The southern end of the Haweswater reservoir showing the former location of the inundated village of Mardale

12. HAWESWATER

—

Description, History and Development

12. THE HAWESWATER VALLEY

"In truth, it is all very primitive and rough... The church is picturesque enough, with its tilt 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 describing the village of Mardale Green, in her 'Guide to the Lake Country' (1864)

12.1 DESCRIPTION

12.1.1 LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

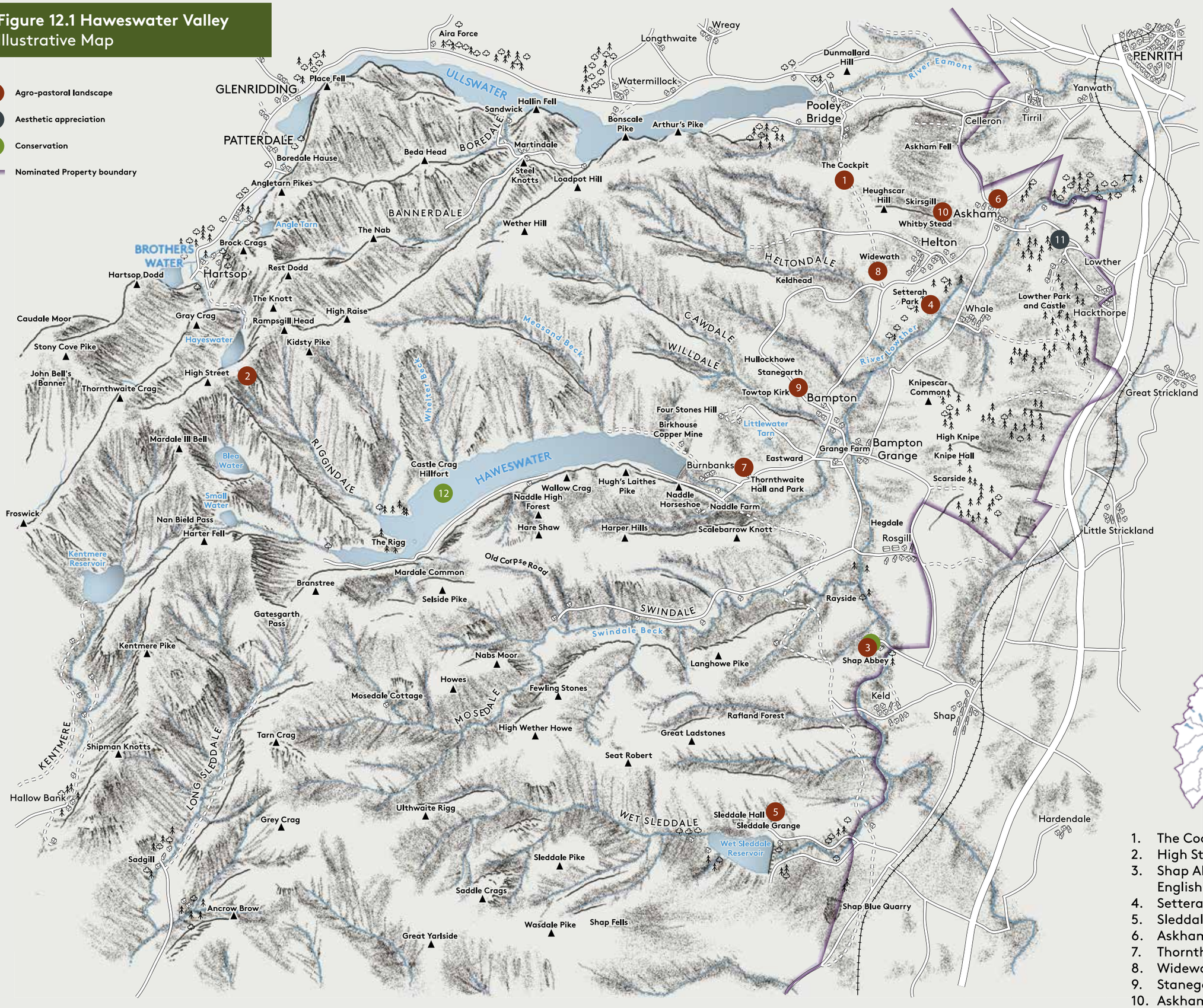
After Thirlmere, Haweswater was the second major impoundment of water to flood a Lake District valley and the farming communities within it and raised similar objections. The valley was flooded in 1935 and the resulting reservoir is the easternmost of all the lakes, set in the midst of the Shap Fells, remote, often featureless grass-covered hills with a strong sense of tranquillity. The valley lies on the north east edge of the English Lake District.

