of a transitional landscape from higher fells to the north-west to lower fells and Coniston Water to the south-east. The area has a predominantly strong sense of tranquillity due to openness and perception of naturalness of the landscape. In addition there is a relative absence of settlements and sources of artificial noise. An exception to this is the A593 to the south near Broughton in Furness where the sense of tranquillity is disturbed by the traffic noise and the increased presence of settlements.

‘observe[d] from Torva thro’ Coniston the force of imitation in the Gardens & sweet Porches, & every where clipped yews, in obelisks, & fine arches …’

Coleridge, 1802

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Frequent small patches of deciduous woodland which contribute to a sense of enclosure;
- Views towards Dunnerdale Fells, which contribute to recognisable sense of place;
- Mature hedgerows and stone walls which are vulnerable to changes in landscape management or agricultural practices;
- Water within the sinuous becks and stream corridors, that is sensitive to pollution;
- Mature open-grown trees vulnerable to changes in agricultural management;
- Parkland features in the south of the area vulnerable to changes in agricultural practice;
- Strong agricultural vernacular of small farmsteads vulnerable to inappropriate development;
- Areas of lowland valley mire vulnerable to drainage and natural succession; and
- Distinctive Georgian architecture of Broughton in Furness sensitive to change, which does not respect its distinctive features.

Forces for Change

Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** water within the sinuous becks and stream corridors from point source and diffuse pollution.

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** sympathetic management of wetland mire habitats.
Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature hedgerows and vernacular stone walls;
- **Conserve** and **replace** infield and boundary trees;
- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of parkland, **encourage** succession planning for key features; and
- **Encourage** development as appropriate which respects or strengthens local character with good quality design and sensitivity to its environs.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** frequent small patches of deciduous woodland which contribute to a sense of enclosure; and
- **Maintain** views towards Dunnerdale Fells, which contribute to recognisable sense of place.
AREA 55: CONISTON WATER

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated to the west of Lake Windermere, Hawkeshead and Grizedale Forest.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Lowland Valley (M); and
- 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 with extensive broadleaved woodlands contributing seasonal colour;
- Coniston, a large village with its industrial history of slate quarrying, copper mining, railway and tourism strongly reflected in its grey and green slate houses, terraces, hotels and public buildings, giving a unified appearance;
- Coniston village and lake are inextricably linked, visually, historically, economically and through present tourist activities. The village sits comfortably within the landscape and viewed from the Brantwood area, the superb combination of lake, village and fells is probably unsurpassed in the Lake District;
- Coniston Old Hall standing proudly on the lake shore;
- Designed estate landscape associated with the 18th and 19th century Monk Coniston Estate at the northern end of the lake including the wider landscape and Tarn Hows;
- Historic and cultural links with Ruskin (whose house and garden at Brantwood, overlooks the Lake) and Arthur Ransome. Also with Donald Campbell and his attempts on the world water-speed record; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area away from the A5084 due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley and the associated Coniston Water.

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 extensive ancient semi-natural deciduous woodlands on the fellsides enhance the softness of the landform. 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’, an elegant reminder of Victorian tourism of the Furness railway era. 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 strong 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 older buildings in the village are rendered and limewashed, with the more dominant Victorian buildings constructed of locally quarried green and greyslate, making the whole composition blend so well into the landscape. Important traditional vernacular farms are scattered through the valley, some with distinctive features such as tall round stone chimneys, as at Coniston Old Hall, or open sided galleries (so called ‘spinning galleries’ found mainly on 17th and 18th...
century barns) such as can be seen at Yew Tree farm. A particularly striking and rare feature of the area to the north of the village are stretches of stone walls made of large vertically placed stone flags (shard fences), also found in other parts of the lake District.

The northern shore of the lake was part of the Monk Coniston estate, designed in stages first by the Knott family from the late 18th and early 19th centuries and then by the Marshall family from 1836 onwards. 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, artist, thinker and art critic lived at Brantwood, on the eastern shore of the lake, from 1871 until 1900, and his house and restored garden 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. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the valley and the associated Coniston Water. The sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed along the A5084 due to the presence of greater numbers of settlements and dwellings and the traffic noise on the busy road.

‘Nowt Caps Coniston. ‘Coniston is an unusually rich village in its association with famous persons and important industries, not to mention its own crop of colourful characters who have enlivened the village scene over many generations.’

John Dawson, local historian

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Sense of enclosure, intimacy and tranquillity in proximity to the lakeshore;
- Designed estate landscape associated with Monk Coniston Estate and Brantwood;
- Ancient semi-natural woodlands on the fellsides, which contribute to a sense of enclosure;
- Vernacular buildings of slate or white washed stone;
- Water within the Lake, which is vulnerable to diffuse and point source pollution; and
- Extensive views to surrounding high fells.

Forces for Change

Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** mature deciduous ancient semi-natural woodlands on the fellsides; and
- **Protect** water within the Lake from point source and diffuse pollution.
Ecological Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **restore** the designed estate landscape associated with Monk Coniston Estate and Brantwood;
- **Conserve** and **restore** historic features including boundary features, especially slate flag walls (shard fences);
- **Conserve** and **enhance** vernacular buildings of slate or white washed stone including their locally distinctive features such as open galleries and high round chimneys; and
- **Encourage** new development where deemed appropriate which is appropriately designed and sited and respects or strengthens local character.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Retain** sense of enclosure, intimacy and tranquillity in proximity to the lakeshore; and
- **Protect** views from tall vertical or large-scale developments.
AREA 56: GRIZEDALE AND SATTERTHWAITE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

Grizedale and Satterthwaite ADC is situated towards the southern edge of the Lake District National Park, between Lake Windermere to the east and Coniston Water to the west.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Low Fells (K);
- Lowland Valley (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Vast, dense expanse of mostly coniferous woodland underlain by a generally hummocky and craggy topography with broadleaved woodland remaining in places;
- 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 woodland. 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;
- Clear highest view point in forest Carron Crag poking up through trees;
- Popular area for recreation; and
- Predominantly very tranquil landscape associated with the dense woodland and relative absence of settlements, dwellings and major roads.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

One of the most distinctive features of the Grizedale and Satterthwaite area is the scale of the plantation forestry of the Grizedale Forest, which can only really be appreciated from elevated viewpoints outside and within the forest, such as Carron Crag. From these viewpoints, the dense coniferous 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 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.

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 coniferous forest means that it is a dominant feature within these views. The area has a predominantly very strong sense of tranquillity due to the presence of the large dense woodland that covers the majority of the area. There is also a relative absence of settlements, dwellings and major roads and therefore minimal sources of artificial noise.

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong sense of enclosure and remoteness within the Forest;
- Patchwork of lush pasture fields along Grizedale Beck, divided by stonewalls and hedges, which are vulnerable to changes in forest management or agricultural practices;
- Sense of openness within Grizedale Beck Valley corridor; and
- Sculptures and environmental art within the forest, that are distinctive landscape features.

**Forces for Change**

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Pressure on sensitive habitats from increasing accessibility;
- Fluctuations in forestry practices due to the changing nature and economics of forestry;
- Increased pressure for new residential developments leading to a loss of vernacular buildings and use of local building materials;
- Increased tourism and a growth in holiday developments and second homes, leading to land originally under pasture or part of large estates being sold for development;
- Communication developments leading to increased visual clutter from mobile phone masts and inappropriately designed transport schemes; and
- Increased traffic on small roads and car park development changing the character of minor roads and tracks;

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- **Restore** watercourses, pulling back conifer stands from banks.

**Ecological Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Conserve** and **enhance** patchwork of lush pasture fields, divided by stonewalls and hedges;
- **Maintain** the distinctive landscape features of sculptures and environmental art within the forest; and
- **Restore** ancient woodland sites where recent conifer plantations have affected them.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- **Retain** strong sense of enclosure and remoteness within the Forest; and
- **Retain** sense of openness within Grizedale Beck Valley corridor.
AREA 57: ESTHWAITHE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

Esthwaite is situated to the south west of Claife Heights, west of Lake Windermere and east of Coniston Water – towards the south of the Lake District National Park.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0):

- Low Fells (K); and
- Lowland Valley (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Esthwaite Water – a relatively narrow and shallow lake, which is set amongst green fields and bounded by woods and reeds;
- Hilly wooded setting of lake and catchment providing a backdrop;
- 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 west;
- Historic and cultural associations with Beatrix Potter due to proximity to Near Sawrey village to the east;
- Predominantly a tranquil area due to the relative absence of dwellings and settlements outside Hawkshead and Near Sawrey with minimal sources of artificial noise; and
- A focal point for late 18th and 19th century Villas such as Belmount and Esthwaite Lodge.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Esthwaite water is a relatively narrow, small and shallow lake, but which nevertheless provides a visual focus for this character area. This is a soft and gentle pastoral landscape, well vegetated with deciduous 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-west, 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 near the road. 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. The area has a strong sense of tranquility due to the perceived naturalness of the lake and its surroundings. The tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of dwellings and settlements outside Hawkshead and Near Sawrey and minimal sources of artificial noise. However in the peak tourist season the increased number of visitors and the associated increased traffic noise disturbs the sense of tranquillity.
‘through a lovely scene in its summer garniture of woods, [Esthwaite Lake] has no features of permanent grandeur to rely upon. A wet or gloomy day, even in summer, reduces it to little more than a wildish pond, surrounded by miniature hills.’

De Quincey, 1839

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:
- Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout;
- Open views towards the Langdale Pikes, which are vulnerable to the introduction of tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Trees and woodland provide a sense of enclosure; and
- General lack of access to the lakeshore.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:
- Fluctuations in forestry practices due to the changing nature and economics of forestry;
- Continued pressure for access to water for recreational pursuits creating pollution and loss of tranquillity;
- Increased pressure for new residential developments leading to a loss of vernacular buildings through insensitive conversion, and a change in character due to the pressure for new buildings;
- Increased tourism and a growth in holiday developments and second homes, leading to land originally under pasture or part of large estates being sold for development;
- Communication developments leading to increased visual clutter from mobile phone masts and inappropriately designed transport schemes;
- Increased traffic on small roads and car park development changing the character of minor roads and tracks; and
- Deteriorating water quality due to fish stocking and feeding causing development of algal blooms in summer.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character
- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character
- Restore water quality.

Cultural and Historic Character
- Conserve and enhance in field and boundary trees and woodland, which provide a sense of enclosure;
- Conserve and enhance patchwork of pasture and network of boundary features around lake;
- Protect lakeshore from increased access;
Conserve and restore historic building stock and landscape features; and
Ensure new building proposals are sensitively sited with appropriate scale, design and materials.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Maintain strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout; and
- Retain open views towards the Langdale Pikes.
AREA 58: DALE PARK

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Low Fells (K).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Extensive broadleaved woodlands; including ex-coppice woodlands, and dense, coniferous plantations which give a strong sense of enclosure;
- Isolated pockets of pasture within woodland setting;
- 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);
- Glimpses of views towards Lake Windermere to the east and Esthwaite Water to the north and Coniston Fells to the west;
- Hummocky, rough texture of underlying geology of the fells, visible at the surface, and open heath in higher parts of the south of the area
- 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 woodland and plantation forestry;
- Predominantly a tranquil area due to the relative absence of settlements, minor sources of artificial noise and perceived naturalness of the landscape.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

A strong sense of enclosure is apparent throughout this landscape as a result of the dense cover of both broadleaved and coniferous woodland. This woodland cloaks an underlying rolling and hummocky topography with many rocky outcrops. Deciduous, ex-coppiced woodland provides softer contrast to the regularity of conifer plantations such as High Dale Park. A significant component of yew and holly in the deciduous woodland provides evergreen contrast.

Towards the eastern 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 the small hamlets of Finsthwaite and Crossland and occasional farmstead buildings visible. The southern part of the area has a mixed character on Rusland Heights and Yew Barrow, with open heath with heather, bilberries and bracken, interspersed with small tarns.

Most of the network of minor roads in the area do not have centre lines and the signage, whilst mostly modern, is unobtrusive. There is little recent housing development, with most being farmhouses or cottages, Victorian country houses in local stone, or white painted roughcast.

The distinctive church at Finsthwaite dates from 1873. It has an unusual squat central steeple, and a timber framed porch, whilst exhibiting a mixture of pseudo Norman and Early English styles. Stott Park Bobbin Mill has been preserved by English Heritage and is a collection of stone industrial buildings with a tall brick chimney, nestling in ex-coppice woodland near Finsthwaite.
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.

**LANDSCAPE EVALUATION**

**Landscape Sensitivities**

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Extensive broadleaved woodland sensitive to changes in woodland management;
- Dense, coniferous woodland plantations, which denote a strong sense of enclosure;
- Overall sense of tranquillity throughout;
- Strong sense of place provided by views across Esthwaite Water and Lake Windermere, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments and loss of views as conifer plantations mature; and
- Parkland sensitive to change in agricultural management.

**Forces for Change**

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increased traffic on small roads and car park development changing the character of minor roads and tracks;
- Lack of management of important landscape features such as parkland, stone walls, hedges and pollarded trees, due to financial pressures in agri-environment schemes; and
- Development at Grizedale Forest Visitor Centre will increase traffic on the minor roads in this area.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- **Conserve** and **enhance** broadleaved woodlands, which create a strong sense of enclosure and **encourage** conversion of conifer plantations to deciduous.

**Ecological Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Conserve** and **enhance** open-grown trees and parkland features and **encourage** succession planning;
- **Encourage** opportunities for traditional woodland management including coppicing in ex-coppice areas; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** the pattern of hedges and walls.
Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** an overall sense of tranquillity throughout; and
- **Retain** strong sense of place by maintaining views across Esthwaite Water and Lake Windermere.
AREA 59: WHITBARROW AND THE WINSTER VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Landscape Character Area is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park, to the east of Lake Windermere.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Low Fells (K);
- Coastal Limestone (C);
- Lowland Valley (M); and
- Low Fell Fringe (L).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Small-scale, intimate, low fell mosaic landscape with a great variety of different habitats, including large areas of deciduous and coniferous woodland, orchards, pastoral fields and the valley of the River Winster;
- Frequent outcrops of underlying limestone, for example Whitbarrow Scar, a dominant, high landmark feature;
- From higher locations, stunning views over the colourful mosaic landscape and Lake Windermere to the west;
- A scattering of vernacular rubble and render farmhouses and stone barns nestling into the valley sides, adds a significant element to the landscape scale and character; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area due to the relative absence of dwellings, settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and night time light pollution.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The distinctiveness of this area lies within the mosaic of different habitats, which overlay the landform. The valley of the River Winster, with its intimate pattern of pastoral fields, parkland, mature trees, hedgerows and walls, separates Low Fells to the west from the highly distinctive high limestone ridge of Whitbarrow Scar (cloaked with semi-natural broadleaved woodland, with a rocky summit, steep cliffs, upland heath and blue moor grass) in the east, resulting in an interesting, colourful, small-scale mosaic landscape. Along the Eastern edge of the area along the Lyth valley, damson orchards are a distinctive local feature.

To the west, the Low Fells are covered in pasture and meadow, interspersed with large blocks of predominately broadleaved 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 (hawthorn and mixed) hedgerows, obscuring views. The hedges, and in some parts walls, 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 such as Whitbarrow and Gummers How (which are only accessible by foot) give a sense of exhilaration. From the road running through the Winster Valley, gaps in the hedgerows offer glimpses of Whitbarrow Scar, an imposing and significant landmark within the surrounding landscape, which contributes to a strong sense of place and dominates views from the A590 in this area.

Away from the A590, the 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 number of estates (often with limestone vernacular character apparent within buildings). The area
has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the relative absence of dwellings, settlements, minimal sources of artificial noise and night time light pollution. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the presence of woodland and the limestone outcrops, which create a sense of naturalness.

“this Rood is stoped 
ites onder Repare
and is therefor onpaseable.’
Notes on the Natural History … of Crosthwaite and Lyth, and the Valley of the Winster, 1839, 
William Pearson, text of a notice barring the main road up the valley.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:
- Mosaic of different habitats which contribute to landscape pattern;
- Network of hedges, walls, parkland and patches of woodland, which are vulnerable to changes in landscape management and agricultural practices;
- Overall sense of tranquillity throughout; and
- Several vernacular (limestone) buildings.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:
- Fluctuations in forestry and agricultural practices due to the changing nature and economics of both;
- Resurgence of damson production leading to restoration of existing and planting of new orchards; and
- Deterioration of historic features such as limekilns and potashkilns reducing historic character.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** mosaic of different habitats which contribute to landscape pattern and biodiversity, especially limestone grassland, scrub and broadleaved woodland; and
- **Restore, conserve** and **encourage** re-establishment of damson orchards.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** network of hedges, walls, and parkland planting;
- **Conserve** archaeological features in the landscape; and
- **Conserve** vernacular (predominantly limestone) buildings and **promote** use of local vernacular materials.
Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** far-reaching views across adjacent landscapes from interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Maintain** overall strong sense of tranquillity throughout.
AREA 60: BLACK COMBE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see section 4.0)

- High Fell (G).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A distinctive high fell landscape which is relatively open and dominated by large expanses of grassy moorland and bracken with some heather, which exhibits a muted combination of greens and browns with highlights of seasonal colour;
- Generally strong sense of openness and smooth texture, due to low-growing vegetation;
- 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 expansive horizons of sea and sky to the west, across adjacent pastoral farmland to the southeast and towards the high fells to the north;
- Strong sense of remoteness, isolation, wildness and tranquillity as a result of the complete absence of minor roads (the only access being via the footpath network);
- General absence of main roads and almost complete lack of settlement; and
- Predominantly a strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the fell landscape.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This landscape has a predominantly smooth texture due to the large expanses of low-growing grassy moorland, bracken and heather, with colour changing with the seasons, particularly striking in early winter with orange bracken contrasting with a cap of snow. 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, these are particularly striking across the wide horizons of sea and sky to the west, but also impressive across adjacent pastoral farmland to the southeast and high fells to the north. Barrow-in-Furness and Walney Island also feature in views southwards.

Throughout the area, sheep, and relatively rare fell-walkers are 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 Combe, provides a dramatic backdrop to views from the western coast, framing adjacent coastal farmland. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the fell landscape. There is also a relative absence of dwellings, settlements and main roads away from the A595. The sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed to the west close to the A595 with its associated traffic noise.

‘Close by the Sea, lone sentinel,  
Black-Comb his forward station keeps;  
He breaks the sea’s tumultuous swell,  
And ponders o’er the level deeps …’  
Charles Farish’s The Minstrels of Winandermere
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Generally strong sense of openness throughout;
- Long distance, panoramic views across the sea, which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- General absence of settlements and human elements.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- Conserve and enhance heather moorland, which is sensitive to over-grazing.

Cultural and Historic Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Maintain a generally strong sense of openness and tranquillity throughout;
- Protect views to and from the area and distant panoramic views across the sea from interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- Retain general absence of settlements and human elements.
AREA 61: WHICHAM VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated at the south western edge of the Lake District National Park, to the north of Silecroft and south of Black Combe.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (See Section 4.0):

- High Fell Fringe (J);
- Upland Valley (H); and
- Rugged/ Angular High Fell (G).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Flat to very gently rolling, low-lying topography rising through a transition to more upland character at the north eastern extremity of the area;
- Dramatic and strong sense of containment provided by the suddenly rising mass of Black Combe to the north, with its distinctive steep conical outliers of Whirl Pippin and Knott Hill beside the A595;
- Landscape dominated by a relatively regular network of rich pasture fields, used for dairying, and delineated by a series of low, trimmed hedges for the most part, changing to stone walls on the higher ground to the northeast;
- Small scattered patches of woodland, including some conifer blocks;
- Sinuous belts of mainly 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 overall, particularly to the south of the area, at distance from the A595 main road corridor;
- Locally disturbed sense of tranquillity due to the traffic noise present on the busy A595 from Wincham to Broughton in Furness, and trains on the west coast railway line.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

Strong recognisable sense of place within the valley is apparent, resulting from the strong sense of containment provided by the rising mass of Black Combe to the north, Lowscales bank to the southeast and views to the sea from the southern edge of the area. A particular feature as one travels up the valley from Whicham, are the distinctive steep, cone-shaped fells of Whirl Pippin and Knott Hill, outliers from the Black Combe massif, looking like mini volcanoes.

The area is characterised by a large, irregular patchwork of muted and harmonious pasture fields grazed by dairy cows, which are divided by a series of 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. Small patches of woodland including some conifer blocks are scattered through the area.