The geology of the Haweswater valley is mixed. The majority of the area, including the reservoir, comprises the Borrowdale Volcanic Group, but this is flanked by an area of Skiddaw slates to the north east followed by an extensive band of Carboniferous Limestone which forms the basis for the richer farming land around Askham and Lowther. There is also a small intrusion of granite in the south east corner of the valley.

Haweswater is a long, curving body of water running south west to north east. It has a relatively constant width along the majority of its length and occupies the entire valley floor resulting in the steep valley sides plunging almost directly into the water, particularly on the south side. There are no farms or inbye grazing for the entire length of the reservoir which lends a sense of wildness to the upper part of the valley. This contrasts sharply with the limestone scars and outcrops on the eastern edge of the Lowther valley. See Figure 12.1 for an illustrative map of the valley. Also see Figure 12.2 for an overview of the cultural landscape of the Haweswater valley.

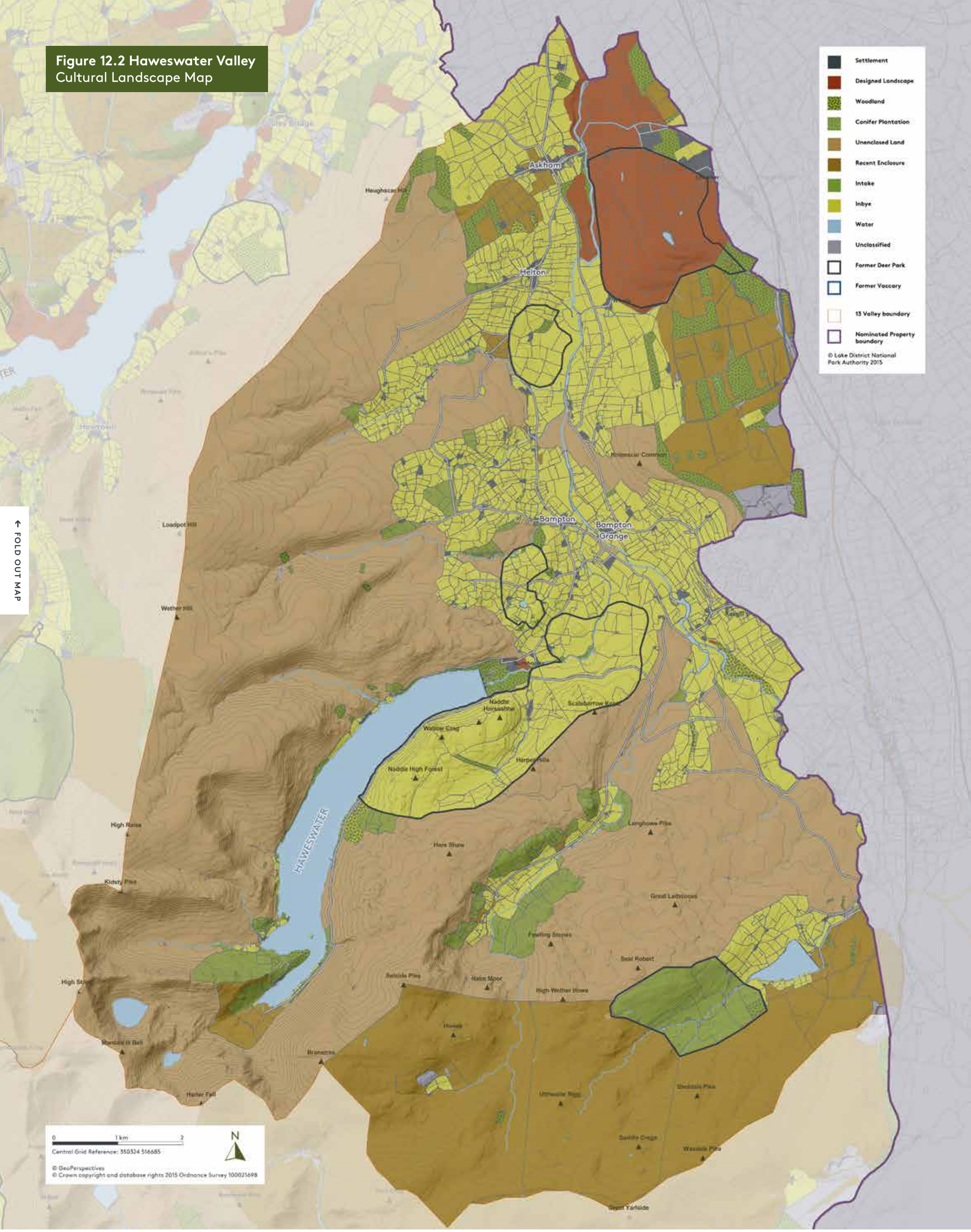
Figure 12.1 Haweswater Valley
Illustrative Map