Despite the presence of the A595 main road corridor which runs along the northern edge of the area at the base of Black Combe, 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. The area has a disturbed sense of tranquillity along the A595 corridor due to traffic noise on the busy road and trains using the west coast railway line. There are a few areas of strong tranquillity away from these busy transport corridors where there is sense of openness and a perception of naturalness especially in the fells north of the A595.
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Overall strong sense of tranquillity away from the A595; and
- Open views from the western end of the valley and the slopes of Black Combe, that are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large scale developments.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change within this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve** and **enhance** small patches of woodland, **encourage** reversion to broadleaved.

Ecological Character

- **No guidelines recommended.**

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Maintain** the predominantly rural landscape small-scale settlement pattern; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** the traditional stone wall and hedgerow field boundaries.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** the overall strong sense of tranquillity away from the A595; and
- **Protect** open views to and from the area from tall vertical or large-scale developments.
AREA 62 BLAWITH FELLS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This A DC is situated at the southern edge of the Lake District National Park (extending outside the boundary to the south) to the south west of Coniston Water.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see section 4.0)

- Low Fells (K).

Distinctive Characteristics

- A rough textured low fell, moorland and hummocky grassland landscape with extensive patches of bracken and gorse punctuated by grey, rocky outcrops;
- A series of small tarns including Beacon Tarn and Burney Tarn;
- A harmonious landscape in terms of colours which vary in spectrum from greens and yellows in the Spring and Summer to browns and greens 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 form 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 with patches of ancient semi-natural deciduous woodland around the periphery of the higher ground;
- A strong sense of tranquillity;
- The landscape is criss-crossed by a network of narrow roads, often lined with fences or hedges; and
- Predominantly a tranquil landscape away from the A593, A5064 and A5092 due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the fell landscape.

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.

Rough, grey, rocky outcrops punctuate the hummocky rough grassland, bracken, and moorland. The spectrum of colours changes, in harmony, from greens to browns in autumn and winter to yellows and greens in spring and summer. Gorse in flower is a striking feature in accordance with the changing seasons. The grey-blue colour of water within tarns also provides visible colour contrast. Occasional single deciduous trees punctuate the otherwise predominantly open landscape, with some large patches of ancient semi-natural deciduous woodland along the roads around the periphery of the higher ground providing contrast in form and colour.

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, due to the openness and perceived naturalness of the fell landscape. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of dwellings, settlement and minimal sources of artificial noise. However, the sense of tranquillity is locally disturbed close to the A593, A5064 and A5092 due to traffic noise.
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Dramatic views eastwards towards Coniston Water, which contribute to recognisable sense of place, and are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Single deciduous trees, which are recognisable landscape features and patches of deciduous woodland around the periphery of the higher ground are sensitive to changes in agricultural and woodland management;
- Uncluttered skylines sensitive to inappropriate development;
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout; and
- Strong sense of openness and isolation in several locations.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Conserve and enhance single deciduous trees which are recognisable landscape features.

Ecological Character

- Encourage habitat linkage,
- Conserve, enhance and where appropriate expand the patches of broadleaved woodland around the periphery of the higher ground; and
- Establish sympathetic grazing to maintain mosaic of habitats and control bracken.

Cultural and Historic Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Protect dramatic views eastwards towards Coniston Water;
- Conserve and enhance hedgerows and encourage replacement of fencing by hedges where appropriate;
- Maintain relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout;
- Maintain strong sense of openness and isolation in key locations; and
- Protect the uncluttered skyline from inappropriate vertical development.
AREA 63: RUSLAND AND CRAKE VALLEYS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south of Grizedale and Coniston Water and comprises the Rusland Valley, the Crake Valley and the hills in between.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (See Section 4.0)

- Low Fells (K).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Large patches of deciduous woodlands and some conifer plantations, which provide a strong sense of enclosure and intimacy as well as texture and seasonal colour;
- The gently meandering corridors of the Rivers Crake and Rusland Pool;
- Rolling topography of small hills and hidden valleys channels the viewing experience;
- Network of narrow, gently winding roads which criss-cross the landscape;
- Patchwork of pasture fields with rock outcrops which are predominantly delineated by a network of mature hedgerows and stone walls;
- Area of lowland raised mire at Rusland Moss;
- Several nucleated hamlets, such as a Oxen Park and Bouth, which nestle within the surrounding landscape;
- Mature landscape structure, with areas of parkland, pollards and 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; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area due to the openness of the fells and the perceived naturalness of the landscape. In addition there is a relative absence of settlements and minimal sources of artificial noise.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This landscape has a predominantly rural character of rolling small hills and hidden valleys, criss-crossed by a series of narrow roads, which link nucleated settlements, nestled amongst patches of mostly deciduous woodlands. Sense of tranquillity is relatively strong throughout. Mature single deciduous trees and pollards at field boundaries and within fields, coupled with patches of woodland and parkland planting, contribute to an overall mature, complex and intimate landscape structure.

The predominant colours of this patchwork of woodland and pasture fields (delineated by a series of hedgerows and grey stone walls) are a tapestry of lush greens and browns. 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. Rusland Moss is an area of lowland raised mire colonised by woodland in patches and provides contrast in colour and texture with surrounding pasture.

There is little recent housing development, with scattered farmhouses or cottages, Victorian country houses in local stone, or white painted roughcast. Associated with the farms are relatively large stone barns or shippons. There are two buildings of significant size in the Rusland Valley. Rusland Hall a Georgian mansion and Rusland Church, built in 1745. The church is situated on slightly higher ground and looks south across the valley. It has a square castellated tower. Most of the network of minor roads in the area do not have centre lines and the signage, whilst mostly modern, is unobtrusive.

To the east, the corridor of the River Rusland and to 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 broadleaved woodland on the valley sides, provide a sense of enclosure and containment. The small nucleated hamlets of Oxen Park and Bouth contain a mixture of slate and rendered houses as do the small farmsteads throughout the area.

The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the rolling topography and the perceived naturalness of the landscape. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of large settlements and major roads and minimal sources of artificial noise. However, the traffic noise along the A5084 and A590 create localised areas of disturbance to the tranquillity.

‘I am always glad to see Staveley; it s a place I dearly love to think of – the first mountain village that I came to with Wm when we first began out pilgrimage together [that is their walking holiday in 1794].’

Dorothy Wordsworth

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Large patches of broadleaved woodland provide a strong sense of enclosure and are susceptible to changes in woodland management;
- Water within the rivers Crake and Rusland, which are vulnerable to pollution from run off associated with adjacent agricultural fields;
- Network of mature hedgerows and stone walls, that are vulnerable to changes in landscape management and agricultural practices;
- Pollards and single trees and areas of parkland are vulnerable to inappropriate management; and
- Views to wooded backdrop, which are sensitive to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increased traffic on small roads and car park developments changing the character of minor roads and tracks;
- Development at Grizedale Visitor Centre will increase traffic on the minor roads in this area; and
- Lack of management of important landscape features such as parkland, stone walls and pollarded trees due to financial pressures in agri-environment schemes.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Conserve, enhance and encourage** appropriate management of large patches of deciduous woodland and promote conversion of conifer plantation to broadleaved woodland;
- **Conserve and encourage** appropriate management of pollards and single trees; and
- **Protect** water within the rivers Crake and Rusland from point source and diffuse pollution;
Ecological Character

- Conserve and enhance lowland raised mire habitats and buffering areas around them.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Conserve and enhance network of mature hedgerows and stone walls; and
- Conserve and enhance areas of parkland planting and encourage succession planning.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Protect views towards wooded backdrop to valleys from interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments.
AREA 64: HAVERTHWAIT AND LEVEN ESTUARY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This area of Distinctive Character is situated towards the south of the Lake District National Park, to the south-west of Lake Windermere and continues outside the park boundary to the south.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (See Section 4.0)

- Coastal Mosses (B2);
- Low Fell Fringe (L); and
- Low Fells (K).

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;
- Coastal mosses at Roundsea;
- Sense of 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;
- Landscape pattern of pasture fields, interspersed with patches of woodland;
- Nucleated traditional village of Haverthwaite, with its cluster of render and limewashed house and large stone barns;
- Important parkland landscape at Holker Hall;
- Predominantly a disturbed sense of tranquillity due to road noise and the visual intrusion of the A590 and the edge of Haverthwaite; and
- Roudsea Wood National Nature Reserve comprising important deciduous woodland and raised mire.

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 resulting in a strong recognisable sense of place. Dramatic views southwards along the river corridor and also northwards towards the rising, predominantly wooded, low fells provide a sense of containment.

The river channel is bounded by a pattern of predominantly green pasture fields, and mosses interspersed with mixed woodland. The lack of strong visual field boundaries such as walls and hedges and the generally flat topography contribute to a sense of openness. The levees running parallel to the river and the regular network of drainage ditches at field boundaries are feature within the landscape. The deciduous woodland and raised mire at Roundsea is a significant feature of importance for biodiversity and remains of woodland industries.

The nucleated, traditional vernacular village of Haverthwaite, with its cluster of white-washed houses is the only settlement apart from Holker Hall in the south, with its important parkland landscapes and many impressive specimen trees. In some areas there is a strong sense of tranquillity. However, in many areas the A590 main road corridor introduces a source of movement and noise.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:
- Dramatic open views southwards along the river channel, which are vulnerable to interruption by tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Strong sense of containment provided by low wooded fells to the north;
- Areas of mossland sensitive to encroachment of birch woodland, changes in water levels and agricultural practice
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity away from the A590 road corridor;
- Peat carbon sink of lowland raised mires.
- Area of parkland sensitive to changes in agricultural management; and
- Areas of broadleaved woodland vulnerable to changes in management.

**Forces for Change**

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Further dualing of A590;
- Lowland raised mire restoration contributing to biodiversity and carbon sequestration;
- Deterioration of archaeological features within Roundsea Wood;
- The spread of rhododendrons from Victorian garden planting at the expense of native species and araucaria (monkey puzzle, possibly unique to this area, brought from Chile by a local Victorian merchant seaman); and
- Overhead wires and pylons, particularly to the south of the area.

**GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE**

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

**Physical Character**

- No guidelines recommended.

**Ecological Character**

- **Conserve** and **enhance** areas of broadleaved woodland, where appropriate, **encourage** reversion of conifers to broadleaved woodland; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** coastal mossland habitats and raised mires and buffering areas around them.

**Cultural and Historic Character**

- **Conserve** and **enhance** parkland, **encourage** succession planning for key features;
- **Retain** small-scale settlement pattern, comprising Haverthwaite Village; and
- **Protect** and **conserve** remains of woodland industries.

**Aesthetic and Perceptual Character**

- **Protect** dramatic views southwards along the river channel from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- **Retain** strong sense of containment provided by low broadleaved wooded fells to the north; and
- **Maintain** key places with relatively strong sense of tranquillity.
AREA 65: BACKBARROW AND BIGLAND

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated immediately to the south of Windermere and to the north west of Cartmel.

Relevant Landscape Character types (See Section 4.0)

- Low Fell Fringe (L).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Combination of industrial valley and extensive allotment landscape of large fields of improved grassland or woodland;
- Intimate small-scale rolling landscape characterised by a patchwork of different habitats, offering variety and diversity, including woodland, scrub, pasture, wetlands, tarns and streams;
- Wide, open views from the higher points, including Brow Edge, over the area, towards the Low Fells beyond;
- Grand panoramic views of the southern and central fells from the minor road just to the south of Bigland Hall;
- Remains of the historic iron works at Backbarrow, now being developed and restored;
- Whitewater Hotel, a large distinctive building by the River Leven, originally a mid Victorian cotton spinning mill, then became Reckitt's Washing Blue factory, until converted to hotel and leisure complex in the early 1980s, with associated new timeshare cottages by the river at Backbarrow;
- River Leven at Backbarrow;
- Former gunpowder works at Low Wood, with distinctive grey stone clock tower and adjacent terraces of 18th century workers housing;
- Leven Valley and its industrial heritage;
- The lakeside to Haverthwaite preserved steam railway forms an important link along the valley, originally for past industries, but today as a tourist attraction; and
- Predominantly a tranquil area away from the A590 and Newby Bridge due to the perceived naturalness of the landscape and relative absence of settlements, dwellings and minimal sources of noise.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This diverse landscape incorporates a rich variety of habitats, including semi-natural broadleaved woodland, plantations (both deciduous and coniferous, with lots of ex-coppice), the hummocky rough grassland of the ‘allotments’ and large pastoral fields demarcated by dry stone walls. Colour and variety is apparent with bracken, hawthorn and gorse on top of the fell.

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 (away from the A590) is apparent aided by the nature of the vegetation, which contributes to a sense of enclosure.

The Leven Valley has been a focus for industries making use of water power since the early 18th century including iron smelting, gun powder manufacture and various milling processes. The topography of the area has resulted in the development of a transport corridor (road and rail) further concentrating development in the river valley.

From the higher points, in particular the area on top of the fells to the east of the hamlet of Brow Edge, striking long distance views can be gained across landscape within this area, towards rising Low Fells beyond. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the perceived naturalness of the landscape.
and relative absence of settlements, dwellings and minimal sources of noise. However the sense of tranquillity is disturbed locally around Newby Bridge and the A590 due to traffic noise and visibility of the urban edge.

‘If you gain from your visit to Holker Gardens a small fraction of the pleasure that we ourselves get from them, then the work of generations of gardeners will not have been in vain.’

Lord & Lady Cavendish 2007

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Small-scale patchwork of differing habitats;
- Extensive archaeological remains of past industries;
- Increasing development of woodland and scrub diluting the pattern of the allotment landscape;
- Overall strong sense of tranquillity away from A590; and
- Strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Pressure of development on industrial archaeology;
- Development of woodland and scrub diluting the pattern of the allotment landscape;
- Developments at Bigland and Holker Halls and increasing visitor numbers to these attractions will inevitably increase traffic; and
- The A590 skirts the northern boundary of the area, creating noise and visual intrusion, especially from adjacent higher ground, particularly to the south.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- Retain small scale patchwork of differing habitats, which contribute to recognisable sense of place.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Protect and conserve industrial archaeology; and
- Manage woodland to conserve best of allotment landscape, encourage reversion of coniferous to broadleaved woodland and encourage re-instatement of coppice management in ex-coppice areas.
Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** wide, open views across adjacent landscape from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- **Maintain** overall strong sense of tranquillity, where applicable; and
- **Retain** strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types.
AREA 66: FIELD BROUGHTON

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the south eastern corner of the National Park, stretching from High Cark in the west to Lindale in the east.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (See Section 4.0):

- Coastal limestone (C); and
- Low Fell Fringe (L)

Distinctive Characteristics

- Low level rolling farmland covered by a dense network of lanes, linking small hamlets and scattered farms with a strong field pattern of walls and hedges;
- Rising ground towards the east with distinctive outlier of Hampsfield Fell in the south east;
- Thick limestone clearance walls, including huge walls around High Cark;
- Views of surrounding low fells, including Newton Fell in the north;
- From Hampsfield Fell, striking views over the character area and to the mountains far beyond;
- Elegant large Georgian houses add a distinctive element to the gentle valley landscape;
- Areas of parkland planting contribute to the pastoral character;
- Small patches of woodland, especially on lower slopes of Hampsfield Fell;
- Field Broughton Church spire with its extensive visual envelope; and
- Predominantly a disturbed sense of tranquillity due to the traffic noise along the A590 and the visibility of Lindale and Grange-Over-Sands.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character encompasses a predominantly low-lying farmland area, which has a predominantly smooth texture, surrounded by adjacent Low Fells, which provide a sense of enclosure and containment. The ground rises towards the east, with the distinctive outlier of Hampsfield Fell in the south-east providing contrast in texture and form.

Uniform in colour, the rolling green pastoral farmland, with a mixture of small to medium size fields with a generally irregular pattern and bound by a combination of pale grey limestone dry stone walls and hedgerows, becomes a bit more rugged in appearance, and gains a more open character, just to southwest of Lindale. Around Hampsfield Fell, the topography and land cover is more characteristic of the adjacent Low Fell landscape, with woodland plantations (both deciduous and coniferous), alternating with heather moorland, taking the place of pastoral farmland. Areas of mature parkland with many mature field trees contribute to the pastoral character around Wood Broughton and Broughton Lodge.

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 limestone vernacular character contribute to recognisable sense of place within the area. From Hampsfield Fell, south west of Lindale, striking views can be gained across the area and towards 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.

Drystone walls demarcating the fields in the area tend to be very high (in particular, around High Cark, where the walls are huge), giving evidence of the rich cultural heritage of the landscape and its underlying geology. In the east, the area has a disturbed sense of tranquillity due to the traffic noise along the A590 and the visibility and close proximity of Lindale and Grange-Over-Sands. However to the west of the area, there is a strong sense of tranquillity away from the trunk road and large
settlements. In this area there is a relative absence of settlements or busy roads and a perception of naturalness especially around fells surrounding Field Broughton.

\[\text{‘I gaze, and ... chanced to find}
\text{That morning, ranging through the churchyard graves}
\text{Of Cartmel’s rural town, the place in which}
\text{An honoured teacher of my youth was laid …’}
\text{The Prelude Book X, Wordsworth, Summer 1794}\]

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Intimate-scale landscape, with strong limestone vernacular character;
- Accumulation of visual clutter such as poles, wires, pylons and suchlike;
- Open views from Hampsfell which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Strong sense of remoteness, openness and tranquillity;
- Pattern of high limestone dry stone walls, which contribute to recognisable landscape feature and are sensitive to changes in landscape management or agricultural practices; and
- Areas of parkland planting which are sensitive to changes in agricultural management.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Recognition of importance of undergrounding overhead lines for visual amenity; and
- Lack of economic support for maintenance of field boundary walls impacting on landscape character and condition.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- No guidelines recommended.

Ecological Character

- Conserve and enhance limestone and scrub habitats on Hampsfell.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Retain intimate-scale landscape, with strong vernacular character;
- Conserve and enhance pattern of limestone dry stone walls, particularly where walls are very high and have a distinctive, size or pattern; and
- Conserve and enhance areas of parkland planting, encourage succession planning of key features.
Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** open views to and from the area, especially around Hampsfield Fell, from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- **Maintain** sense of quiet and openness; and
- **Reduce** visual clutter, **encourage** undergrounding of power cables;
AREA 67: FOULSHAW AND MEATHOP

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character towards the southern edge of the Lake District National Park.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- Coastal Margins (B); and
- Estuary and Marsh (A).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Estuarine salt marsh and mudflats;
- A low-lying landscape characterised by a regular network of pastoral fields interspersed with large areas of lowland raised mire;
- Flat, open nature of the landscape, with expansive views south and east along the Kent Estuary and expanse of Milnthorpe Sands;
- Significant blocks of broadleaved and coniferous plantation woodland; and
- Predominantly a strong sense of tranquillity due to the perceived naturalness of the edge of the estuary and relative absence of settlements or dwellings.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character encompasses Foulshaw (a lowland raised mire currently being restored and expanded by removing conifers and rhododendron and re-wetting) and Meathop (a series of raised mires also being restored) Mosses. This intricate landscape is surrounded by regular, fields of predominantly improved pasture, 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 35m above the surrounding landscape) providing a visual focal point. Outcrops including limestone pavement add texture and rugged variety locally, to this otherwise smooth landscape.

Settlement pattern is sparse (consisting of very occasional farmsteads and the small hamlet of Grange), emphasising the peaceful and rural character of this area. This results in a generally strong sense of tranquillity (away from the influence of the A590) enhanced by the perceived naturalness of the edge of the estuary and relative absence of settlements or dwellings.

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Pockets of woodland, which provide some sense of enclosure and variety; and
- Areas of raised moss sensitive to changes in agricultural management in surrounding areas.
Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Encroaching pasture weakening the visual appeal of the Mosses, as well as reducing species diversity;
- Neglect of hedges around enclosure land reducing potential landscape and wildlife benefits of hedgerows and in many places leading to substitution by wire fences;
- Increased salination of coastal Mosses and increased storm events changing the pattern and spread of habitats and altering the character of the landscape (e.g. through increasing erosion of saltmarsh;
- De-intensification of management of land around the mosses, leading to improved biodiversity and hydrology on raised mires;
- Decrease in water quality as a result of agricultural run-off or other pollution sources damaging water-based habitats within the mudflats and saltmarshes;
- Rise in sea levels altering the shoreline, tidal flows and potentially inundating significant habitats;
- Pressure to develop land leading to increasing amounts of engineered features such flood defence, drainage works and raising of levels, all of which would detract from the flat, open and undeveloped characteristics; and
- Offshore/ inshore renewable energy developments introducing industrial features into a character type where remoteness and tranquillity are key attributes.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Conserve and enhance pockets of broadleaved woodland, which provide some sense of enclosure; and
- Improve water quality by more sympathetic land management;

Ecological Character

- Restore and enhance raised mires to protect carbon sink and biodiversity including buffers around sites; and
- Promote a managed retreat of the coastline to prevent coastal squeeze.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Retain sparse settlement pattern; and
- Conserve and enhance hedges and encourage replacement of fencelines with new hedges;

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Maintain open landscape with expansive views.
AREA 68: LYTH VALLEY

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Location and Boundaries

This Area of Distinctive Character is situated in the south eastern corner of the Lake District National Park and continues to curve southwards outside the boundaries of the National Park.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (See section 4.0)

- Low Fell Fringe (L); and
- Lowland Valley (M).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Flat, broad lowland valley, atypical of Lake District valleys;
- Dykes and hedges demarcate the large, regular pastoral fields, pockets of wet grassland and peat moses;
- 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;
- High water table flooding produces dramatic silvery reflections viewed down from Scout Scar and Helsington; and
- Predominantly a disturbed sense of tranquillity due to traffic noise on the A5074 and the A590, which cross the area.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The broad, completely flat Lyth Valley encompasses a series of large regular, predominantly pastoral fields, which are delineated by a network of regular field boundaries (including hedgerows and drainage dykes, with some limestone drystone walls towards the periphery of the valley). Damson orchards, a locally distinctive feature, dotted among the large green fields away from the flat valley bottom, are set against a dramatic backdrop formed by the surrounding low fells, including Whitbarrow Scar to the west and Underbarrow Scar 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 from the blossoms of the damsons and blackthorn.

Strong sense of place is apparent from its flatness, straight roads and hedgerow boundaries. Within views southwards, there is a strong sense of openness, with generally wide visual panoramas. There is also a strong sense of human intervention over the landscape of this area, which has been reclaimed from wetlands 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 away from main roads. Settlement pattern is sparse, with scattered halls, houses and farms around the fringes of the valley. To the east, Brigsteer nestles at the foot of Scout Scar woodlands. The limestone vernacular character of these buildings contributes to a sense of coherency and balance within this valley. The damson orchards of the Lyth valley are unique, surrounding each small farmstead and growing along every hedgerow in the valley. During April, the orchards and hedgerows become snow-white with blossom. The fruit ripens in September and is sold from roadside stalls and local shops. Overall, the area has a disturbed sense of tranquillity due to traffic noise on the A5074 and the A590. However there are also areas with a relatively strong sense of tranquillity due to the relative absence of dwellings and openness of the landscape.
‘The course of the bright twisting stream was dimmed here and there by mists of fruit blossom... For the damson trees were all out, patterning the valleys; marking the bounds of orchard and field, of stream and road. Each with its larch clump, the grey and white farms lay scattered on the pale green of the pastures; on either side of the valley the limestone pushed upwards, through the grassy slopes of the fells, and made long edges and ‘scars’ against the sky; while down by the river hummed the old mill.’

Helbeck of Bannisdale, Mrs Humphry Ward, 1897

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Damson orchards which are striking and recognisable landscape features;
- Water within the Rivers Lyth and Gilpin, which are vulnerable to pollution from point source and diffuse pollution;
- General absence of stone walls at field boundaries apart from around fringes of valley, where they reflect the limestone geology;
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout; and
- Strong limestone vernacular character and sparse settlement pattern which is vulnerable to the introduction of new buildings that do not respect the existing scale and built character.

Forces for Change

Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Protect water within the Rivers Lyth and Gilpin from point source and diffuse pollution.

Ecological Character

- Conserve and enhance wet grassland and mire habitats; and
- Conserve and enhance hedges and encourage replacement of fencelines with new hedges.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Conserve and enhance limestone walls where extant around the fringes of the area;
- Conserve strong limestone vernacular character and retain sparse settlement pattern;
- Conserve, enhance and restore damson orchards which are striking and recognisable landscape features in this area; and
- Ensure new building proposals are sensitively sited and designed.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Maintain relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout.
AREA 69: BIRKBECK FELLS COMMON, BRETHERADE AND BORROWDALE FELLS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see section 4.0)

- Rugged/ Angular Slate High Fell (G).

Distinctive Characteristics

- Extensive moorland plateau with two deep, glacial, flat bottomed valleys with incised gills and some crags and scree on steep valley sides extending outside the Lake District National Park;
- Extensive tracts of moorland with a mosaic of mat grass, rushes and emergent heather;
- Sheltered valleys with fast-flowing streams, pastures and remnant hay meadows;
- Traditional vernacular slate buildings and stone walls (in-bye);
- Areas of semi-natural broadleaved woodland on valley sides in places and some forestry plantations;
- A few scattered farms in valleys; and
- Predominantly a strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perception of naturalness of the fells and enhanced by the relative absence of settlements or dwellings.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

This Area of Distinctive Character encompasses sweeping expanses of open moorland and fells, which are characterised by rough grassland, dwarf shrub heaths (including newly emergent heather), peatlands, bracken and areas of rock outcrop and scree. The ridges run south-eastwards for some distance without losing height, then drop steeply into the Lune Gorge, considered one of the most scenic and dramatic landscapes visible from a motorway.

In contrast to the open moorland and fells, two deep, sheltered, glaciated valleys run east-west, and contain semi-improved grassland and remnant hay meadows, enclosed by dry stone walls and hedgerows. The few scattered farms have traditional stone farm buildings in slate vernacular style with slate roofs typical at these lower altitudes and are usually sheltered by clumps of sycamore trees. Field barns are a feature in the valleys but many are now derelict. The 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 supports unimproved wetland habitats, which add to the variety and texture of the landscape. The many small streams and side valleys are often lined with broadleaved trees and small semi-natural woodlands. Large areas of semi-natural broadleaved woodland remain on some lower valley slopes in places such as in Bretherdale and the lower end of Borrowdale. The steeper slopes of the fells, as at Ashstead Fell, carry mixed and coniferous plantations in places creating a sense of local enclosure.

Despite proximity to the M6 motorway corridor, a strong sense of isolation and wildness is apparent. The area has a strong sense of tranquillity due to the openness and perception of naturalness of the fells. The sense of tranquillity is enhanced by the relative absence of settlements or dwellings and night time light pollution. Proximity to the A6, a row of pylons and two radio masts also impact on the sense of tranquillity in places.

2 See Alison Farmer Associates (March 2005:40) Recommended Area of Search for Land Worthy of Designation in the North West of England
LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Open moorland and fell, which are sensitive to changes in grazing management;
- Traditional slate vernacular stone and slate buildings sheltered by clumps of sycamore trees;
- Unimproved wetlands, which are vulnerable to diffuse and point source pollution;
- Strong sense of tranquillity, isolation and wildness due to relative absence of dwellings and night time light pollution; and
- Broad-leaved trees, shrubs, scrub and woodlands, which provide a sense of enclosure and are striking landscape features.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Increase in the spread of invasive species such as bracken and gorse in areas where stocking numbers are reduced on existing pasture, leading to reduced biodiversity and changed characteristics;
- Reduction in non-native conifer woodland and planting native woodland on ghyllsides transforming the existing character through reinforcement of positive attributes; and
- Lack of management of vernacular buildings leading to dereliction in places.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Conserve, enhance and, where appropriate, expand broadleaved woodlands, trees, scrub and small clumps, which provide a sense of enclosure and are striking landscape features.

Ecological Character

- Conserve and enhance mosaic of habitats on open moorland and fell; and
- Conserve and enhance unimproved wetlands and hay meadows, which are vulnerable to point source and diffuse pollution;

Cultural and Historic Character

- Conserve and enhance traditional vernacular slate buildings.
Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Protect** strong sense of tranquility, wildness and isolation; and
- **Protect** wide open views from tall vertical or large-scale developments.
AREA 70: CONISTON FELLS

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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 Greenburn to the north (just south of Wrynose Pass), Seathwaite Fells towards Dunnerdale in the west, Torver High Common to the south and the intakes associated with Coniston Village to the east.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see Section 4.0)

- High Fell (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- The disparity between the dominating ‘natural’ features of the mountains themselves, and the extensive and impressive areas of quarrying;
- The strongly textured and rough appearance of the landscape, pitted with old mineral working. Its grey colour, lack of or low growing 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;
- 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;
- Predominantly a very tranquil landscape due to the openness and perception of naturalness of the open fells;
- Corrie tarns including Goat and Low Waters, Levers water (a reservoir) and Seathwaite Tarn, which nestles to the west of Seathwaite Fell;
- The lower, more knobbly and hummocky fells such as Csaw and the Dunnerdale Fells running towards the south-west contain many small tarns and streams and more diverse heath vegetation.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The central (highest) part of this 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) as well as Seathwaite Tarn, which nestles to the west of Seathwaite Fell. 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 an ‘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. Vegetation is predominantly low growing and heavily grazed, with mat grass with many rushing becks and streams, and wet flushes.
The lower more knobbly and hummocky fells such as Caw and the Dunnerdale Fells running towards the south west have an intimate nature and contain many small tarns in hollows, and more diverse heath vegetation. 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. 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.

‘Lovely rock scenery, chased with silver waterfalls.’

John Ruskin

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Ruins of former mining buildings which are historic, landscape features;
- Strong sense of openness in places;
- Open views towards the sea which are sensitive to interruption;
- Strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types; and
- Heavily grazed vegetation mosaics vulnerable to continued grazing pressure.

Forces for Change

In addition to the forces for change identified within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s), forces for change specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Retreat from marginal land leading to the dereliction of enclosure fields and a change in vegetation structure;
- Increase in invasive species better suited to new climatic conditions affecting key landscape characteristics;
- Large scale energy developments, increase in mining or quarrying activity and sustained pressure from recreational activities;
- Increased mining or quarrying activity rapidly transforming significant landscape features; and
- Sustained pressure from recreational activities causing lasting scars and introducing modern elements into the high fell.
GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- **Protect** water within the corrie lakes and becks from point source and diffuse pollution.

Ecological Character

- **Encourage** lower levels of grazing on high ground; and
- **Conserve** and **enhance** mosaics of heathland vegetation on lower fells.

Cultural and Historic Character

- **Conserve** ruins of former mining buildings which are historic landscape features; and
- **Manage** visitor pressure to reduce impact on vegetation and development of scars and erosion gullies along main paths.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- **Maintain** strong sense of openness and tranquillity throughout;
- **Protect** open views towards the sea and the Isle of Man from tall vertical or large-scale developments; and
- **Retain** strong intervisibility with adjacent Landscape Character Types.
AREA 71: FAIRFIELD HORSESHOE

CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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.

Relevant Landscape Character Types (see section 4.0)

- Rugged, Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F).

Distinctive Characteristics

- The distinctive shape of the horseshoe of fells forming the backdrop to the valleys below;
- The contrasting sense of place between the enclosed centre of the horseshoe and the exposed, high ridges with their long-distance views in all directions;
- Screes, cliffs and rocky outcrops dominate the slopes with little enclosure or sign of man;
- Vegetation is limited on the summits but the slopes support mat grass and remnant heath in more gentle areas;
- Sound of rushing water along the Becks in the two valleys, and waterfalls;
- Scattered trees add interest to the lower parts of the Rydal valley; and
- Views over many Lake District landscape character areas.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

The most distinctive aspect of this Area of Distinctive Character is the horseshoe-shape of the high fells, with Fairfield in the centre at the highest point. There is a great contrast in the sense of place between the centre of the horseshoe and the ridge. From within the horseshoe, in the Rydal and Scandale Beck valleys the horizon is very high, and there is a very strong sense of enclosure from the surrounding steep rocky cliffs and fells. Here there is the rushing sound of water in the becks, with waterfalls such as at Buckstones Jump, low growing vegetation, with areas of scattered broadlyleaved trees in the lower parts of the Rydal valley towards the more wooded Rydal Park. 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. As a result of the popularity of the area, vegetation and footpath erosion are an issue in some areas with development of gullies and other damage visible in places.

The top of Fairfield is flat, and scree covered with little vegetation; the slopes, with many crags, cliffs and screes, support mat grass and patches of remnant heath. 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’. The area has a very strong sense of tranquility due to the openness and perception of naturalness of the open fells above Ambleside. The relative absence of settlements and dwellings, minimal sources of artificial noise and few obvious signs of human influences enhance the sense of tranquility. However, to the south, in close proximity to Ambleside and Rydal, the sense of tranquility is disturbed where the number of dwellings increases and more signs of overt human impact appear.
'we began to stroll about and enjoy the extensive prospect. We had several prospect glasses, and the air was very clear. I was much pleased, though awed by the tremendous rocks and precipices in various directions.'

Ellen Weeton’s Journal, July 1810, An excursion to Fairfield summit

LANDSCAPE EVALUATION

Landscape Sensitivities

In addition to the sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Types, sensitive attributes specific to this Area of Distinctive Character are:

- Strong intervisibility with adjacent lower Landscape Character types;
- Panoramic views from the ridge to surrounding Landscapes which are vulnerable to interruption from tall vertical or large-scale developments;
- Overall strong sense of tranquillity;
- Mosaic of heathland vegetation sensitive to grazing pressure; and
- Scattered trees in lower valley susceptible to grazing and lack of regeneration.

Forces for Change

The Forces for Change for this Area of Distinctive Character are highlighted within the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) listed above.

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the generic guidelines for managing landscape change set out within the relevant Landscape Character Types listed above. Guidelines that are specific to this Area of Distinctive Character include:

Physical Character

- Conserve and enhance areas of scattered trees in lower Rydal valley.

Ecological Character

- Restore mosaics of heathland vegetation on slopes and in valleys.

Cultural and Historic Character

- Manage rights of way to minimise erosion of vegetation and footpaths and prevent gully development.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Character

- Retain strong intervisibility with adjacent lower Areas of Distinctive Character;
- Protect panoramic views from the ridge to surrounding landscapes from interruption from tall or large-scale developments; and
- Maintain overall strong sense of tranquillity.
6.0 MONITORING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This final section identifies indicators for monitoring changes, both positive and negative, in the character of the National Park’s landscape.

6.1.2 Good practice for monitoring landscape change\(^1\) suggests that characteristic landscape elements of individual character units need to be selected to act as key indicators for monitoring change. The main criteria for selection of indicators include:

- Must be central to the distinctive character of individual landscape character units;
- Should be liable to experience change either in magnitude/extent or in condition/quality;
- Are capable of being measured against the defined guidelines for individual landscape character units;
- They need to be defined precisely in terms of desired trends;
- The desired direction of change for the chosen indicator must be known; and
- Where possible, local stakeholders should be involved in the choice of indicators, particularly where their participation is needed to collect information or assist in monitoring changes.

6.2 The National Approach to Monitoring Landscape Change

6.2.1 At the national level, the Countryside Quality Counts (CQC) study\(^2\) has developed indicators for monitoring changes in the character of the English landscape within the framework of Joint Character Areas (JCAs). The CQC approach is based on evaluating the magnitude of change (assessed as ‘stable’ or ‘changing’) and then its direction (assessed as ‘consistent’ or ‘inconsistent’ with the vision for the JCA), for each of the following main elements or themes that determine landscape character:

- Woodlands and trees;
- Boundary features;
- Agricultural land cover;
- Settlement and development patterns;

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\(^1\) Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland: Topic Paper 2 – Links to Other Sustainability Tools (Countryside Agency/Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002)

\(^2\) CQC is sponsored by Natural England, in partnership with Defra and English Heritage
6.2.2 Each JCA in England was allocated to one of four categories, based upon quantitative and qualitative analysis of spatial and tabular data related to the above themes, the significance of which was judged and validated by local stakeholders. The categories are:

- **Maintained:** if the character of an area is already strong and largely intact, and the changes observed for the ‘key’ themes served to sustain it, or simply because the lack of change meant that the important qualities are likely to be retained in the long term;

- **Enhancing:** if the changes in the ‘key’ themes tended to restore the overall character of an area, or to strengthen it;

- **Neglected:** if the character of an area has been weakened or degraded by past change, and the changes observed in the ‘key’ themes have not had the effect of restoring the desired qualities that made the area distinct. JCAs have also been described as ‘neglected’ if significant opportunities to restore or strengthen character remain;

- **Diverging:** if the change in the ‘key’ themes appeared to be transforming the character of the area so that either its distinctive qualities are being lost, or significant new patterns are emerging.’

6.2.3 The CQC study has made an assessment of countryside change for two periods: 1990-1998 and 1999-2003. The headline indicators for the most recent monitoring period in relation to the five JCAs that apply within the Lake District National Park are as follows:

- Cumbria High Fells (which covers 88.2% of the National Park) – **Maintained**;

- South Cumbria Low Fells – **Maintained**;

- Morecambe Bay Limestone – **Maintained**;

- West Cumbria Coastal Plain – **Maintained**; and

- Orton Fells – **Enhancing**.

6.3 Monitoring Landscape Change in the National Park

6.3.1 In contrast to the CQC approach based upon quantitative and qualitative analysis of spatial and tabular data, the Lake District National Park State of the Park 2005/06 report proposes measuring changes in landscape character over time based on observations in the field from sample views. This approach is complementary to the CQC monitoring data. It provides a
finer grain level of analysis to inform the monitoring, and where necessary review, of the guidelines for each of landscape character types and areas defined in this Landscape Character Assessment.

6.3.2 The State of the Park report identifies the following four key indicators for measuring changes in landscape character:

- Number of changes inconsistent and consistent with defined landscape character;
- Changes in townscape character;
- Mapping tranquillity, including light and noise pollution; and
- Changes in vegetation mosaics.

**Indicator A - Number of Changes Inconsistent and Consistent with Defined Landscape Character**

6.3.3 The information provided by this Landscape Character Assessment provides a basis for choosing sample views that define landscape character within the National Park. These sample views should be used to identify and measure the extent and condition of features that directly affect visual landscape change, including:

- individual elements or cumulative change that affects the landscape character in a negative way (e.g. loss and/or neglect of traditional field boundaries); and
- monitoring changes that support or enhance landscape character and the special qualities of the National Park (e.g. where walls have been restored and hedges re-laid).

6.3.4 The descriptions and guidelines for the Landscape Character Types (Section 4.0) provide the baseline for monitoring changes in landscape character from the sample views. The Countryside Commission assessed changes in the extent of characteristic landscape features across the National Park in 1991 and 1996\(^5\), which may provide useful sources of baseline data to monitor changes.

6.3.5 The proposed key indicators for monitoring changes inconsistent and consistent with the guidelines for each defined Landscape Character Type are set out in the table below.

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\(^5\) Landscape Change in the National Parks, Countryside Commission CCP 339 1991 and 1996
### Proposed Key Indicators for Monitoring Change within Landscape Character Types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape Character Type</th>
<th>Proposed Key Indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **A - Estuary and Marsh** | - Change in area of mudflats  
- Change in area of saltmarsh  
- Change in area of shingle/pebble beaches |
| **B - Coastal Margins** | - Change in area of dunes, raised beaches and coastal mosses  
- Change in area of shingle bank/dune communities, raised bogs and sphagnum filled pools  
- Change in area of pasture land  
- Change in number of stone bank barns |
| **C - Coastal Limestone** | - Change in area of semi-improved pasture and species-rich calcareous grassland  
- Change in area of limestone heath and juniper scrub  
- Change in area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland. |
| **D - Lowland** | - Change in area of arable fields  
- Change in area of scrub/marginal land  
- Change in pattern of hedgerow field boundaries  
- Change in area of ancient woodland  
- Change in area of wetland habitats  
- Change in settlement pattern |
| **E - Coastal Sandstone** | - Change in pattern of hedgerow network  
- Change in area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland  
- Change in settlement pattern |
| **F - Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell** | - Changes to panoramic views from fell summits  
- Change in area of screes  
- Change in density of sheep grazing  
- Change in area of juniper woodland  
- Change in area of native oak woodland  
- Change in area of commercial coniferous plantations |
| **G – Rugged/ angular Slate High Fell** | - Changes to panoramic views from fell summits  
- Change in area of acid grassland  
- Change in area of blanket bog  
- Change in area of commercial coniferous plantations |
| **H - Upland Valley** | - Change in pattern of drystone walls  
- Change in number of stone barns  
- Change in area of pastoral/in-bye farmland  
- Change in area of broadleaved woodland  
- Change in area of commercial coniferous plantations  
- Change in area of mixed woodland  
- Change in area of screes  
- Change in settlement pattern  
- Change in area of designed landscapes, parkland and former deer parks |
| **I - Upland Limestone Farmland** | - Change to panoramic views  
- Change in area of limestone pavements and scars  
- Change in area of improved and semi-improved pastoral farmland  
- Change in pattern of hedgerows  
- Change in area of small woods  
- Change in pattern of drystone walls  
- Change in area of ancient woodland |
## Monitoring Landscape Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landscape Character Type</th>
<th>Proposed Key Indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Change in area of commercial coniferous plantations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Change in settlement pattern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Change in number of historic halls, estates and deer parks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### J - High Fell Fringe
- Change in pattern of stone walls
- Change in pattern of hedgerows
- Change in area of broadleaved woodland
- Change in number of field boundary trees
- Change in number of tree clumps
- Change in settlement pattern

### K - Low Fell
- Change in area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland
- Change in area of commercial coniferous plantations
- Change in area of rough grassland/semi-improved pasture
- Change in area of broadleaved woodlands
- Change in area of coniferous copses
- Change in area of heathland
- Change in area of wetlands/mires
- Change in area of bracken
- Change in pattern of settlement
- Change in pattern of drystone walls
- Change in traffic noise levels from the A590 road corridor

### L - Low Fell Fringe
- Change in pattern of drystone walls

### M - Lowland Valley
- Change in area of pastoral grazing land
- Change in area of broadleaved woodland
- Change in area of parkland
- Change in pattern of drystone walls
- Change in pattern of hedgerows

### Indicator B - Changes in Townscape Character

6.3.6 General information on the visual relationship between the main market towns (Keswick, Ambleside, Windermere and Bowness) and their landscape settings is provided in the relevant Area of Distinctive Character descriptions and guidelines (Section 5.0).