Agro-pastoral landscape
Aesthetic appreciation
Conservation
Nominated Property boundary



1. The Cockpit stone circle
2. High Street Roman Road
3. Shap Abbey (managed by English Heritage)
4. Setterah Park
5. Sleddale Hall
6. Askham Hall
7. Thornthwaite Hall
8. Widewath Farm
9. Stanegarth Farm
10. Askham village
11. Lowther Castle
12. Haweswater

Figure 12.2 Haweswater Valley
Cultural Landscape Map



← FOLD OUT MAP

FIGURE 12.3 The contribution of the Haweswater Valley to the cultural landscape themes identified

HAWESWATER		
THEME	**COMPONENTS OF ATTRIBUTES**	**SIGNIFICANCE**
Continuity of traditional agro-pastoralism and local industry in a spectacular mountain landscape	Extraordinary beauty and harmony	
	Evidence of pre-medieval settlement and agriculture	
	Distinctive early field system	
	Medieval buildings (e.g. churches, pele towers and early farmhouses)	
	16th/17th century farmhouses	
	Herdwick flocks	None
	Rough Fell flocks	
	Swaledale flocks	
	Common land	CL CL CL
	Shepherds' meets/shows and traditional sports	
	Woodland industries	
	Mining/Quarrying	
	Water-powered industry	None
	Market towns	None
Discovery and appreciation of a rich cultural landscape	Viewing stations	None
	Villas	None
	Designed landscape	
	Early tourist infrastructure	None
	Residences and burial places of significant writers and poets	None
	Key literary associations with landscape	
	Key artistic associations with landscape	
	Key associations with climbing and the outdoor movement	None
	Opportunities for quiet enjoyment and spiritual refreshment	
Development of a model for protecting cultural landscape	Conservation movement	
	National Trust ownership (inalienable land)	None
	National Trust covenanted land	None
	Other Protective Trusts and ownership including National Park Authority	

12.1.2 THE INHERITED LANDSCAPE'S CHARACTER

The head of the valley is dramatically enclosed by Branstree, Harter Fell, Mardale Ill Bell, High Street and Kidsty Pike, with glacial corries containing the tarns of Blea Water (the deepest mountain tarn in the Lake District at 63 metres) and Small Water. These steep and rocky north-east facing crags receive little sun and can present a forbidding aspect. The expanse of deep, dark water, high, enclosing fells, steep valley sides and a noticeable lack of pasture or settlement to add a humanising influence in the valley, combined with the knowledge of the two lost villages, present an eerie sense of mystery. This is strengthened when ruined buildings are occasionally revealed in a particularly dry summer with low water levels. Naddle Forest on the south east side of the reservoir forms an extensive tract of ancient semi-natural woodland with some small areas of conifer plantation around the west and south of the reservoir.

FIGURE 12.4 Panoramic view of the southern end of the Haweswater reservoir with the small valley of Riggindale and the mountain ridge of High Street on the horizon

A number of historic routes lead out of the southern end of Haweswater, crossing the high mountain ridge at Gatesgarth Pass into Longsleddale and at Nan Bield Pass into Kentmere. A further route, the old corpse road, leads eastwards from Haweswater to Swindale.

The small side valley of Riggindale, at the southern end of Haweswater, is currently the only location in England where Golden Eagles nest, attesting to its wild and remote character.