6.3.7 It should be noted that this Landscape Character Assessment does not define the character of the townscape within the main market towns in detail. More detailed townscape characterisation studies will be needed to identify and measure the extent and condition of features that directly affect visual townscape change in each town (such as quality of the public realm, movement and circulation, urban form, streetscape/architectural quality, etc). In some cases, conservation area character appraisals may provide some of this baseline information.
6.3.8 General information on the factors that affect perceived tranquillity across the National Park is provided within each defined Area of Distinctive Character in Section 5.0. In addition, the degree of relative tranquillity within the Lake District National Park as measured and mapped by CPRE’s methodology (see Section 2.4 for details) is shown on Figure 2.12.

6.3.9 General information on the extent or patterns of vegetation mosaics in the landscape across the National Park is provided within each defined Landscape Character Type (Section 5.0). The mapping of land cover types in the National Park by the Countryside Commission in 1991 and 1996 may provide useful baseline data for judging changes.

6.3.10 The selection of sample views for monitoring changes should reflect the nature of the indicator being monitored, and agreed with relevant key stakeholders as appropriate. For indicators A and D, a sample view should be identified within each of the 13 Landscape Character Types as a minimum (with the larger units having a greater number of sample views to reflect geographical variations as appropriate). Indicator B requires sample views to be identified within the landscape settings of Keswick, Ambleside, Windermere and Bowness. In relation to indicator C, sample areas within Areas of Distinctive Character where the likelihood of experiencing a reduction in tranquility should be identified.

6.3.11 It is advisable that the four CQC evaluation categories in Section 6.2.2 above are adopted, in a modified form, to determine the significance of observed changes in a sample view using the above indicators. This will help facilitate a consistent approach to reporting and understanding landscape change between the JCA and National Park scales. The modified categories for the National Park are shown in the table on the following page.

---

6 Landscape Change in the National Parks, Countryside Commission CCP 359 1991 and 1996
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STABLE CHARACTER</th>
<th>OBSERVED CHANGE CONSISTENT WITH GUIDELINES</th>
<th>OBSERVED CHANGE INCONSISTENT WITH GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maintained: if the character of the Landscape Character Type is already strong and largely intact, and the observed changes serve to sustain it, or simply because the lack of change means that the important qualities are likely to be retained in the long term.</td>
<td>Neglected: if the character of the Landscape Character Type has been weakened or degraded by past change, and the changes observed do not have the effect of restoring the desired qualities that make the Landscape Character Type distinct. The Landscape Character Type is also described as ‘neglected’ if significant opportunities to restore or strengthen its character remain.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHANGING CHARACTER</th>
<th>OBSERVED CHANGE</th>
<th>OBSERVED CHANGE INCONSISTENT WITH GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enhancing: if the changes tend to restore the overall character of the Landscape Character Type, or to strengthen it.</td>
<td>Diverging: if the change appears to be transforming the character of the Landscape Character Type so that either its distinctive qualities are being eroded, or significant new patterns are emerging.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.3.12 For each sample view, judgements about the magnitude of observed change (‘stable’ or ‘changing’) and its direction (‘consistent’ or ‘inconsistent’ with the relevant guidelines) need to be made by an assessor with good working knowledge of the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines, and also the National Park’s landscapes. The results from this process need to be recorded on a standard sample view proforma, and subject to review and moderation by key stakeholders as appropriate. The frequency of monitoring should be informed by the nature of the indicator, the type of change(s) anticipated and available resources.
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, view points 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 considerable guidance, support and inputs including:

- Chris Greenwood - Lake District National Park Authority (Project Manager)
- Andrew Herbert - Lake District National Park Authority
- 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 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 (see Appendix F for details).

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)
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT AND GUIDELINES - METHODOLOGY

Overview

The overall approach for undertaking the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is based on the latest published national guidance\(^1\), taking into account current best practice.

Landscape Character Assessment addresses both the analytical process of character assessment (or ‘characterisation’), which involves identifying, mapping, classifying and describing landscape character; and the process of evaluating forces for change and sensitivities and capacity for change in the landscape, and developing guidelines for managing landscape change, informing planning and land management decisions.

In summary, the key steps involved in the process involved:

**Character Assessment**

- Stage 1 – Information Scoping
- Stage 2 – Desk Based Research
- Stage 3 – Field Survey
- Stage 4 – Characterisation

**Evaluation**

- Stage 5 – Evaluation and Guidelines preparation
- Stage 6 – Preparation of Overall Report

**Character Assessment Methodology**

**Stage 1 - 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 in and around the National Park;
- 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 LCA.

**Stage 2 – 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 and footnotes throughout the document 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.

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\(^1\) Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland (Countryside Agency/Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002).
In summary, the desk-based research involved:

- Review of relevant published landscape character assessments within and around the National Park - including the relevant Joint Character Areas from the 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 CPRE tranquillity mapping dataset
- Review and analysis of OS maps and air photos
- Production and analysis of map overlays of physical and cultural components of the landscape
- A description of the evolution of the National Park’s landscape and forces for change affecting it (as described in Section 2.0)
- Identification and mapping of draft Landscape Character Types for testing by field survey work

**Stage 3 – Field Survey**

Fieldwork involved assessing how the following different features and elements combined to create distinctive patterns in the landscape:

- 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)

The fieldwork was undertaken from key viewpoints within each draft Landscape Character Type by a team of field assessors. The fieldwork also considered the following aspects to inform the evaluation and guidelines preparation stage:

- landscape condition/intactness
- landscape and visual sensitivities
- visible forces for change
- landscape management issues

The field survey 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) was used to inform the descriptions of landscape character and to test and refine the preliminary landscape character unit boundaries.

**Stage 4 - Characterisation**

The characterisation stage involved the combination of the findings from the desk study research and field survey analysis to inform a classification (at a scale of 1:25,000) of the landscapes within the Study Area into:

- **Landscape Character Types** – generic units of landscape with a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently throughout the type; and

- **Areas of Distinctive Character** – discrete geographical areas with a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently throughout the area.

This dual approach to defining Landscape Character Types and Areas of Distinctive Character was adopted in order to achieve the level of detail required by the Project Brief. The Landscape Character Types provide a spatial framework within which generic forces for change, land management issues and guidelines for managing landscape change can be developed – such as ‘Low Fell’ for example. The Areas of Distinctive Character allow guidelines to be developed that address place-specific management issues and opportunities – such as ‘Kentmere Fells’ for example.

**Landscape Character Types**

Thirteen Landscape Character Types were defined by desktop analysis of distinctive patterns of physical and cultural attributes derived from available datasets and maps related to:

- Physical character (geology, landform, hydrological patterns)
- Ecological character and land cover
- Cultural and historical character land uses/settlement patterns

The Landscape Character Types occur in different areas of the National Park. Examples include:

- Estuary and Marsh (Type A)
- Low Fell (Type K)
- Lowland Valley (Type M)

The mapped extents of the Landscape Character Types reflect variations in the complexity and pattern of underlying characteristics across the Study Area identified through the characterisation process. For completeness, the full extents of LCTs straddling the National Park boundary were mapped. Where necessary, Sub-Types are identified and mapped to reflect local variations of a main Landscape Character Type resulting from specific physical or cultural land use attributes. Examples include:

- Upland Tarns (Sub-Type F1)
- Post - Industrial Landscapes (Sub-Type G3)
- Parkland (Sub-Type K2)

**Areas of Distinctive Character**

Within the broad pattern provided by the 13 Landscape Character Types, 71 Areas of Distinctive Character were defined in the field on the basis of judgements about their:

- distinctiveness as unique landscapes/places
- distinctive aesthetic and perceptual (experiential) characteristics
- local distinctiveness and sense of place
For completeness, the full extents of Areas of Distinctive Character straddling the National Park boundary were mapped. In these cases, although the relevant descriptions only relate to land within the National Park, visual relationships with those parts of the Area of Distinctive Character outside of the Park are addressed where appropriate.

In many cases, the Areas of Distinctive Character reflect more than one underlying Landscape Character Type. In particular, Areas of Distinctive Character that are dales or valleys are typically defined on the basis of the visual containment provided by the adjoining fell landscapes; for example, Area of Distinctive Character 29 (Wastwater and Wasdale), comprises part of Landscape Character Type H (Broad Upland Valley) and Landscape Character Type F (Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell). As a result of these subtle variations, the Areas of Distinctive Character do not consistently nest within the Landscape Character Types classification.

As acknowledged by the latest published national guidance\(^2\), 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 defined Landscape Character Type, its boundaries were mapped and its character described (and illustrated where appropriate) under the following headings:

- **Landscape Character Type Ref/Name**

- **Location** – a short paragraph detailing location of the Landscape Character Type in relation to the National Park and adjacent Landscape Character Types

- **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 descriptions were based on research, fieldwork observations and the local knowledge of staff from the client commissioning partners organisations.

\(^2\) Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland (Countryside Agency/Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002).
**Description of the Areas of Distinctive Character**

For each Area of Distinctive Character, its boundaries were mapped and its character described (and illustrated where appropriate) under the following headings:

- **Location** – a short paragraph detailing location of the Area of Distinctive Character in relation to the National Park and key landscape features

- **Relevant Landscape Character Types** – a bullet point list of the relevant Landscape Character Type(s) that underlie the Area of Distinctive Character

- **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 included an analysis of the positive and negative factors affecting tranquillity for each Area of Distinctive Character – such as noise levels, perceived naturalness, visible overt human impact, density of settlement/diffusion of people and artificial lighting. This was informed by field survey observations and by reference to the latest CPRE tranquillity mapping dataset.

The draft descriptions were prepared and validated through the local knowledge of staff from the client commissioning partners organisations, and other stakeholders.

**Evaluation Methodology**

**Stage 5 – Evaluation and Guidelines preparation**

The process involved evaluating forces for change and sensitivities and capacity for change in the landscape. These judgements were used to develop guidelines that highlight needs and opportunities for managing landscape change to inform land use planning and land management decisions.

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.

The evaluation process was based on research, fieldwork observations and the local knowledge of staff from the client commissioning partners organisations.

**Evaluation of the Landscape Character Types**

Each Landscape Character Type is evaluated as follows:

- **Forces for Change** – a bullet point list of recent past changes in the Landscape Character Type; a concise description of how the intactness of the different components create a perception of the overall current condition of the landscape and a separate bullet point list of the positive and negative future changes and opportunities that are considered likely to affect the landscape over the short term (5 years) and long term (20 years +).

- **Sensitivities and Capacity for Change** – a short paragraph summarising the key positive attributes that are judged to be inherently sensitive and providing a judgement on the capacity of the overall Landscape Character Type to accommodate change.
This was based on the general approach to judging sensitivity set out in the accompanying paper to Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland 3. It should be noted that the sensitivity and capacity evaluation was based on the relatively broad-brush analysis undertaken at 1:25,000 scale for the Study. Also, the degree of sensitivity is not absolute and would vary according to the nature of change under consideration; it is therefore only indicative.

Guidelines for Managing Landscape Change in Landscape Character Types

The guidelines comprise a concise statement setting out the overall management strategy for the Landscape Character Type, supported by a bullet point list of specific guidelines for managing landscape change for the overall Type. Where relevant, specific guidelines that apply to Sub-types are also identified.

Evaluation of the Areas of Distinctive Character

Each Area of Distinctive Character is evaluated as follows.

- **Landscape Sensitivities** – a bullet point list of the key positive attributes 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 assessment was based on the general approach to judging sensitivity set out in the accompanying paper to Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland 4.

- **Forces for Change** – where relevant, a bullet point list of forces for change that are specific to each Area of Distinctive Character.

Guidelines for Managing Landscape Change in Areas of Distinctive Character

The guidelines comprise a bullet point list of guidelines for managing landscape that are specific to the Area of Distinctive Character.

Draft evaluation and guidelines were prepared and validated through the local knowledge of staff from the client commissioning partners’ organisations, and other stakeholders.

Stage 6 – Preparation of Overall Report

This final stage involved preparation of the overall report. This included the development of a framework and indicators for monitoring change in the landscape character of the National Park, taking into account the national approach to monitoring Joint Character Areas developed by the Countryside Quality Counts study.

Stakeholder and Public Consultation Methodology

Major landowners and managers, statutory agencies and other key stakeholder organisations and the general public have been involved in the process of developing the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines. The feedback from consultation has helped to strengthen the evidence base by incorporating the views of both communities of interest and place. Engaging stakeholders in the project has also helped to promote awareness of the value of the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines as a tool for informing planning and land management decisions.

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

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residents, businesses and visitors. The survey aimed 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).
Digital datasets provided by the LDNPA

Joint Character Areas (Character of England Map)
Cumbria Landscape Classification – Landscape Character Types/Sub-Types

CPRE Tranquillity data

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

Adas for English Heritage (2005) Study of the Social and Economic Impacts and Benefits of Traditional Farm Building Repair and Re-use in the Lake District ESA;
Campaign to Protect Rural England, Tranquillity Mapping for the Lake District;
Countryside Commission, Landscape Change in the National Parks;
Cumbria County Council (1995) Cumbria Landscape Classification, Economy and Environment Cumbria County Council;
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, Historic Landscape Characterisation Programme for Cumbria Project Design;
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English Nature and LDNPA, Lake District ESA Landscape Assessment;
J. Wyatt (2004) Cumbria The Lake District and its County, Robert Hale Ltd;
Lake District National Park Authority (1996) Derwentwater Management Plan;
Lake District National Park Authority (1997) Helvellyn Management Plan;
Lake District National Park Authority (1997) Skiddaw Massif Management Plan;
Lake District National Park Authority (1999) Bassenthwaite Lake Management Plan;
Lake District National Park Authority and Alison Farmer Associates (2005) Recommended Draft Boundary for an Extension to the LDNP;
Lake District National Park Authority, Agri-Environment Schemes in the LDNP Uptake Data;
Lake District National Park Authority, Education Service (date unknown) Outline Geology of the Lake District;
Lake District National Park Authority, Lake District National Park- State of the Park 2005/06;
Lake District National Park Authority, State of the Park Report 2005/06;
Lake District National Park, Forest Design Plans;
LEADER + (Cumbria Fells and Dales) (Date unknown) Mineral Wealth;
National Farmers Union (2005) Agriculture and Climate Change;
National Trust (2005) English Upland Face Bleak Future;
National Trust, Acorn Bank Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Ambleside Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Borrowdale, Newlands & Watendlath Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Buttermere and Ennerdale Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Coniston Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Duddon Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Dunthwaite Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Ennerdale Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Eskdale Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Fell Foot Country Park NProperty Management Plan;
National Trust, Grasmere & Great Langdale Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Grasmere & Great Langdale Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Hawkshead & Claife NT Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Little Langdale Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Long Crag, North Stainmore Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Nether Wasdale Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Overwater Lake Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Solway Commons Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Tarn Hows and Monk Coniston Property Management Plan;
National Trust, The Cross Keys Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Troutbeck Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Ullswater Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Wasdale Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Watendlath Armboth Property Management Plan;
National Trust, West Cumbria Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Wetheral Woods Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Windermere and Crosthwaite Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Yewdale and Tilberthwaite Property Management Plan;
National Trust, Windermere & Crosthwaite Property Management Plan;
Northwest Development Agency (June 2004) Lake District Economic Futures Study: Stage 1 & 2 Reports;
National Trust, (2007) Valuing our environment: A snapshot of the National Trust’s Contribution to the Cumbrian Economy during 2000;
The Council of Europe, The European Landscape Convention/Biodiversity & Landscape Diversity Strategy;
The Northwest Regional Assembly, North West Regional Forestry Framework/District Strategy;
UK, CHM (2005), UK Sustainable Development Strategy – A Better Quality of Life;
University of Reading, England Rural Development Programme - An Overview (www.ecifm.rdg.ac.uk/compensatory_schemes);
FIELD SURVEY NOTES

The following notes are based on observations of the field surveys undertaken by CBA in conjunction with Lake District National Park Ranger staff and National Trust Property Managers/Countryside Staff. These included:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Park</th>
<th>National Trust</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scott Henderson</td>
<td>Penny Webb</td>
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<td>Graham Standring</td>
<td>Jim Loxham</td>
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<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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<td>Steven Gaskell</td>
<td>James Archer</td>
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Objectives of Site Visits and Field Survey Meetings:

The objectives of these field surveys 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’.

Field survey notes:

(see map for areas referred to 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 has not changed much;
- Gateshead used to have a vachery;
- Buttermere is accessed by Whinlatter (towards CW), Newlands Pass, 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;
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 creates 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 visitors more confident;
- Colour of houses not covered by planning;
- Volcanic area;
- Crofting;
- People miss the village because it is more akin to a small hamlet;
- Landscape degraded by visitor pressure, parking main issue;
- Farmers are allowed 28 days a year 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;
- 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;
- National Trust have reclaimed village centre in Buttermere and restored village heart (picnics etc, open space);
- Oak woodland on the west side of Buttermere has recently been grazed by cattle (rather than sheep)
- Geology apparent (rock outcrops);
- Clear artificial lines on valleysides, created by grazing and/or heather burning, should be avoided;
- Hedgerows blocking views looking south to Buttermere;
- National Trust car parks hidden by trees;
- Oppressive corridor;
- Used to test tanks during World War II;
- Timber reused for National Trust houses;
- 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 National Trust. Remainder privately owned;
- Some grazing.
Crummock Area

- Overall sense of tranquillity, generally less people than within adjacent areas because there are fewer paths;
- Minerals and ores in land to west ferried across lake;
- Victorian passenger ferry from Rannerdale Farm across lake;
- Rannerdale - bluebells without woodland;
- Low Fell is prominent within views from Embleton and Stanger;
- North Crummock and Loweswater comprises hedges alongside roads and some fences;
- A series of lower hills, broad valleys and gorse;
- This is a softer landscape with deciduous woodland and hedges;
- Some conifers are present on eastern side.