Before the construction of the Haweswater dam, the settlement and walled fields in the Mardale valley formed a small and extremely picturesque example of a typical Lake District valley landscape. The natural lake of Hawes Water was 4 kilometres in length and almost divided into two parts by a delta which had been formed by outwash from the Measand Beck. The two reaches of the lake were known as High Water and Low Water. However, in 1919 the City of Manchester purchased the watersheds of Mardale, Swindale and Wet Sleddale for the purpose of water abstraction.

The dam was completed by Manchester Corporation and the valley flooded in 1935 raising the water level by 29 metres. Before this, the natural lake of Hawes Water was the highest natural lake in the Lake District at 211 metres. The Corporation also built

FIGURE 12.5 The Haweswater reservoir in winter

the single road into the valley, on the south side of the lake, to compensate for the loss of the original road under the reservoir waters, and the Haweswater Hotel to replace the centuries old Dun Bull Inn at Mardale Green. The dam, at the time a technically-innovative and still impressive structure, is surprisingly well-screened from most viewpoints by woodland as is the village of Burnbanks, built to house workers on the project. Originally 66 bungalows, built as a 'model village' and no doubt providing accommodation far superior to that to which the imported 'navvies' were used, it has now been redeveloped to modern standards.

The adjacent valleys of Swindale and Wet Sleddale to the south have also had their character modified by the need to supply water to Manchester. Amongst the bleak, open and remote moorland known as the Shap Fells, these valleys have a remote feel and are sparsely settled with little of the bright green improved pasture to be found in other Lake District valleys. They contain characteristic concrete structures associated with the development of the water supply industry including roads, bridges and dams. In the case of Wet Sleddale a substantial dam impounds a reservoir completed as late as 1966.

FIGURE 12.6 The village of Helton and remnant medieval strip fields

These valleys run out into the broad, gentle, limestone Lowther Valley with the rugged outcrops of Knipe Scar and Burtree Scar contrasting with the smooth, green pasture and striking pattern of irregularly shaped fields bounded by limestone walls. The extensive designed parkland of the Lowther Estate and the ruined Lowther Castle are notable landscape features and the distinct settlements along the valley including

Rosgilll, Bampton Grange, Bampton, Helton and Askham are fine examples of historic farming settlements. There are large blocks of mixed and conifer forestry amongst the farmland on the limestone to the east of the Lowther valley.

12.1.3 FARMING TODAY – THE AGRO-PASTORAL LANDSCAPE

The early farming landscape in main valley of Haweswater has been inundated by the reservoir resulting in the loss of the small hamlet of Mardale with its church and Dun Bull Inn. The Inn was famous for its autumnal shepherds' meet held on the third Saturday in November at which stray sheep were brought from the surrounding fells to be given back to their owners. Up until 1830 the meet had been held at Racecourse Hill, on High Street, where in addition to the claiming of stray sheep there was a horse race and other local sports such as wrestling.

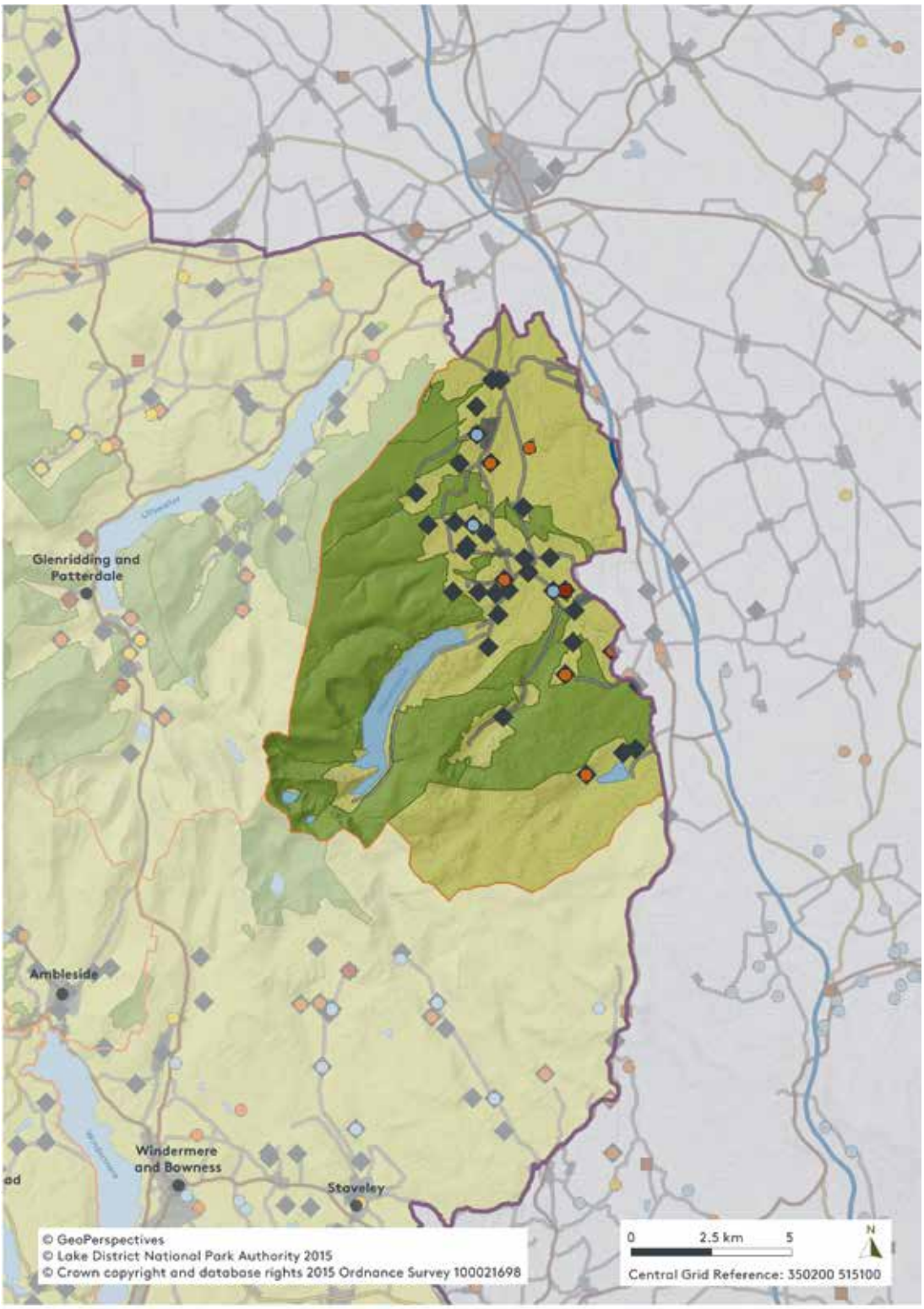
Canon Rawnsley wrote about the Mardale Shepherds' Meet in 1906. He reported that the shepherds had given up a week to 'raking' the fells and bringing about 200 stray sheep to the Dun Bull Inn. In 1927 over 700 people attended the meet, participating in the hunt with the Ullswater Foxhounds, watching the stray sheep being brought down from the fells, taking part in clay pigeon shooting and joining in the festivities of the evening. The last meet at the Dun Bull Inn was held in 1935.

Unusually for the Lake District valleys there are groups of medieval terracing or lynchets, presumably because the shallower gradients allowed this. There are at least 17 instances of lynchets occurring in the Haweswater Valley area at Askham Hall deserted medieval village, Helton deserted medieval village, Hause End (Bampton), Naddle, High Knipe, Lowther deserted medieval village, Hullockhowe (Bampton), Ashleymoor Plantation, Lowther Castle, Newtown, Skellands Strip, Whale Plantation, and at Wet Sleddale. With the possible exception of those in Wet Sleddale, these are undated; some (in particular Hause End) may even relate to pre-Conquest settlement.

There are lynchets north east of Hegdale and north west of Rosgill, covering an area of 25–28 acres. There are also lynchets on Knipe Scar near High and Low Scarside (='saetr') forming a series of terraces in two groups and also a transverse series. Rosgill has a huge number of strip fields; some presumably correspond to a former open common arable field at Rosgill itself. The strips are extensive all around the slopes of Wilson Scar and beyond the National Park boundary, up to Bampton and Bampton Grange, and Butterwick and Knipe in the north; they may be related to terraced agriculture as much as the division of former common land as strips, and it is likely that many of these strips were enclosed from former monastic land after c. 1540.