Lorton Vale

- Distinctive landscape character area;
- Low fell becomes more prominent;
- From the north of the area, open views can be gained to Buttermere;
- Greater concentration of farms in this area than within adjacent areas;
- By substation, the landscape is slightly more cluttered with trees, fences and poles;
- Subtle changes in the landscape as farms are being sold;
- Big green sheds are appearing as a result of grant aid for winter stock cover;
- Landscape character reflects area to the north;
- Good footpath network, with generally 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;
- Views to Lord’s seat to the south;
- Generally few signs of commercialisation;
- Field terraces apparent in some places;
- 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

- Small hamlets and dotted houses, e.g. Matterdale and Dockwray, which is lower-level common;
- Forestry is a feature in places;
- Plateau and open moorland character, drops down to Ullswater;
- Open views;
- Young plantations - Great Mell and Little Mell fells dominate;
- Tight valleys run east-west further south;
- Ullswater lake is a feature;
- Through route to Ambleside – therefore the road gets busy;
- Lots of caravan and camping sites- some conspicuous;
- Access to lakeshore path is less obvious;
- Patches of hay meadows and parklands;
- Stone roofs are a key characteristic;
- Croft Head Farm area- landscape more like Embleton- lower and more pastoral;
- Blencathra is a prominent landmark (within views) with distinctive its saddle shape;
- Strong sense of tranquillity in contrast with A66;
- Groups of Scots pines make distinctive features.
Area A

To the east and north of Skiddaw Range

- Carrock Fell is the site of a supposed Iron Age Hill Fort;
- Gabrow Rock and Axe Factory site;
- Mosedale Valley and Carrock Mine;
- Series of mineralogically and historically important mines (Caldbeck Fells);
- The Tungsten mines within the Skiddaw massif are now closed;
- Skiddaw/Blencathra – Saddleback – Sharp Edge is popular for walking;
- Scales Tarn and Bowskill Tarn – Blencathra – Skiddaw slate;
- Low Fells to the north of heather moorlands are a SAC for Merlin and Red Grouse;
- Caldbeck Common, Mungrizedale Common and Threkeld Common are key features;
- One of the issues is non-responsible visitors and closeness to Carlisle;
- Series of mires and valley bottoms;
- Some of the oldest volcanic rock in the Lake District;
- Views to Helvellyn range to the south;
- Matterdale Forest is Forestry Commission woodland;
- Very complex geology within this area;
- Further to the north granite is apparent;
- A few issues in the area with four-wheel drive vehicles;
- Heather moorland is a very important habitat;
- Lots of glacial features, corries etc;
- Views to Eycott Hill;
- Stone walls/fences, align road corridors;
- Strong sense of tranquillity;
- Sheep grazing is a feature;
- Dramatic views of sweeping fells;
- Vernacular material is visible within buildings;
- Oak and gorse are key features;
- Uplands and tenanted land;
- Wet end – water catchments and tarns;
- Bassenthwaite Lake is part of the European still waters partnership run by the Environment Agency, National Trust, Natural England and Forestry Authority;
- Five valleys leading into Bassenthwaite – there is an effort to try to stop silting getting into rivers;
- Vendale glacial fish – relic fish;
- Sustainable projects – seek to stop invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and unwanted pollution/ New Zealand Pygmee weed on Derwent Water;
- Keswick Tip – landfill site is a landscape feature;
- The history of Force Crag mine – this was the last mineral mine to be worked for Borites and zinc. Major production ceased in 1990;
- Wad mines at Seathwaite – Keswick was built on this;
- This area has 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 is common land;
- Borrowdale is 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;
- Stunted oaks – hoping for natural regeneration (same issue as at Newlands);
- Lead/ Wad and graphite;
- Hefted flocks are a unique feature of this landscape;
- 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;
This is a very ancient landscape;
Famous ash pollards;
Ancient ash pollards and ancient Yew trees at Seathwaite – replanted 400 yrs old. Several were 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, Scheduled Monument – English Heritage – tenant grazed neolithic site;
Derwent Island house - Edwardian/Georgian, open for a short number of days each 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 Tolkeinesque 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);
Tenants must manage the land but need income from a B & B or campsite; small farmers are dependant on tourism;
Lots of hedges are being restored using traditional Cumbrian hedge laying techniques;
Stone walls are being rebuilt;
Strip to bare and layer hedges- needs fencing in some places;
Gills are fenced off to avoid erosion and overgrazing etc;
The pattern of sheep farming is changing the landscape- hills will scrub up with loss of sheep;
Some areas have been fenced off for 5 years, including Uldale Common, resulting in lots of natural landscape;
Examples of carbon sinks, where exposed peat has become exposed and blows off;
Moorland blocked with heather bales;
Armboth Fell – there is a line between National Trust and United Utilities land (Thirlmere);
The 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;
The whole vegetation of the area should eventually change;
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 are managed by United Utilities through counting and culling;
Minimum problem with grazing on National Trust Land;
National Park boundary is not always logical, sometimes it follows parish boundaries, sometimes it cuts right across parishes;
Mosedale hamlet;
Mosedale valley is unique;
Bowskill Tarn is glacial feature and is unique;
Caldebeck Common is part of the Dalemain Estate;
Bright yellow gorse is a striking feature;
Relatively enclosed v-shaped valley;
Irresponsible camping is an issue, along with destroying trees and facilities for firewood;
Juniper scrub is a feature of the landscape;
Landslides sometimes occur within this area;
This is a designated quiet area;
The area is very popular in summer;
There is a general lack of walls, with an overall sense of openness;
The mines are a Scheduled Monument for their industrial heritage;
Canadian cross-cut mines were a feature in the World War II;
Every single tree is likely to have a buzzards nest;
Genera 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;
The banks of the river are eroding;
Carrick Fell is a site for nesting peregrines and has an open and less rugged character;
Main hamlets or villages within this area are Threlkeld, Udale and Heskett 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 are scattered throughout the area – see Sites and Monuments Record;
Patches of gorse are features of the landscape;
Old Cliff is a popular site for camping and fires;
Heather burning regime every 3 to 5 years;
White-washed buildings are a feature, as are stone walls;
Rides are often cut through the landscape to allow access for grazing;
‘Hushes’ – artificial streams which provide a quick way to wash away veins and find minerals are a feature (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 largest area over 2000ft;
Heather moorland;
Sweeping fells, a lot broader and open, less rugged;
Hedges and stone walls are common;
In-bye land – farmers;
Mines above the fell wall;
Wind turbines at the edge of the National Park;
‘Kests’ are local ditch and bank hedges, some of which are in need of restoration;
Path to Watersmeeting – The Howk - Caldbeck (limestone Gorge);
Lots of visitor pressure, with parking on the roads. This is quite a new pressure and locals are not used to it;
Dairying just outside Heskett Newmarket;
Caldbeck – series of old mills and a pond;
Small terraced cottages are common to the landscape;
Artificial fire breaks in the gorse, which burns fiercely, have been created;
Open views from the north of the Park – you can see Scotland, Carlisle and the Solway Estuary;
A fire plan for the Skiddaw massif is in place to deal with moorland fires;
John Peel is buried at the church in Caldbeck;
High Pike, Caldbeck and Ulldale Fells;
Caldbeck Common;
Narrow valleys;
Roughton Gill contains some of the most important mining remains;
Uldale common is a bit flatter;
Very similar to the Pennine landscape - rolling limestone with little surface water;
Since foot and mouth outbreak there has been less pressure on heather;
Caldbeck (meaning cold water) joins Caldew at Watersmeeting – otters and wildlife;
Used to be a big dairy farm to the west of Heskett Newmarket, however there has been less dairying since foot and mouth;
The number of sheep farmed has also been cut, from 12000 to 4500;
Trenches have been created to deter four-wheel drive vehicles;
Not typical lake scenery within this area.
Area H

- Coniston Old Man is an obvious landmark;
- Coniston Dale;
- Landscape less rugged, more rolling and lush;
- Less stone walls, lots more hedges, and some fences;
- Generally more trees here than within adjacent areas;
- Grizedale Forest is predominantly commercial forest;
- Backdrop of Black Combe and cliffs;
- Coastal path leads to the beach;
- Caravan park is a dominant feature;
- Hedges along the road corridors;
- Mixture of pastoral and arable land;
- Rail track is a dominant feature in places;
- Pylons are also a key feature;
- Where they remain stone walls are dilapidated in places;
- Views to Sellafield Power Station;
- Muncaster Fell with its wooded side is a dominant feature within views;
- Eskmeals Range – MOD land (no access) at coastal edge;
- Rolling bowl farmland;
- High hedges block several views to Corney;
- More monotonous landscape, with less variety in colour;
- More rugged than adjacent landscape;
- Dramatic views to dales.

Area J

- Kirkby Ireleth – Lowfell – dominated by bracken;
- Commons dominated by matt grass, molinea and bracken;
- Grazing pressure within lower areas;
- Woodland Fell is characterised by valleys, rolling pasture and dairy farms;
- Intensively managed grassland;
- This area is tidal to a certain point and therefore supports moss colonies;
- Lowick contains patches of low fell/molinea and matt grass;
- Open Access within the low fell – however people take advantage and presume defacto access including motorbikes and trial biking which damage land;
- Hill climbing – a few make a huge impact;
- Kirkby Ireleth is still a quiet area with small agriculturally based farms;
- High Newton has a bypass;
- Lowick – mixture of pasture – very sparsely populated;
- Hamlets along river Crake;
- Views out from Kirby Park Wood across the bay;
- Real interaction with the coast;
- Black Coombe – sea mist;
- National Park own Blawith and Lowick Common;
- A5084 is a very busy road and augmented by it use as a tourist road and the 35,000 people who work at Sellafield;
- People drive a long way off road into commons for woodlands;
- Huge bands of Low Fell (Gunners House) and Cartmell Fell are relatively quiet, however Strawberry Bank is a hotspot;
- Lowland Fell interspersed with woodland;
- Forestry Commission plantations, however, commercial viability has gone;
- Storms of 2005 created a great deal of damage;
- Clear felling at the back end of 2006 due to storm damage events;
- Newton characterised by scrubby birch, hawthorn, bracken, molinea matt grass;
- Winster Valley characterised by semi improved pasture;
- More pasture to south, in an area which is fairly quiet with few footpaths;
- Bands of limestone create a plateau which is designated as a National Nature Reserve;
- Woodland on calcareous grassland at Whithbarrow and Yew Barrow which supports High Brown Flotillery butterflies;
- Morecambe Bay SSSI is a key habitat/ feature;
- There are a number of old coppice stands within High Park Wood;
- Major industries include Backbarrow Iron Works and furnaces, which produced bobbins for Lancashire Mills;
- Management of coppice woodlands is an issue;
- High plateau is an upland heath on limestone, supporting blue moor grass;
- There is some disagreement between the wealthy villages and the owners of large estates;
- Lyth Valley is famous for limestone and damson orchards;
- Damson Day creates a special quality, with people making the trip from Lancashire for the occasion;
- Lyth Valley is reclaimed and pumped. There are discussions about whether to keep pumps going in the future.
- Massive peat extraction is occurring around the woodland carrs;
- Lithe roads crossing mosses, which contain relic birch woodlands, if peat;
- Grasswaite and Lord’s Lot, low fell, are dominated by gorse, brackens and hawthorn;
- Myriad of lanes which are very quiet and rural in contrast to the A5074 which is a major road with fast traffic especially motorbikes;
- Foulshaw Moss is a low lying moss owned by the County Wildlife Trust. There has been removal of softwoods and a public footpath crosses it;
- Morecambe Bay SSSI is a key feature to the south;
- Cumbria Coastal Way is a popular route;
- Grange is characterised by mossy land with large dairy farms;
- Meathop Woods is set on a crop of Yew with lots limestone pavements;
- One of the most diverse areas within the National Park;
- Harups Fell is an upland fell/heath onto limestone;
- Near Grange-over-Sands the Forestry Commission has removed woodland;
- Fantastic view across limestone pavements;
- Cartmel monastery – the consumption walls are 5 – 8 feet wide;
- Small hamlets including High Cark are very old and generally contain medium sized farmsteads;
- Rolling semi-improved pasture;
- Dolly Blue works – Iron Works is situated on the edge of a deeply wooded valley;
- Havethwiate Heights is National Park owned woodland with coppice stands, planted as the woodland had to pay its way;
- Roudsea Wood is a National Nature Reserve;
- Greenod is a beautiful bay;
- Raised bog and coppice woodland;
- Popular walking area especially with older people as it is more gentle and has summer and winter walks. It is more low key than the central lakes;
- Guinness How provides a fantastic viewpoint;
- Blades of open access land;
- Newton fell provides open access, although it did not historically;
- Whithbarrow and Witheslack provide stopping off points for tourists;
- Constant but low-level numbers of tourists;
- Walney to Wear cycle route;
- Lanes and quiet areas are “relatively unspoilt”;
- No walling on mosses but good mixture of hedgerows;
- Lyth Valley is an Environmentally Sensitive Area where hedge laying is promoted;
- Very few places where you can stop and get out at Windermere lakeshore;
- Road to Ulpha is bordered by low wooded mixed conifer and deciduous hills with views to the main road (A5690) however this is very busy;
Sheep on low farmland pasture with a backup of low hills and fells which have a mixed wooded feel;
- Pylons are a feature, but are not dominant;
- Occasional limestone outcrops;
- 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 contains north basin and south basin;
- High fells dominate north basin;
- Nanover characterised by a different geology, with the shallows and the glacial moraine;
- Glaciers to the south are 164 ft, and to the north 212 ft;
- Steamers built to move through shallow areas;
- Claife Heights (cliff or rocky area) southern slopes dominated by broadleaf semi ancient natural woodland. The top of Claife Heights is owned by the National Trust and has a “microclimate of higher fells”;
- Claife Heights – Prince Philip opened the first public open waymarked trail white post route in 1968;
- The West station is one of the original viewpoints, highlighted in the first guide book to the lakes. Georgians thought that this was a spectacular attraction;
- Was very much an industrial landscape in the past – bobbins were produced from coppice woodland. Now the landscape is more wooded;
- Graythwaite Hall – Cistercian Abbey is a softer rolling estate;
- Low fells are characterised by tarns, bobbin mills and charcoal pits;
- Newby Bridge was established in the 1600’s and is a stepping stone at the fell foot;
- Lakes still fished on a semi commercial basis, especially trout. Lake Windermere has been a sea trout and salmon fishery;
- Possible pollution incidents were caused by oil boats (1970s) and the weir (1940s);
- In 16 years there has been a 4 degree change in water temperature;
- Marine Biological Association carry out research within the lake;
- Southern half dominated by ancient/semi natural woodland;
- Hundreds of camp sites attracted by the “wooded valley feel”;
- East shore is the most developed side of lake. As it had direct links to the Lancashire cotton fields with the building of the railway in 1820;
- Small villa properties along the eastern lakeshore;
- Belle Isle, established in 1786, is a distinctive feature. Its mixed woodland landscape was originally grazed by short horn cattle;
- Belle Isle round house “the pepper pot” built by Isabella Kirum;
- Capability Brown influence on the landscape can be seen. He indulged his own whims with stautuory, summer houses and waterside landscapes. There is no planning control over gardens;
- Bowness-on-Windermere is a hub of activity with a 400 berth marina and car ferry. Duplex apartments can cost £450,000;
- Million day-trippers per year;
- 6 million tourists per year pass through the basin;
- Has been described as the ‘Blackpool of the Lake District’ due to its amusement arcades etc;
- Windermere and Bowness has a mass tourism based around poets;
- Was once very different with a series of small hamlets and small fishing villages;
- Wordsworth called the lake “Winanders mere”;
- White Crofts Bay was once a secret submarine base;
- Waterhead and Ambleside are generally later in date than Windermere, although there was a Roman settlement there (Gulava) which held 500 troops;
- Roman remains of a summer house on Belle Isle and also at Greenodd;
- East shore has the feel of central fells which are visible in the mid distance;
The Langdales and Coniston Old Man are within this area;
Generally north / south communication lines;
Troutbeck Valley has fairly dense tree cover up to about 5,000 ft. The High Street was originally a Roman road;
Slopes denuded by packhorse routes such as Kirkstone Pass;
Troutbeck was a medieval deer park;
Central fells dominated by intake land, heather and grazing;
Open Access land plays an important role in this area;
Limelitt Park is visually dominant from the road and fell paths around the campsite. It has grown to accommodate visitors and now includes wooden lodges, chalets, pitches and lighting;
Fly camping is a problem within the area;
Rivers cause a third of land to drain into Lake Windermere. Flash flooding is common with 1m within 24 hours possible;
Loughrig Fell has a rolling, tumbling feel;
Familand backing onto Grizedale
Troutbeck village contains many Yeoman’s building contributing to a significant cultural ‘villagescape’;
Kirkstone “The Struggle” Graythwaite Hall - the great number of rhododendrons signify the human interaction with the landscape;
Aircrafts are limited to a minimum height of 250ft and therefore peace and quiet is maintained;
Steamers built specifically for Lake were significant employers;
Windermere is a ‘Top 10’ visitor attraction in the country;
Southerly limit of the Char (the latest glacial fish);
History of power;
Grizedale is an outdoor gym.

Area C

Small intakes and woodland at side of road;
Mosedale and Floughton – reminiscent of Peak District fells;
There is a walking loop around the intakes historic landscape of Rannerdale;
Mid Rannerdale is fairly rocky with flat fields only appearing in the lower valley;
Old settlements are evident from the remnant ridge and furrow systems;
Bluebells and mountain bikes;
Black peat on Kinder;
High fell characterised by ridges and watershed;
Gatesgarth is a ‘pretty’ hamlet;
There are 2 passes which have a dominant character, these prevent widening of the road;
Scots Pines are native to the Buttermere area;
‘Overwhelming’ is a distinctive characteristic;
As you come down the trackways you can sense the changing landscape;
Visible from Borrowdale;
Clumps of ancient woodland exist at Kirk Close;
Small blocks of woodland within the valley;
Scattering of individual mature trees, including holly and hawthorn;
Rannerdale Farm was bought in late 1980s;
Birkness Wood which was previously conifer wood is now slowly reverting to deciduous woodland;
Buttermere village and in–bye is unique in the Lake District and has the largest number of working farms centred on a village;
Field system are generally long and thin;
National Trust has planted 21km of hedgerows within valley, they are now a dominant feature of the landscape;
Moat system and the Peel (moat defence system) are distinctive as all other walls in the area are intake;
Gorse was feature but its died now;
Lake District National Park Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Page 11 : Appendix E - Field Survey Notes

Rolling Hills;
Horton Fell – completely different character area to Higher Fells;
Loweswater is characterised by enclosed rolling hills;
Sense of enclosure provided by Loweswater Fell and Whiteside (Grassmoor);
At Lorton there is a sudden sense of openness;
Archaeologically kilns are a feature of this valley with Cinderdale Common Scheduled Monument.
Steep hill looking down across wide Lorton Vale, with a patchwork of stonewalls and gently rolling farmland;
Loweswater – densely wooded shore in places (particularly south west side), with very strong sense of tranquillity (other than planes overhead).

Management Issues

Lakeshore management as continuous woodland along shoreline;
Loss of large trees;
Hedgerows replanting needed;
Grazing pressure on the fells, a massive reduction in stock is needed;
Water quality in valley is absolutely critical, as all are candidate SAC. This links to a need to manage farming practices and the need for a water framework directive, especially on the River Cocker;
Gatesgarth – large agricultural building to be built however, ground is too wet during winter;
Demand for increasing need for farm buildings in valley;
Migratory Salmon;
Rannerdale Beck’s interesting tree system;
The character of bluebells and ancient woodland;
Lambing;
Pressure to demolish farm houses and re-building bigger houses;
Loweswater pressure for second homes;
Water levels and changing lake levels due to demand for water, especially in Crummole and Ennerdale where there is a low water supply;
Framework directives.

Area G

Ennerdale

Coastal Plain is more open to the western end of Ennerdale Lake;
Typically lakeland in-bye and in-take land;
Upland fell has a sense of wildness and wild open space;
Completeness about landscape – one continual joined up landscape driving south to Wasdale;
Not interspersed with valleys in a way that other valleys are;
Ennerdale ‘interesting valley’, with trees and fences giving a feeling of not being as wild;
Industrial landscape to east, giving 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 continuously transformed;
Forest is to be open felled to allow a dynamic mosaic of habitats to regenerate;
Forest at Bowness Knott to be removed in 2008 and be replaced with broadleaf regeneration;
River is a central feature with no signs of intentional management in the past. Its path is still being left to natural forces;
Worm Gill, which flows into the Calder is a rapidly moving and changing stream;
Very unusual grassy High Fells;
The Pillar and Grable Crag are historically significant, with Nape’s needle being the birthplace of mountaineering;
• At the Pillar visitors are presented with a stark bare rock stake which is stark in comparison to its surroundings;
• Felling programmes are in place throughout the area;
• Drumlins presents an glacial ‘icy pass’ by the Black Sail hostel;
• Agriculture in this valley is historically non intensive with a lack of agricultural improvement;
• Archaeological survey within the area has identified a large array of Bronze Age Settlements in addition to iron-ore/ and charcoal woodlands;
• There are impressive walls at the top of Haycock;
• The County boundary is marked by metal/wooden posts;
• Agriculture is evident right up to the lakeside;
• Sense of tranquillity;
• On the fell top, forest roads around Gillerthwaiter create a visual and noise impact;
• The bridge over Windal Beck is to be taken out;
• Natural lake/reservoir character;
• In some places the lake shore is in natural and well managed;
• A dam has increased natural level of the lake;
• At the western end the character is more coastal;
• Not many boats use the lakes (although there are a few on Wast water), and fishing is decreasing;
• The coast to coast walk follows the south side of the lake;
• Marter Fell is subject to felling and regeneration, especially around Scaldeskew Wood;
• Burnt out cars are a problem and create a harder/tougher character;
• Sellafield generates a large amount of traffic, and views of Sellafield are always evident;
• Traffic onto fell roads – when Sellafield changing shifts;
• Kinniside Common is an area of agricultural use;
• In areas of reduced stocking scrub arrives which prevents people walking;
• Vegetation is ‘astonishing’ and grazing patterns are visible in the landscape;
• Tree cover follows the fell sides;
• Managing stock on Kinniside Common is a problem. There need to be a reduced number of sheep as tick infestation is occurring within sheep flocks;
• In areas of reduced sheep cotton grass is appearing;
• The right to roam over Kinniside Common is attracting motorbikes;
• A culture of poaching, both fish and game, is evident.