There are also lynchets 'south east' of Rowlandfield Plantation and more south south east of the church comprising three terraces about 0.25 miles long along a slope. There is also a deserted medieval settlement at Lowther. Other areas which have evidence of medieval occupation can still be found above the waterline. Heltondale Beck appears to have an irregular early enclosure dating from the medieval period, although the place-names (Scales, Scalegate) which suggest this were marginal at the start of the medieval period. That the area is relatively unchanged from the 1st edition

FIGURE 12.7 Shepherds' flocks and native sheep breeds in the Haweswater Valley



Ordnance Survey map of the mid-19th century suggests that this particular side valley has always been marginal pasture, with Dalehead and Keldhead originating as manorial settlements in the 14th century.

There is a group of strip fields around Helton Flecket which probably relate to a former open common arable field, enclosed as strips from the medieval period into the 16th century and onwards. The epithet 'Flecket' may derive (similar to Flake Howe) from the Old Norse 'flaki' meaning 'hurdle', suggesting that the inbye land may have originally been enclosed by a timber encircling fence.

WORKING FARMS AND FLOCKS

Although the extent of agricultural land has been reduced in the Haweswater Valley, the valley area as a whole is still the location for 34 farms with fell-going flocks. There are seven Swaledale flocks and four Rough Fell flocks registered with the relevant Sheep Breeders' Associations. There are no registered Herdwick flocks or National Trust landlord flocks in the valley area. Two-thirds of the valley area is owned by United Utilities, successor to the Manchester Corporation, including the Haweswater, Swindale and Wet Sleddale valleys and all of the high fells. Many of the fell edge farms are tenanted from United Utilities.

There are about 6,551 hectares of Registered Common Land in the valley, around 45 per cent of the total area, and including all of the open fell. The areas of Common Land are Bampton Common, Helton Fell and Askham Fell to the north and west of Haweswater reservoir, Mardale Common and Rafland Forest and Rosgill Moor to the south and east of Haweswater reservoir, Knipe Moor and Knipescar Common on the east side of the Lowther valley and other small areas of Registered Common Land.

CONTINUING FARMING CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

The Mardale Shepherds' meet is now held at St Patrick's Well Hotel, Bampton, on the Saturday nearest the 20th November.

FARMSTEADS

A number of 16th to 17th century farm buildings survive suggesting a period of rebuilding and investment at that time, possibly as a result of post-Dissolution land sales and improved tenurial conditions. Important examples of farm buildings include the following:

TABLE 12.1 Key farm buildings in Haweswater Valley

THORNTHWAITE HALL

A late 16th century hall with a tower and later additions and alterations, including part conversion to a bank barn with the addition of a ramp.

DATE 16th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 351297 516297

ASKHAM GATE FARM, IN ASKHAM VILLAGE

A late 18th century farmhouse incorporating a doorway from an earlier house and barn.

DATE 18th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 351309 523631

STANEGARTH FARMHOUSE, NEAR BAMPTON

House and outbuilding. Lintel reads: 'L & TI 16/79'. 18th century extensions. A fine bank barn, probably 18th century, with crow-stepped gables lies opposite the farmhouse.

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 349735 517756

SCHOOL BANK COTTAGE AND BARN, IN ASKHAM

An early 18th century farmhouse and barn with 19th century alterations. The barn has a high arched cart entrance.

DATE 18th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 351410 523744

EASTWARD, NEAR BAMPTON

A late 17th or early 18th century farmhouse and attached outbuilding with later additions. Ground floor has spice cupboard to rear wing inscribed: 'CM 1728'.

DATE 17 – 18th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 351177 517000

GRANGE FARM, BAMPTON GRANGE

A mid-17th century farmhouse with late 18th century additions and early 19th century alterations with attached outbuildings and a separate late 17th century or early 18th century byre.

DATE 17th – 19th centuries
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 352088 518093

WIDEWATH FARMHOUSE, NEAR ASKHAM

Built in 1671-74, with attached barn, byre and hennery and piggery. Porch is inscribed RM/1674" (Mounsey).

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 350052 521018

12.1.4 INDUSTRY

Apart from the 20th century water industry, impacts in the Haweswater Valley from other industrial operations have not been as great as in other valleys. There are a few remains of industry in the valley that pre-date the creation of the reservoir. These include the small, 19th century Birkhouse copper mine on the north side of Haweswater, below Four Stones Hill, between Burnbanks and the Measand Beck, and opposite on the south side of the valley, the remains of charcoal burning platforms in Guerness Wood. There are also remains of a slate quarry at Mosedale. The Shap Blue Andesite quarry sits on the boundary at the south-east corner of the valley area. But it is the water industry that dominates the valleys of Haweswater and Wet Sleddale with their two reservoirs.