Wastwater and Wasdale Head

• Lord Egremont of Petworth, owned land in this area;
• Intensive management of one of the most important wall systems in Europe, carrying on 6,000 years of man–evolved landscape;
• Neolithic axe factories (3500 BC) exist on Scafell Pike;
• Highest part of valley floor is around the church;
• The bottom of the fell is enclosed by the ring garth wall;
• Farms in the valley generally date from the 16th to 19th centuries. There intakes were used to grow barley during the Napoleonic Wars;
• Classic patchwork feel typical of the Lake District landscape;
• Evolved landscape in which sheep have been farmed since the 11th century, and a continued culture of shepherding;
• Sheep breeds which graze here have Norse origins and are one of the hardiest in Britain;
• Sheep graze great Gabler Ling Mell;
• Great Gable is the birthplace of British Mountaineering;
• Eight settlements at the head of valley away from good agricultural land emphasises the rule of not building on productive land;
• Farmhouses, which are generally white lime rendered, are an important collection of buildings;
• Steadings are generally compact;
• Improved grassland in in-bye valley bottoms is grazed’
• Medieval Dee Path crosses the area and is marked by the National Trust;
Public desire it to be quiet, uncommercialised, far from the crowds, with no new farm buildings;
Try to keep farming community in the valley head;
There is a need for diversification;
Birthwaite Farm has been forced to diversity into a guest house to supplement farm income;
Plight in terms of agriculture in the valleys;
ESA schemes have been successful in keeping herbish meadows, and have provided money for walls (£6,000);
Flash floods are caused by runoff from Lingmell Peck and Great Gable;
River boulders tend to be round in the valleys;
Some rivers have be canalised to try and ‘tame’ them, however this has been unsuccessful and some are reverting to a natural process and forming lakes;
River Wast is a SAC and has diatropic status. In terms of water quality it is one of purest lakes in Europe;
Wandale Head corridor provides a wetland buffer zones;
Surface run–off is a difficult issue;
Three peaks challenge events take place in June, which add to the 41,000 people movements recorded during June;
Iconic landscape of beauty and recreation, with international designated conservation sites;
Wast Water should remain pristine with no surface boats other than canoes;
Conflict management needed between tourists, tenant farmers and conservation;
Environmental Stewardship schemes now give hectarage payment which is higher in green grass land than moorland;
It is perceived that environmental schemes do not provide enough money, as overall it is for public benefit and that the government need to put money into it;
1.5 hours from motorway;
Access management problems include fly tenting and illegal fires;
In some areas there is a need to fence wood and semi-ancient natural woodland;
Large houses and park estates are situated in the valley bottom especially around the River Ert;
Large body of water with daunting screes;
Sky Mead Pass is suffering from footpath erosion;
The Fix the Fells project is attempting to further understand the landscape;
Ling Mell is a quiet and very changeable area;
Wasdale Head village green is managed by Copeland Borough Council;
When looking down from Gable Wasdale Head village appears very small;
Overwhelming/threatening feel in some areas;
Big blocks of stone appear around corners and give the impression of being ‘in your face’;
Quite imposing to some people;
Sheer scree with moorland on top;
Seatoller has an open/big/rounded moorland feel;
This area links to Kinniside Common;
The highest mountain and the deepest lake give a patchwork quilt effect;
More open landscape;
Valley fans out to the coastal plain.

Buck Barrow Farms – Netherwasdale Farm

Netherwasdale Estate is a traditional estate with woodlands and a river;
Managed as a whole for nature conservation not economic gain;
Spreads into the coastal plain;
Soft rounded spongy edge to the end of the valley with woodlands and lagoon at the Youth Hostel which creates a complete contrast with Sellafield pumping station;
The three lakes enquiry tried to increase water levels;
A quantity of water flows to Sellafield from Wast Water;
Visually the landscape draws you down;
Rare fish and rare plants are a feature of the area;
There is a recreational pressure on the lake from diving; Bowderdale has been acquired by the National Trust; Lots of commercial property has resulted in straight lines in the landscape which would benefit from softening; Low lying moraine lands along Beck edges attract otters and weeds etc.; Dairy country to the west is characterised by rolling small farms and could be anywhere in country; At centre of the Lake District; No trees should be planted in valley head other than existing; The conifer plantation above Birthwaite has been removed; ESA schemes are working within the area; Natural England enhanced payment schemes needed to further reduce stock in SSSIs; There are a number of freehold farmland which are large compared to traditional farms and cover the fells; Farms stock getting out of balance as Natural England schemes have higher numbers of natural heefs; Gorges 6000m deep, Walls have to have top fencing as sheep jump over (this has been happening since the 1920s); Wild sheep wander the fells; The Three Peaks Challenge, a mass outdoor event increases the number of visitors creates a noise/pounded wet landscape where sensitive paths are used at 3.00 a.m. by 69 minibuses full of people. Additionally tented villages, fires and tickertape etc. cause problems. The Three Peaks is a huge communication exercise but also creates huge amounts of money for charity; 

**Hardknott/Wynose and Eskdale**

- Views up valley from Wildness and Eskdale to Great Moss Bog; 
- Buttress is a much used camp spot; 
- Scafell and Scafell Pike is a wilderness area; 
- The Upper Valley is comparatively wide with large walled fields; 
- River is vitally important; 
- Trees around river valley are in blocks; 
- Tree care needed primarily at interface between the green in-bye valley bottoms and oakland woods at the fell interface; 
- Ghylls are of nature conservation interest, some have been fenced with ESA funding; 
- Intake is not as big as in Dudden and common; 
- Brother Lyhcell Farm is a ‘chocolate box sheep farm’; 
- At Dubbs these are swimming pools/big wells in the bed of the river; 
- Highly accessible footpath on both sides; 
- Bonfell and Crinkle Craggs is a freehold fell; 
- Sheep are raised on Harter Fell, although there are no sheep on intake; 
- Landscape is beginning to scrub up in woodland linkages between fells and in-bye land; 
- The impact of reduced stacking rates is uncertain; 
- Heather is not regenerating; 
- Common is life blood of Eskdale, the withdrawal of Higher Tier payments will have a big impact; 
- Changing colours of the landscape. Brown colour is caused by bracken by July/August it is a sea of green bracken; 
- When helicopters remove bracken they create straight lines in the landscape that have a huge impact. This is all down to the choice of commoners and land managers; 
- Managers want to get rid of bracken; 
- Compact steadings are lime rendering; 
- Roman forts at Ambleside and Ravenglass are Scheduled Monuments; 
- No lake within Eskdale therefore river is very important however it is not very visual in the valley; 
- Roads are very significant visually; 
- Landscape is very accessible with a road straight through it; 
- Footpaths are visible in landscape and the rights of way are obvious when walked; 
- Vachery in the valley;
- Farm owned by monks of Furness;
- Straight fence break up the landscape. The National Trust which to take these down, as you ‘do not get fell fencing in the Lake District’;
- The tourist route into valleys;
- Big landscape with big farms in the valley head;
- Lower smaller/irregular fields at Wahouse Bridge;
- More intimate crags and little woodlands;
- Stone pack horse bridges creates a relationship between road, river, materials and landscape;
- Sudden change in landscape over bridge with wooded knolls;
- Trusting landowner can have a major impact especially in woods;
- Regeneration of birch and oak occurring on the Stanley Estate;
- Compact steadings with no new farm buildings, which are much more enclosed;
- There is a huge barn at Wa Hows farm;
- Bank barn are built into the rock/hillside/mountain, with a top side accessed by ramp where hay;
- People visiting Eskdale Youth Hostel and Woolpack Inn are tourists, however was a family pub. Common land behind pub with in-gang to take you to the fell i.e. pub here for this reason;
- Fairly steep ridge;
- Blea Tarn/Stony Tarn on top proves a focuses for people’s walks;
- Intake rough grazing on knoll;
- Isa Block to mid – Eskdale dramatic features include a house which can be seen as a landscape feature;
- Planted miles of hedges;
- Heavily enjoyed riverside walks with very good linkages;
- High stone walls on Armitt Hill are all linear;
- Boot intake has fascinating wall patterns which are used for sheep herding and then separating them into cliff units/farms;
- Whineth Belle is a beautiful gorge with a nucleated settlement. Above the trees there is one farm on top of the hill before going onto common land;
- Boot bank has a wooded gorge up to historic mines;
- Narrow-gauge railway took iron to the coast at Ravenglass. This route is now the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway and its historic links should be emphasised;
- Railway is a great way to come up valley (with 150,000 people using it a year);
- Industrial archaeology is a feature of this area with old corn mills, Bobbin Mill and charcoal burning areas, which were used for Lancashire Cotton Mills;
- At the top of Boot bank there is a cluster of peat houses. These are not attached to farms and occur nowhere else in the Lakes;
- Flat bottom valley with not much intake, similar to Wasdale;
- Above the ridgeline flattens out into communal common with old mine tracks visible in the landscape;
- One of largest areas of common land in Lake District;
- Boot provides many riverside walks with many church situated by rivers;
- Traditional coffin route to Wasdale, where there was a church, is up the Bimmoor pass;
- There is no community at Mosaes Trod, they are all holiday cottages;
- This is a disparate valley with scattered farms;
- Quite flat, does not feel as isolated as Budden Valley;
- Fantastic wall patterns and pens at Bill Bank;
- Above peat huts and Neolithic stone circles and tarn;
- Eskdale is a busy valley with the road from the central Lake District and the railway;
- Staley Ghyll waterfall;
- There is a off road Cycle Trail down the valley;
- People management and intervention is an important feature;
- Mill on a low-key tourist attraction – “real” no interpretations;
- Not a very wide valley;
- Muncaster Fell ridge provides separation between the east and the Coast;
- One of quietest valleys;
• Ridge at Muncaster – Ravensglass has coastal woodland;
• Forestry in Mitterdale.

**Duddon Valley**

• Duddon valley changes at every stage, and is seen as scraggy/windy;
• Steep from valley bottom and mostly swathed with a strip of woodland;
• SSS1 from estuary to top of valley;
• Ghylls have two elevations with farms in valley bottom and on the mountain ridge;
• Coniston is craggly;
• First view from south of valleys is of Dow Crag and Coniston Old Man;
• First part of the estuary is a SPA;
• Duddon Hall has good farmland which is in three separate sections;
• In Harter Fell forestry has a big influence especially broadleaf woodland;
• Stick Pike/Brown Pick contain good moss communities;
• Muncaster Fell is remote and creates a cultural divide;
• Duddon is 9 miles from the high central fells. It provides classic improved mountain dairy farming which clings to the bottom of slopes;
• Flat valley floor with a lot of walls;
• Estuary road raised on ridge;
• Craggy flat pastoral winding and wooded;
• SSS1 woodland at Walla Crag, owned by the National Trust;
• Behind crag is a gorge which rises into plateau moorland with farms;
• Scattered settlements including Ulpah and Seathwaite interspersed with scattered hamlets and farmsteads;
• Scattered hilly crags;
• Farms have amalgamated creating bigger units and abandoned farmsteads;
• Very hard craggly valley with fertile valley bottom;
• Water and abstraction works from Seathwaite Tarn for Barrow;
• Duddon has 5 farms, 4/5 holiday cottages in village, the heart has been lost and the crisis in farming is a sharp focus;
• Good flat land;
• Small intakes on top of moor;
• SSS1 woodland strip all way from estuary to top of ridge;
• Hidden valley with huge walled intakes;
• Walnaskar Road used to be a country road but is now a bridleway;
• Industrial slate quarries have been striped;
• Seathwaite Tarn is a dammed reservoir;
• Tam Beck lets water in and out but is not really visible;
• Wetlands are protected under ESA;
• National Trust policy to keep farms working;
• Bluebells are a feature of Longhouse/Tongue House;
• Troutle not amalgamated;
• Walls are falling down on Forestry Commission managed land and National Trust are rebuilding;
• In Dunnerdale Forest (not commercial) conifers are being removed and natural broadleaves regenerating;
• Fences have had to be erected to keep sheep out of woodland;
• Revelation to see opening forestry and heather appear;
• Roads badly eroded with holes in bridge, caused by logging wagons. A solution would be to move walls;
• Jaws has a flat plateau with no walls on other side;
• Cockley Beck Farm has herb rich hay meadows on farm, with huge intakes – going to top of hill;
• Shelterbelt conifers have been planted;
• One of hardest places to farm in Lake District;
• Roman road up to Wrynose Bottom;
- Wrynose Bottom U-shaped valley, with classic Scottish glen characteristics;
- Mosedale valley onto upper ESU;
- Foot and mouth lost all sheep and had to erect 15 mile electric fence around the whole mountain;
- High Budden is very hard;
- Gatescale is an odd old farmstead but is 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 and oak dominating;
- Fells are covered with occasional lone juniper and hawthorn bushes dotted 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, draw 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 north east;
- The area gains a more parkland feel, with many mature (mainly deciduous) trees scattered over the sheep grazed rolling hills;
- Moorland on top of the higher fells;
- The landscape becomes more open – fells north and west;
- Kentmere more rugged, less trees, more moorish, higher, with out-bye visible;
- Onwards landscape very different, hedges and neat stone walls lining the road (very narrow with passing places) and a lot more open;
- Kentmere generally arable with cattle near settlement;
- Lonsleddale is a long enclosed valley with beautiful hedges and protective conservation status;
- The pass has good views;
- Kentmere has no focal point, but most of the houses are lived in and thus parking is a big problem. However, it is very difficult to come up with parking solutions;
- Harkigg is a lot more rugged, with no hedges, more moorland and tuft grass;
- County Council and Stagecoach bus provided six weeks a year at weekend, up the valley, but it has not taken off;
- Guided walks;
- Kentmere reputation of being quite a hostile valley. ‘Farmers and sick people live in Kentmere’;
- Kentmere has a café and a pottery;
- Valley sides more rugged, rocky outcrops and is less lush, with Juniper bushes;
- There is an issue that people are moving out;
- No stream further up;
- Farmland either side, interspersed with trees. Past Staveley some parkland;
- A band of farmland around Staveley, which becomes deeper and more wooded;
- Some of the fells are covered with gorse and bracken and trees;
- Lots of mature deciduous trees;
- Improved land;
- Stocking grassy walls;
- Less fences, more hedges;
- Strong community to the north with lots of social things going on;
- Underbarrow has a pub but no post office but a thriving economy;
• It is more enclosed, and gently undulating to the south;
• Rocky outcrops, south – fantastic views, gentle landscapes;
• Farmers a lot more laid back;
• Sleddale Forest has some heather regeneration;
• Towards the east there are no rights of way;
• Tourism not a big issue;
• Open Access has not changed land use;
• Kentmere Part of SSSI for crayfish etc.;
• Pastoral, no arable in Kentmere;
• More flash floods;
• Very tranquil;
• More enclosed, more wooded, closer to Staveley.

Areas M and N

North of Rydal Water

• Rydal landscape is similar to Grasmere, with 3 distinctive areas;
• Grassmere is a small settlement;
• Interspersed with Victorian non-native trees;
• Formal rhododendrons and azaleas overlay previous coppice woodlands, although some coppice woodland has been maintained;
• Gentler softer and friendlier visitor experience with big car parks;
• White moss more people coming to view it rather than walk it, very good tracks to Fairfield Horshoe;
• Tree cover graduating up the fells as its too steep for sheep;
• Wordsworth/Coleridge/Quincy – cultural association;
• People wanting to discover same sorts of landscapes;
• Small stone quarries maintain the working landscapes;
• Coppice woodland is the dominant industry;
• Grant funding available for agriculture;
• Quarrying developed into a large industrial process during the Elizabethan period;
• Tourism is an industry in its own right;
• Helm Crag and Lion and Lamb are higher fells managed by sheep grazing;
• The road is a key issue. It is the north / south artery to the Lake District;
• Junipers is a post ice age plant, however, none have grown in the last 80 years. There is a BAP to increase coverage by 6%, but will never dominate because of altitude;
• Don’t feel much nature/dead landscape;
• Blind Tarn provides a striking contrast with birdsong, diversity, shelter, ashes;
• Rydal Grasmere was wooded but is now generally open;
• Langdale now a valley but was once much more wooded;
• Once famous for herb-rich meadows – now lost;
• Loughrigg provides a different landscape character. Elterwater and Steelwith Bridge are softer;
• Tarns of Langdale have quarry working;
• Iconic Langdale Piles at the top end of the Valley;
• Spiritual significance with a sense of timelessness, wilderness and ability to escape;
• Perceived as not touched by man;
• Old Ash plantation with pollarded trees;
• People and grazing pressure;
• Classic U-shaped valley and rain a major problem;
• Soft wood “White fell” has the strongest grasses left as sheep selectively graze;
• Juniper on common (where no real control);
• Neolithic Stone axe factory site;
• Bowfell and Crinkle Crags;
• Raven Crags significant cultural identity as a climbing heartland (pre 1930);
• Sense of scale/imposing landscape;
• Less farms in this area but those that do exist appear as little white houses in the landscape;
• Needs a grazing management on the fell;
• Regeneration is not viable in Napoleonic intakes but transition to open fell might be;
• Hawthorn flowering in intakes all dates to 1st World War when grazing pressure dipped;
• Styck/Ghyll and Old Dungeon Chyll creates a big grey wall;
• Corne Tarn has been dammed to be used as a gunpower factory;
• 200 years ago burnt peat not wood to smelt iron ore;
• Motorways 1960s;
• Stark geological landscapes differ from one area to another.

Area I

• Wray Castle, Windermere, Hawkshead, Claife and Ambleside are within this area;
• B5235 runs through the area;
• Islands in the lake;
• Wray Caste is a visitor attraction created at the end of the picturesque movement;
• Boat service from top half of lake;
• Low Wary campsite is well hidden but creates visitor pressure especially at Easter;
• Blenheim Tarn is a SSSIs/NNRs for geological interest;
• Hawkshead is a honeypot village, containing the Beatrix Potter gallery. The film has had an impact on the number of people coming to lakes;
• Deeper interest in Beatrix Potter - link galleries/landscapes which inspired her;
• Hawkshead – Wordsworth links and corrections with where he stayed – key walking links up to Tam Hows;
• Lower level woodland on western lake shore;
• Key views to western woodland as one of first views of the Lake District;
• Clear felling of conifer coppicing to allow natural regeneration;
• Most of lakeshore is broadleaf deciduous woodland;
• Esthwaite Water has a big fish farm which creates water quality issues;
• Windermere has a catchment management plan;
• Hilltop Farm is a world famous visitor attraction, which creates parking and traffic issues;
• Claife station is a old viewing station linked to the Victorian Grand Tours;
• Claife and Wray Castle are National Trust sites;
• Car parks, traffic and housing are all problems;
• Low Wary Farm (owned by the National Trust) and developed as part of castle to include craft workshops;
• A number of farm buildings are empty and need sensitive diversification;
• The National Trust basecamp is situated at Latterbarrow;
• Hawkshead – courthouse – monastic influence & owning land in Lake Dis.;
• Bringing back hedgerows, dry stone walls and slate shard walls around Hawkeshead;
• Belle Isle is a privately owned island;
• Ferry create queues on roads near Sawrey / Far Sawrey in summer which is part of the experience;
• Colours along lakeshore can be stunning in autumn. New England on a smaller-scale;
• The battlemented Wray Castle has a picturesque setting with parkland to the north with beech trees. Its setting is enhanced with Coniston and the Langdale Pikes as a backdrop;
• Strong sense of tranquillity;
• Public transport is great but the size of vehicles on country lanes is an issue;
• Fire risk is limited due to tarns, mosses and mines;
• Smaller village to south has a sense of peace & tranquillity along western shore as people leave cars along the eastern shore;
• 4 Bs network of boat, bus, boots and bike around Barney Hill;
• Beatrix Potter selling points include Herdwick sheep & literary side;
• Tourism enhanced by number of B&Bs and guest houses;
• Low Wray campsite has excellent view to Latter Barrow wooded campsites;
Archaeological sites include charcoal burning along lakeshore and Old bark industry which was shipped across the lake;

Incredibly busy park at Hawkeshead;

4* Hotel at Hawkeshead;

Park and ride to hilltop;

Parish Church is listed;

Village pressures, 20% of houses are second homes

Hawkeshead Centre – hub of original village, with doctors and post office;

Beatrix Potter gallery is a visitor attraction;

Sawrey contains a number of hotels and B&Bs;

Not enough understanding about lack of car parking;

Castle Cottage, near Sawrey sells books and paintings;

Hilltop Farm needs a balance between conservation and access;

Windermere is suffering from erosion at the lake shore, varying water levels, flooding of roads and changes in water levels which may lead to different vegetation/wildlife;

Small roads and large amounts of traffic;

More diverse ethnic groups find this area more accessible and open;

One step across lake on ferry is wilder and gets more inner city visitors “Transition Zone”;

Tranquil western shore.

Area H and I

Remote, isolated, narrow valley with farms and houses dotted along the valley sides;

Pastoral farming mainly sheep but some cattle;

Stone walls dividing fields;

Lush, with many trees scattered on the valley bottom and sides;

Grassy verges with wildflowers along the single track road;

Hedges with mature trees lining toad and stream;

Further in the valley stone walls replaces hedges, lining the road, in most places;

Idyllic far-reaching view part;

Wooded valley sides. Even valley floor has quite a few trees on it;

The higher up the valley the more dramatic, steeper and more rugged the backdrop becomes;

Undulating pastoral farmland;

Fairly tranquil but noise from the A291;

Woodland, goose, heath land with roads lined with 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 Whitbarrow Scar;

Views of Black Coombe;

Wooded valley order of Dunnerdale;

View on Old Man from Birker Fell;

Wooded views to Muncaster Fell;

The landscape changes quite dramatically near Santon, more tranquil pastoral farmland, with the hamlet of Santon Bridge;

Views of the fells;

Gosforth is flat.

Coastal Plain

The west is less touristy and the farmers struggle a bit more. More rundown, more repairs needed in places, stone walls in less good a condition. Less National Park feel;
• Wind turbines and Stubb Place visible from the car park. Views of 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;
• Beach less inviting;
• Views on Sellafield power station in the north;
• Further north the views become more open including views of 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 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 with the sea beyond;
• Hedges along the roads with 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 to the sea, and the valley in the east (Ulpha Park).

Area N
**Borrowdale**

- Seathwaite relatively contained by valley sides with strong sense of tranquillity despite car parking and walkers;
- Gushing noise of Sourmilk Ghyll. This dramatic landscape feature is set against the fell backdrop;
- Fell is relatively wooded with deciduous oaks, ash, birch etc.;
- Craggy at fell top with some scree;
- Strong pattern of stone walls with fences above wall;
- Sheep fawning in valley bottom;
- Mature trees;
- Sense of remoteness;
- Two campsites;
- Some clear felling in woodland which tends to follow path of ghylls;
- Stone revetments along River Derwent;
- Lots of deposited rounded material in river beds;
- Some dry ghylls;
- Gushing, clear, trinkling water in beck;
- Lack of settlement pattern in view;
- Stone bridges over river;
- Very much sense of a wooded valley;
- Stonethwaite is a small hamlet with a pub and B&B, surrounded by a dramatic wooded backdrop;
- Looking west open fells;
- Stone buildings with strong sense of tranquillity;
- In-bye land visible;
- Mature landscape structure;
- Old Church and school and row of white houses (visible in landscape);
- Quite compact;
- Fell, farmland, lakes, rivers, woodland – one of most wooded valleys in Lake District;
- Semi-natural/ancient wood pasture – one of best examples in Western Europe;
- Woodland straining against cultural fabric;
- If woodland not managed it will deteriorate continuously;
- Langstrath was once wooded with pollarded 8-10ft ash trees. This has suffered from gradually deteriorated as land has been farmed more intensively;
- Cultural versus. natural environment designations – no absolute value put on cultural;
- Caerwent SSSI/ SAC is in an unfavourable condition. Natural England cannot now divert river;
- Catchment Flood Management Process started where low value agricultural land will be allowed to inundate;
- Big floods every 2 months;
- Bright green fields and stone walls;
- Bottom fields critical to feeding system – fodder for animals;
- Upland fell suffering from a loss of sheep with more dwarf heaths and accretion of woodland;
- Marboth Fells and Watend Lath is predominantly heather and is typical of a lot of fell landscapes which are changing and will become more difficult to walk;
- Bracken top line is controlled by frost however as climate changes frost line will creep up as will bracken;
- Braken was intensively managed at one time for bedding but now there is not the resources for this;
- Derwent Fells has a bracken management plan;
- Bracken, with no winter grazing is a pre-cursor to woodland;
- Dynamically changing landscape is always changed;
- Fell farms are a skeleton of what was formally there. National Trust is trying to diversify/ manage for natural and cultural environment;
- Look at valley as a whole unit: natural/dynamic flux and flow, landscape has always been different and changed;
- Stone axe factories and mining activity highlight the busier industrial landscape that once was;
- What is precious is subjective;
Lake District and then opens again;
Stones and lava;
Bowderstone tells a geological story including mines, minerals, slate, copper, lead and zinc;
Connection with mining for a long time but rock changes and should not to be a museum;
Long term forest plans (100yrs/500yrs) but can you or can’t you manage over this period?;
Iconic “ness” is microcosm, big natural, clean/ crystal clear waters, big lake with fell backdrops;
Iconic farmhouses;
Road end/valley head – hardly changed since 1930;
Why choose a particular period in time to re-create?;
Walls are perils in landscape e.g. fences on fells is compartmentalising the landscape which will benefit a habitat “emotive reaction”; Southern end of lake is silting up;
Derwent and Bassenthwaite used to be joined;
Sediment is carried down by rivers and rate of sedimentation would change;
In monastic times the river course was changed;
‘managed retreat’? could be undertaken however, fabric behind river defences is not ready and land ownership limits plans for this;
How will water framework directive impact on the habitats directive and what happens about multi-objective delivery in a catchment area?
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 as its a “Chocolate Box” valley;
Can see whole valley from Derwent Water landings including Scafell Pike etc. and can sample everything;
Not changed very much very “rural”;
Hotels which have been there a long time have a traditional scale and grander hotels such as Ladore have artists and literary associations;
Scafell Pike and Great Cable ascending from Seathwaite form focal points;
Cat Bells is very popular and known by children;
Mountaineering and climbing has historic connections in this area at Shepherd’s crag – as much as any other valley;
Caves exist at Milligan Batton;
Just as busy in winter as summer;
Doesn’t rain a lot, but rains “proper”, water discharge is dramatic with gushing sounds/ white water streams;
Has changed more dramatically in past when quarries were there?;
Got to allow landscape to change and develop;
Just starting on a period of rapid change with 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?;
Permanent pasture in valley bottoms – farmers could step away - could let it scrub up – grow woodland – not designated for its habitat;
Cultural attributes are not protected;
People who live and farm – not protected only there because of economic incentive;
Newlands – far more remote and inaccessible – no visitor attractions or café – people don’t hang around just pass through – was once a focal point for mining activity at Price Crag mines – evocative and isolates places;
Mines on Catbells (was once industrialised);
Little towns with “back of beyond” feeling;
Still a farmed landscape;
Keskadale Woods – taken out of grazing – good example of allowing change to happen;
Little interaction between locals and visitors;
Big changes in Swindeside Woods with regards deer, felling etc;
Area includes Ashness Farm and Bridge, Seathwaite and Bowderstone; Park at Barrowdale Gates and hill to west; Stonethwaite is an end hamlet at the end of a typical Lake District road; Narrow section of river; Scafell Hotel is a white building with black windows, surrounded by estate railings and grassland; White stone cottages; Open sheep grazed riverside pasture to south of Jaus of Borrowdale; Bowderstone Car Park; High Green Fell is wooded on the lower slopes; Grange fell is a combination of smooth and craggy; Trees on high fell at Grange Fell; Background birdsong and rushing water in Derwent; Strong sense of enclosure at jaws of Borrowdale with dramatic ridge lines; Noise associated with main road corridor; Some bluebell understorey in spring; Dramatic views along Newlands valley to Boosenthwaite; Views across Derwent water; Keswick – wooded setting; Borrowdale Hotel at Greenbank; Watendlath has a wooded character with narrow roads, trees/canopies overhang roads, beck etc.; High stone walls enclosing narrow road corridors; Very strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity; Newlands Valley has wooded coniferous knolls with a lush valley floor surrounded by high fells; Stone walls with fences on top; Strong sense of tranquillity; Parkland with mature veteran trees; Coniferous woodland backdrop to north with patches of open fell which provide contrast; Forest Commission open fell; Some dairying on road to Bewaldeth; Windfarm to north; Dramatic views to Bassenthwaite Lake to south and to Binsey moorland.

Areas E and F

Ullswater and Brothers Water character area; Boggy valley, reed and woodland around Ullswater; Quite a lot of beech planted in Victorian period around Ullswater; Lot of ash pollards; Very popular with artists due to ‘amazing constant changing light’; Very pleasing, picturesque with high fells; Lots of National Trust estates; Dockray upland valley with views on the low fells; Mature vegetation lining single track road towards Dacre; Pastoral up to forest plateau; Fences and hedges, no stone walls (or hardly any) in Eamont Valley; Rolling arable hills with some stone walls; Lowther Castle park; Haweswater reservoir; Stone walls along the road; Burbanks village built to service the waterworks in the 1930s; Swinedale Beck; Crags; Pastoral land, trees, farms, stone walls, isolated and remote with one track road; Saw quarry at Thornhouse;
- Grazing cows;
- Lots of grass and rushes with clumps of forest.

**Areas I and M**

- Rydal Water has wooded/soft valley sides with a High Fell backdrop;
- Predominantly deciduous with some coniferous;
- Langdale Chapel Site has shiny grey spoil heaps alongside Gt. Langdale Beck;
- Dramatic water flow when raining which also provides background noise;
- Ellerwater river is wide and gushing surrounded by traditional white Lakeland stone cottages;
- Exclusive timeshare/holiday homes complex;
- Green lanes are narrow and mossy with overhanging trees;
- North east Coniston is modern with white semi-detached houses which are not in keeping with vernacular and not screened from main rain corridor or landscape;
- School with parking associated is screened to east by mature trees/woodland;
- Bluebell understorey to woodland and wild garlic;
- Graythwaite Hall has very mature parkland trees, with a different character;
- Cunsey Beck needs to come out as different;
- Two dales going through centre of Grizedale Forest;
- Hawkeshead eastern approach to village is modern – 1970s/80s houses;
- North west end of Basenthwaite has ornate planting of beeches and mature tree-lined roads;
- Parkland has well maintained walks with copiced beech in hedge and rhododendrons on lakeshore;
- Big Hotels including Armathwaite Hall and views to Skiddaw;
- Deciduous Lime trees and low trimmed hedges;
- Ireby Grange estate houses;
- High Ireby has mature avenues along narrow roads with stone walls;
- Ireby Hall is white washed/ beige grey with coloured windows;
- 1454 – hedgebank with pollarding;
- Bassenthwaite contains farms and council houses within the village with traditional coloured windows;
- Bresthwaite, Bassenthwaite and Ulldale have high hedgerows along road corridor;
- Derwent Valley has a wooded parkland mature landscape.

**Area I**

**Tarn Hows**

- On top of the knoll;
- Quarrying and Black Crag visible;
- Rich mosaic of different cultural landscapes in this part of the Park;
- Tarn Hows is artificial but naturalised;
- Central Fell is a 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;
• 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 National Trust, generally forestry. Mix of semi-ancient woodland,
amenity woodland (coniferous and broadleaved);
• Creating views towards distinctive features (crags, Tarn Hows, Langdale Pikes). Hold true to the
principles of views, as it was 100 years ago;
• Yew Tree Farm (National Trust) 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 valley sides;
• 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 Environment Agency and South 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;
• 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;
• National Trust owns Yewdale Beck, Church Beck (Copper mines);
• Improve habitats, mitigate flooding, manage productive woodlands;
• Coniferous plantations planted 20 years 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;
• Oldest Alder in the Lake District, England, maybe even Europe or the world and 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;
• 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;
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 World War I.
A lot more wooded in this area of the Lake District;
Economic engine for the Lake District is tourism but logjam is the changes farmers need to take (to survive);
Foot & Mouth was a watershed, in 2001;
11 tenant farms in area. Usually the husbandry and management is very good, however some less so;
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 do not want to take over their parents’ farms;
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 2 years;
Young people camping (alcohol and drugs);
Quad bikes;
Lama tracks at 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-byre/out-byre land; enclosure, from the Elizabethan period till nowish;
Boundaries to segregate stock;
Wasdale Head (?): good stones;
Langdale stone axe factory;
Flat dress stone about to be used for wall was found to be an axe;
For parkland enclosure and stately homes usually;
1m² 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 25 years). Upland path maintenance. Issue, the last 15-20 years, 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;
• 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 Lake District background (history, geology etc) more accessible for people.
APPENDIX F
RECORD OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION
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 to brief stakeholders on the study and discuss emerging findings of the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines work:

- **Wednesday 20th 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 below for details.

- **Friday 25th May 2007 at the National Park Authority’s offices in Kendal**
  This 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 was held for Natural England, Friends of Lake District and National Park staff, and involved a site visit exercise to Tarn Hows to undertake example field surveys in groups. An example of the survey form used is provided below.

- **Thursday 19th July 2007 at the National Park Authority’s offices in Kendal**
  Two workshops were held to present the interim findings of the guidelines work, and to provide an opportunity to discuss how these can be used to inspire locally appropriate landscape management and inform the planning and development control process. See workshop note below for details.

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 helped 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
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 Tranquility
- 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

- Identify 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 apposed 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.
LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT & GUIDELINES

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.

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 (e.g. 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 (e.g. 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 – e.g. Keswick Masterplan)
- Barn conversions/farm B & B’s

Energy/Infrastructure

- Sustainable and small/domestic-scale local energy generation options (e.g. 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 – e.g. 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 (tranquillity 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).
1. DESCRIBING THE CHARACTER OF THE TARN HOWS LANDSCAPE

Task 1a - Identifying the Area’s Distinctive Characteristics

Using the attached checklist as a guide, list in the spaces below the main distinctive characteristics that you consider contribute to the Area’s distinctive character:

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

Alternatively, draw an annotated sketch in the box below to illustrate the Area’s main characteristics...
Task 1b - Description of Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place

In the space below, describe how the distinctive physical, cultural/historical, visual and perceptual characteristics combine to give Tarn Hows its unique sense of place (maximum of 3/4 paragraphs): 

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2. DEFINING GUIDELINES FOR THE TARN HOWS LANDSCAPE

Task 2a - Identifying the Area’s Sensitivities and Capacity for Change

Thinking about the character description above, list in the spaces below the key positive attributes of the Tarn Hows landscape that you consider to be inherently sensitive to change – i.e. the essential character of the Area would be changed if these attributes were lost or altered:

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Taking the above into account, describe below the capacity of this Area to accommodate change:

- ........................................................................................................................................
- ........................................................................................................................................
- ........................................................................................................................................
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Task 2b - Identifying Forces for Change in the Area

Based on your local knowledge, list in the spaces below the main positive and negative changes that have affected/could affect the character of the Town Hows landscape.

Past changes:

- ........................................................................................................................................
- ........................................................................................................................................
- ........................................................................................................................................
- ........................................................................................................................................
- ........................................................................................................................................

Future changes - short (next 5 years) and longer term (20 years +):

- ........................................................................................................................................
- ........................................................................................................................................
- ........................................................................................................................................
Task 2c - Identifying an Overall Management Objective/Vision for the Area

Taking into account the above evaluation of the Area’s sensitivities and forces for change, describe concisely below what you consider to be the overall management objective/vision for Tarn Hows:

Drawing on all the above information, including your own knowledge of landscape management/planning issues, what specific land management and planning/design guidelines do you consider would be helpful in managing future change in the Tarn Hows landscape?

- ...
- ...
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- ...

Task 2d – Selecting Indicators for Monitoring Changes in Landscape Character

Can you suggest an indicator for the monitoring of future change in the Area’s landscape character? The indicator will need to be capable of objectively measuring 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 landscape, or (ii) positive changes that are consistent with the defined character and support/enhance the special qualities of the landscape.

Describe your proposed indicator(s) below:

- ...
- ...
- ...
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- ...
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- ...
- ...
NOTE OF STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

Held on Thursday 19th July 2007 at the Lake District National Park Authority Offices, Kendal

Participants

Andrew Herbert Lake District National Park Authority*
Carole Hodgson Country Land and Business Association
Chris Greenwood Lake District National Park Authority*
Jan Darrall Friends of the Lake District
Jenny Wain Cumbria County Council (Landscape)
Richard Wood Allerdale Borough Council
Jeremy Barlow National Trust*
Jim Loxham National Trust
Judith Nelson English Heritage
Elizabeth Scott Clarke South Lakeland District Council
Paul Clavey United Utilities
Richard Greenwood Cumbria Tourism
Martin Staveley Cumbria Vision
Richard Hatch Environment Agency
Stuart Pasley Natural England
Susannah English Natural England*

Facilitators

Dominic Watkins CBA
Keith Rowe ADAS

* Members of the client commissioning group

Organisations Invited but did not attend

Lake District Local Access Forum
Eden District Council
Cumbria Wildlife Trust
North West Development Agency
Forestry Commission
Cumbria Association of Local Councils
National Farmer’s Union
Copeland Borough Council
Government Office North West
Environment Agency
Cumbria County Council (Heritage)

Purpose of the Workshops

The Client Commissioning Group is keen to consult and involve a wide range of stakeholder organisations in the project as possible. To facilitate this, these workshops aimed to:

- Brief stakeholders on the study
- Present the interim findings of the guidelines work
- Obtain stakeholder’s views on how the example guidelines provided could be used to inspire locally appropriate landscape management and inform the planning and development control process
General Comments

- Cumbria Tourism – currently using ‘sense of place’ to define 40 or so distinct local character areas in order to better promote the local offer – products and places to visit or stay. Also LEADER Plus – a project on local food distinctiveness.

- National Trust – national initiative ‘Plot to Plate’ has two local projects looking at wool and meat products. Yew Tree Farms at Borrowdale and at Coniston (one using Belted Galloway cattle and the other Herdwick Sheep). Also multi agency Rough Fell Sheep Project.

- Landscape change is required in the high fells as the area is denuded and needs much more biological diversity. E.g. expanding the re-introduction of ospreys will have a positive effect on environmental tourism.

- Cumbria Vision – economic drivers. Need to look at the character assessment in order to consider the areas’ capacity for change and the likely sensitivities around this. Development need for housing and business and this must be set within a sustainable environmental framework.

- Affordable local housing for local people is the single biggest issue at the moment. Working from home needs significant investment in communication and other infrastructure, how might this be affected by landscape constraints. Similarly, there are increasing expectations from the visitor market expecting spas/ golf courses etc.

- Public benefits in the future – will these be the same as today e.g. will farmers be paid to catch water/ manage the carbon cycle/ produce renewable energy?

- Traffic & Transport – a need to de-clutter, repair previous damage and generally enhance the route corridors. Issues of kerbs on rural roads and HGV’s being directed by satellite navigation systems down roads previously deemed unsuitable for HGVs.

- Increased demand for extreme sports. Cumbria is going to be the centre of Adventure 2008 and its unique selling point is its natural facilities.

- Currently a focused drive on small scale renewable energy projects – planning in favour of small scale, not large industrial energy schemes.

Feedback on Scope of Example Guidelines

- Appears to be an emphasis on ecological issues. Needs more tourism/ recreational element in forces for change etc.

- Need to pick up influencing factors from adjacent landscape types.

- Not clear where the other elements in the landscape are e.g. roads and other detractors. Opportunities to influence transport infrastructure through Local Development Frameworks such as use of quiet road surfaces.

- Sensitivities – how have the value judgements been made (good/ bad/ indifferent)? or have the most significant attributes just been highlighted. Cumulative effects e.g. more than one wind farm/ another road sign?

- More needed on how the negative attributes can be turned into opportunities for change e.g. intrusive forestry blocks.

- Are the opportunities potential objectives for landscape management?

- Should Capacity for Change go after sensitivity?
• Consider using agriculture/ climate change/ development headings for both opportunities and for objectives

• Tranquillity mapping data to enhance character descriptions – verification of field observations.

• Will need to check how these guidelines link/ match up with the Cumbria Landscape Guidelines

• Need for balance between detailed versus generic guidelines, and if there are any implications arising from distinct omissions

• Process Guidelines (e.g. use Historic Landscape Character Map) versus Intervention Guidelines (e.g. preserve and enhance stone walls)

• Consider guiding principles that cover all types

• Use Settlement & Building character to discuss those elements that detract from the general landscape character e.g. pylons/ roads etc

• Link guidelines with Countryside Quality Counts approach for ease of monitoring and reporting
Consultation on Draft Final Report
16th February 2008

A draft final version of the overall report was sent to the following Stakeholder organisations on 16th February 2008:

- Lake District Local Access Forum;
- Land and Business Association;
- Eden District Council;
- United Utilities;
- North West Development Agency;
- Forestry Commission;
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust;
- South Lakeland District Council;
- National Farmers Union;
- Cumbria County Council;
- Copeland Borough Council;
- English Heritage;
- Cumbria Vision;
- Government Office North West;
- Cumbria Tourism
- Environment Agency;
- Allerdale Borough Council;
- Friends of the Lake District;
- National Trust;
- Natural England;
- Lake District National Park Authority.

Comments received were incorporated into the final report where appropriate.
PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The responses from the following public consultation processes were used, as appropriate, to inform the Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines.

This public involvement acted as a means of validating and enhancing the professional work and opinions of both the study team and key stakeholder organisations. The comments provided useful additional information for incorporation into the work on characterising and describing the landscape, and in some cases also helped identify issues to be addressed by the guidelines.

Questionnaire Survey

A questionnaire-based survey was used to engage individuals (residents and visitors) in the project. This was felt to be an appropriate approach in light of the geographical scale involved and the available resources of the project, and permitted relatively large numbers of people to contribute to the study.

The aim of the questionnaire was to seek qualitative responses to the following key questions to inform the study:

- What aspects of the Park’s character do you value and why?
- What concerns do you have about how the character of the Park has changed in the past?
- What specific environmental, social and/or economic factors do you think may affect the future character of the Park?
- Are there any areas with opportunities for conserving and enhancing the landscape?

A copy of the questionnaire is provided below.

The questionnaire/survey was advertised in the local press and media. The questionnaire was made available through the Lake District National Park Authority website, at Tourist Information Centres and by email/post on request from the National Park Authority.

The survey period ran from beginning of May to end of August 2007.

A total of 285 responses were received (231 paper questionnaires and 54 responses online). A database containing the responses has been created by the LDNPA.

Parish Council Consultation

In addition to the above, all the Parish Councils within the National Park were sent a letter in July 2007 inviting them to comment on a draft of the LCA report and/or complete a Consultation Questionnaire.

The consultation period ran from beginning of August to end September 2007.
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 wilderness

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?

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4. Can you suggest any positive changes for conserving and improving the landscape? Are there any specific locations where these apply?

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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?

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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:

- Parliamentary Enclosure
- Planned Private Enclosure
- Unknown Planned Enclosure

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5 Williamson 2003, 1
6 Rackham 1986, 161
7 Belonging to North West Water, now United Utilities
8 Lancaster University Archaeological Unit 1997, 54, 56
9 Quartermaine 1989
Isolated enclosure

The processes behind planned enclosure are well understood and have been studied in some detail, both in the uplands\textsuperscript{10} and in the lowland mosses\textsuperscript{11}. 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{12}. 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{13}.

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 smooths, 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 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)

\textsuperscript{10} Whyte 2003
\textsuperscript{11} Hodgkinson et al 2000
\textsuperscript{12} Rackham 1986, 155-6, who defines mindless field systems as being laid out without any regard to terrain
\textsuperscript{13} See Langdale case study
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.\(^{14}\)

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.\(^{15}\) 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.\(^{16}\) 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.\(^{17}\) 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 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.

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\(^{14}\) Harpley 2005

\(^{15}\) www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cumbria/Reserves/FoulshawMoss.htm

\(^{16}\) www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cumbria/Reserves/MeathopMoss.htm

\(^{17}\) www.jncc.gov.uk/protected/sites
The research strategy for the North West\textsuperscript{18} 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{19}. Other areas are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest for their geological (Langdale Pikes) and botanical (Troutbeck) interest\textsuperscript{20}. 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{21}. This has occurred through changes in land management, such as the decline of hill cattle and the cessation of bracken-cutting\textsuperscript{22}, 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{23} 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{24} 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 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\textsuperscript{25}. 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\textsuperscript{26}. Indeed, the mountains could be seen as a backdrop to the lakes and

\textsuperscript{18} www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/liverpoollife/archaeology/arf
\textsuperscript{19} www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection
\textsuperscript{20} www.magic.gov.uk
\textsuperscript{21} Halliday 1997, 54-5
\textsuperscript{22} Winchester 2000, 6-7
\textsuperscript{23} Lund and Southwell 2002, 45
\textsuperscript{24} Blaise Vyner pers comm
\textsuperscript{25} Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food nd, 2
\textsuperscript{26} Nicholson 1955, 79
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\(^{27}\), 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.’\(^{28}\)

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’\(^{29}\).

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’\(^{30}\). 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’\(^{31}\).

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 much loved landscapes, irreplaceable, living historic monuments, which inspire us and provide us with a sense of place and history.’\(^{32}\)

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, tarns, 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\(^{33}\) and deaneries certainly seem to be based on such natural divisions, and

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\(^{27}\) See case study on Derwentwater

\(^{28}\) Nicholson 1955, 57

\(^{29}\) Gilpin 1788, 7-8

\(^{30}\) Gilpin 1788, 9

\(^{31}\) Gilpin 1788, 222-3

\(^{32}\) Rural Affairs Minister, Jim Knight in *Keepers of time: a statement of policy for England’s ancient and native woodland. Forestry Commission*

\(^{33}\) The equivalent to hundreds or wapentakes, and were the administrative structure used in Cumberland and Westmorland; Winchester 1987, 13
their names, ‘Allerdale’, ‘Kendale’, ‘Lonsdale’ also indicate the importance of topographical units in early territorial formation\textsuperscript{34}. 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\textsuperscript{35}. 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\textsuperscript{36}.

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\textsuperscript{37}. This was especially true of the area covered by the Lake District National Park, where the landscape is dominated by marginal and uncultivatable land. Indeed, the only successful 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\textsuperscript{38}, and it was granted a market charter in 1276\textsuperscript{39}. Failed attempts were made to establish towns elsewhere\textsuperscript{40}, 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\textsuperscript{41}, 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\textsuperscript{42}. Other market charters were granted in the medieval period to Staveley, Heskett Newmarket and Ireby\textsuperscript{43}, 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 lay within the lowlands surrounding the fells, and outside the boundaries of the National Park, such as Kendal, Penrith and Cockermouth\textsuperscript{44} 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\textsuperscript{45}.

\textsuperscript{34} Winchester 1987, 16
\textsuperscript{35} Yates 1786
\textsuperscript{36} Donald 1774; Jeffreys 1770
\textsuperscript{37} Winchester 1987, 121; Newman 2004
\textsuperscript{38} Winchester 1987, 122
\textsuperscript{39} Whellan 1869, 342; Millward and Robinson 1970, 213
\textsuperscript{40} Winchester 1987, 122-4
\textsuperscript{41} Nicolson and Burn 1777, 16
\textsuperscript{42} Millward and Robinson 1970, 211-12
\textsuperscript{43} Millward and Robinson 1970, 214-15
\textsuperscript{44} Millward and Robinson 1970, 205-10
\textsuperscript{45} Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 379
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 Millom46.

**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 Plain47. 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 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 Yates48, 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’49. 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 1700s50. 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.

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46 Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 401
47 Roberts and Wrathmell 2002, 60
48 Donald 1774; Jeffries 1770; Yates 1786
49 Rackham 1986, 4-5
50 [www.lythdamsons.org.uk](http://www.lythdamsons.org.uk)
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
- 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, Ebleton, 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 centred 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

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51 Lake District National Park 2006, 32
52 Williamson and Bellamy 1987, 196-7
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>
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<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>
<tr>
<td>Lowther Castle</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>558ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muncaster Castle</td>
<td>II*</td>
<td>287ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rydal Hall</td>
<td>II*</td>
<td>85ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rydal Mount</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>&gt;1ha</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 Alauda, 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 Moreshy, 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

53 Williamson and Bellamy 1987, 145
54 Except where specified, the following information is taken from the Register of Parks and Gardens, maintained by English Heritage
55 See the HLC case study “Through a glass darkly”.
56 Hindle 1984, 13
57 Allan 1994
waterways, such as Lake Windermere to move goods to Galava at Ambleside, where there was a large vicus, or civilian settlement, and storage facilities58.

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 Road59. 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.

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 moor60. 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 Fell61. The Crosthwaite Enclosure Commissioners, too, provided for considerable road improvements, completing 15 public highways in 184862. 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 moss63. 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 184664. 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 bring65. 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 Millom66. 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 195767. 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

58 Shotter 1996, 52
59 Hindle 2001, 92
60 Hindle 1984, 164
61 Whyte 2003, 74
62 Williams 1975, 86
63 Whyte 2003, 74-5
64 Davies-Shiel and Marshall 1969, 187
65 Joy 1983, 196
66 Joy 1983, 103
67 Millward and Robinson 1970, 243-4
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

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\(^{68}\). 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 Ennerdale, 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\(^{69}\). 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\(^{70}\). 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\(^{71}\).

\(^{68}\) Winchester 1987, 117-19
\(^{69}\) Bowden 2000, 6, 12
\(^{70}\) Bowden 2000, 16-18
\(^{71}\) John Hodgson pers comm
### Lake District Industries

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<tr>
<th><strong>Mining</strong></th>
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<tbody>
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<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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<th><strong>Metal processing</strong></th>
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<td>Bloomeries</td>
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<td>Bloom smithies</td>
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<td>Blast furnaces</td>
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<td>Forges</td>
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<th><strong>Quarrying</strong></th>
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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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<th><strong>Woodland crafts</strong></th>
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<td>Hoop making</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tools</td>
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<td>Swill baskets</td>
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<td>Brushes</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Other woodland industry</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Bark peeling (for tanning)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Potash manufacture</td>
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<td>Charcoal production</td>
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<th><strong>Water-powered industry</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Bobbins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gunpowder</td>
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<td>Flax retting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fulling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
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<td>Corn</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Textile production (Cotton, wool and linen)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Spinning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weaving</td>
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<td>Dyeing</td>
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<th><strong>Water Industry</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Reservoirs</td>
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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.
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 was 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 fellsides, 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 landscape with substantial woodland, forming a rich mosaic of textures, patterns and colours. 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, 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 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 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. 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.

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78 Countryside Commission 1998, 69
79 Countryside Commission 1998, 64
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 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 woodland81.

**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 Hallthwaites. 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 Silloth, Bootle and Hycemoor 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. 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. It 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 fells82. 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.

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81 Countryside Commission 1998, 31-2
82 Countryside Commission 1998, 26
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. 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.

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83 Countryside Commission 1998, 31
84 Countryside Commission 1998, 31
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 Lowellwater 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 Thornthwaite 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, 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 fellsides 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 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 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 mountains85.

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85 Countryside Commission 1998, 33
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 mostly ancient enclosures with some intakes. This landscape comprises 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.

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 fellside, 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

86 Countryside Commission 1998, 31-2
87 Countryside Commission 1998, 31
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**

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 are significant areas of enclosed and wooded fellsides, which mirror the intakes and planned enclosure of lower altitudes. There is little woodland on these enclosed fellsides, 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 fellsides 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 scars. 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 commonal 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 landscapes.

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89 Countryside Commission 1998, 31
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\(^90\). 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\(^91\)

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 Morcambe 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.

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.

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92 Shattered Stone, an investigation into the sale of water-worn limestone in the UK. Countryside Agency, 2005.
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.

Calcareaous 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 5ha 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.
GLOSSARY

Agricultural Land Classification

The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) was introduced by MAFF in 1988.

The ALC system classifies land into five grades, with Grade 3 subdivided into Subgrades 3a and 3b. The ‘best and most versatile land’ is defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a by Sustainable Development in Rural Areas. The grades are shown on Figure 2.3 and defined as follows:

**Grade 1 - excellent quality agricultural land**
Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly includes top fruit, soft fruit, salad crops and winter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.

**Grade 2 - very good quality agricultural land**
Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land in the grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1.

**Grade 3 - good to moderate quality agricultural land**
Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. Where more demanding crops are grown yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.

**Subgrade 3a - good quality agricultural land**
Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops, especially cereals, or moderate yields of a wide range of crops including cereals, grass, oilseed rape, potatoes, sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops.

**Subgrade 3b - moderate quality agricultural land**
Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year.

**Grade 4 - poor quality agricultural land**
Land with severe limitations, which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (e.g. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.

**Grade 5 - very poor quality agricultural land**
Land with very severe limitations, which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.

Descriptions of other land categories used on ALC maps

**Urban**
Built-up or 'hard' uses with relatively little potential for a return to agriculture including: housing, industry, commerce, education, transport, religious buildings, cemeteries. Also, hard-surfaced sports facilities, permanent caravan sites and vacant land; all types of derelict land, including mineral workings which are only likely to be reclaimed using derelict land grants.
Non-agricultural

'Soft' uses where most of the land could be returned relatively easily to agriculture, including: golf courses, private parkland, public open spaces, sports fields, allotments and soft-surfaced areas on airports/airfields. Also active mineral workings and refuse tips where restoration conditions to 'soft' after-uses may apply.

Agri-environmental Schemes
Agri-environmental Schemes encourage traditional farming practices to protect the environment by providing grants to land owners to manage their land in ways that conserve and enhance landscape features, wildlife and historic assets, and promote access.

Area of Distinctive Character
A discrete geographical area with a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently throughout the area.

Beck
A stream; from the Old Norse bekkr

Bield
A shelter, protection; from the Old English beldo, courage

Biodiversity
The number and variety of organisms found within a specified area – an important measure of the health and vitality of an area's ecology.

Blanket Bog
An area of peat which is not confined to a basin but covers ground of moderate slope.

Conservation Area
An area designated by a local authority under the Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 in recognition of its special architectural or historic interest.

County Wildlife Site
County Wildlife Sites (CWS) are sites that have been identified for their local wildlife value.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme
The Countryside Stewardship Scheme was introduced as a pilot scheme in England in 1991 by the then Countryside Commission and operates outside the Environmentally Sensitive Areas. Farmers and land managers entered 10-year agreements to manage land in an environmentally beneficial way in return for annual payments. With the introduction of the new agri-environment scheme, Environmental Stewardship, the Countryside Stewardship Scheme is now closed to new applicants. However, existing agreements will continue until their expiry date.

Crag
A rough steep rock; origin unknown

Dale
A valley; from the Old Norse dalr

Development Plan Documents
These are planning documents forming part of the local development framework and which have the status of being part of the development plan.

Ecosystem
A functional ecological unit in which biological, physical and chemical components of the environment interact.
**Entry Level Stewardship (ELS)**
Entry Level Stewardship, an element of Environmental Stewardship, is open to all farmers and landowners and provides a straightforward approach to supporting the good stewardship of the countryside.

**Environmental Stewardship**
Environmental Stewardship is a new agri-environment scheme which provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England who deliver effective environmental management on their land. Its primary objectives are: to conserve wildlife (biodiversity); maintain and enhance landscape quality and character; protect the historic environment and natural resources; promote public access and understanding of the countryside; and natural resource protection. Environmental Stewardship has three elements: Entry Level Stewardship (ELS); Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS); and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS).

**Environmentally Sensitive Area**
The Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) scheme was introduced in 1987 to offer incentives to encourage farmers to adopt agricultural practices, which would safeguard and enhance parts of the country of particularly high landscape, wildlife or historic value.

**Fell**
A mountain, or hill, or upland tract; from the Old Norse fjall, a rock

**Friends of the Lake District**
The Friends of the Lake District is a charity established in 1934 that works to protect and enhance the landscape of the Lake District and Cumbria and to promote its understanding and quiet enjoyment.

**Gill or Ghyll**
a small ravine; from the Old Norse gil, a steep sided valley

**Habitat**
The locality, site and particular type of environment inhabited by animals and plants.

**Heaf**
Part of a fell to which a particular flock of sheep will always return to graze. Such a flock is ‘heafed’ to the pasture.

**Herdwick sheep**
A breed of sheep peculiar to the central Lake District.

**Hogg house**
Small building for storing fodder and for sheltering sheep in winter.

**How**
A low hill; from the Old Norse haugr

**Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)**
Higher Level Stewardship, an element of Environmental Stewardship, provides for targeted environmental management and makes payments for capital work plans. HLS is designed to build on ELS and OELS to form a comprehensive agreement that achieves a wide-range of environmental benefits across the whole farm. HLS concentrates on the more complex types of management where land managers need advice and support and where agreements will be tailored to local circumstances.

**Hydrology**
The study of surface waters (rivers, lakes and streams)

**Intake**
Parcel of land between the valley bottom fields and the open fell, enclosed from the lower slopes of the fell and used for cattle grazing.
Knott
A craggy hill; from the Old Norse knutr

Lake District National Park
The Lake District National Park was created by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and came into being in August 1951. Covering 885 square miles, it is the largest of England’s National Parks.

Lake District National Park Authority
The Lake District National Park Authority is an independent local authority established to conserve and enhance the Lake District’s natural beauty, wildlife, and cultural heritage; and promote the public’s understanding and enjoyment of the National Park’s special qualities. Among other things, it is the Local Planning Authority for the National Park.

Landform
Combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land.

Landscape Character Assessment
Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is a tool for identifying what makes a place unique.

Landscape Character Type
A generic unit of landscape with a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently throughout the type.

Listed Buildings
Buildings of special architectural or historic interest included on a list compiled by the Secretary of State for the guidance of local planning authorities in the exercise of their planning functions under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Local Nature Reserves
Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are accessible sites with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally. LNRs offer people special opportunities to study or learn about nature or simply to enjoy it.

Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS)
Organic Entry Level Stewardship, an element of Environmental Stewardship, is geared to organic and organic/conventional mixed farming systems and is open to all farmers not receiving Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) aid.

Moss or Peat Moss
A northern name for peaty land, the peat formed mainly by bog-moss.

National Nature Reserve
National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are established to protect the most important areas of wildlife habitat and geological formations in Britain, and as places for scientific research.

National Trust
The National Trust is a charity completely independent of Government funding that works to preserve and protect the coastline, countryside and buildings of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Natural England
Natural England is a governmental agency that works for people, places and nature to conserve and enhance biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas. The agency seeks to conserve and enhance the natural environment for its intrinsic value, the wellbeing and enjoyment of people, and the economic prosperity it brings.
Pike  
A sharp-pointed hill; from the Old English *pic*, a spike

Rake  
A path up a hill or in a gully; from the Old Norse *rak*, a stripe

Registered Parks and Gardens  
Registered Parks and Gardens are sites placed on the national ‘Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest’ compiled and maintained by English Heritage, to identify and increase awareness of the existence of such sites, and to help ensure that the features and qualities that make these parks and landscapes of national importance are protected and conserved.

Ring-garth  
Stone wall or fence dividing cultivated valley bottom fields from open, grazed fell land.

Scar  
A bare, craggy rock formation; from the Old Norse *sker*

Scarth  
A pass or gap in a ridge; from the Old Norse *skarth*

Scheduled Ancient Monument  
A Scheduled Ancient Monument is an archaeological site or historic building of national importance protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the National Heritage Act 1983.

Scree  
Rock detritus below a rock outcrop.

Shieling  
Fell pasture and small dwelling used during the summer months.

Site of Special Scientific Interest  
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are designated under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981 and as amended) to protect sites that are of national nature conservation importance because of the wildlife they support, or because of the geological features that are found there.

Special Area of Conservation  
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive.

Special Protection Area  
Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive on the conservation of wild birds.

Statesmen  
Yeoman farmer holding his land by customary tenure from the lord.

Stickle  
A sharp peak; from the Old Norse *stikill*

Tarn  
A small mountain lake; from the Old Norse *tjorn*

Thwaite  
A piece of land reclaimed from forest or wetlands; from the Old Norse *thveit*, a paddock
**Transhumance**
The vertical seasonal movement of livestock to higher pastures in summer and to lower valleys in winter.

**Tup**
An uncastrated ram; origin unknown.

**Wether**
A castrated ram; from the Old English *wether*.