12.1.5 SETTLEMENTS

There are no large settlements in the Haweswater Valley. The main settlements are Askham, Lowther, Helton, Bampton, Bampton Grange, Burnbanks and Rosgill.

ASKHAM

Askham has medieval origins and a distinctive linear settlement pattern with near continuous frontages of 17th, 18th and 19th century farmhouses, barns and cottages facing each other across the series of informal, wide grassy greens rising uphill from the River Lowther to the foot of Askham Fell. It is a fine example of a 'planned' medieval village built by the Swinburns and Sandfords of Askham Hall. Askham Hall is the earliest structure still in occupation in the village, the pele tower dating from the 14th century with later changes in the late 17th century by the Lowthers. It was the family seat of the Lowthers from leaving Lowther castle in 1935 up to 2006. Askham Hall is Grade I listed and its grounds are listed in the Historic England's 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest'. St Peter's Church was designed by Sir Robert Smirke (1781-1867) who also designed nearby Lowther Castle and went on to design the British Museum. The majority of buildings in Askham have architectural and historic interest and are contained within the Conservation Area. The 44 listed buildings and many other unlisted historic buildings make a positive contribution to the area's special character and appearance. The inter-relationship of the dwellings, farms and barns along the street frontages points to the village's agricultural heritage. There are many well-preserved examples of local Cumbrian stone-built vernacular architecture, both domestic

(usually rendered) and agricultural (usually stonework exposed). There is a prevalent use of local limestone and red sandstone as a walling material under greenslate roofs, reflecting the underlying geology of the area. The whole village was controlled by the Lord of the Manor and today much of it is owned by the Lowther family. It is one of the most attractive villages in the Lake District.

LOWTHER

Lowther Castle is the historic seat of the Lowthers, the Earls of Lonsdale and the dominant family of Westmorland. It sits within 600 hectares of grounds and deer park laid out by the Lowther family in the 16th and 17th centuries. It has recently been through a nine-year programme of repair and conservation after many years when it was used as a commercial chicken farm and forestry business. The latest repair work to the castle ruins, funded by English Heritage and the Lowther Estate Trust, will open up the ruins and stabilise the important central staircase tower, the key to preserving the grand silhouette of Robert Smirke's masterpiece, his first, and arguably finest, architectural commission, thus preserving this landmark for the future.

Lowther village is an historic planned model village built in the 1770s for Sir James Lowther. It was inspired by the drawings and designs of Robert Adam (1728-1792), the renowned Georgian architect. Designed as a single entity with a common architectural theme, it creates an exceptional sense of place and is one of the earliest examples of the circus form, best exemplified by John Wood's 'Circus in Bath' (1754). As such it is an incongruous urban design in a remote rural setting. The village has a unity of building materials, such as local limestone and sandstone walls under graduated Lake District slate roofs. All of the historic buildings, including the 18th century pump and trough, are listed Grade II* and it forms a time capsule of the 18th century. Lowther Newtown (sometimes known simply as Newtown) was initiated by Sir John Lowther c.1683 following the demolition of the old village of Lowther in 1682. The old village, consisting of hall, church, parsonage house and 17 cottages, was deliberately pulled down by Sir John Lowther to

FIGURE 12.8 Lowther Castle and parkland

open up the prospect of Lowther Hall, the site of the present castle, which he wanted to enlarge. It contains evidence of an earlier phase of activity in the form of three Norse hog-back tomb stones and a cross shaft, dating from around the 10th century.

HELTON

Helton is a small historic hamlet set on the Askham to Bampton road, which developed as a 'spring line' settlement, probably during the Anglian period (c. 6th/7th centuries), on the western side of the Lowther Valley, surrounded by open fields to the east and with the fell fringe to the west. It is a tightly-clustered linear settlement of farms and houses arranged around a triangular, sloping village green, with 'toft' development (houses with arable land attached), back lanes and driftways. Evidence of strip field farming survives, forming an important part of the landscape setting of the hamlet. Many of the buildings have architectural and historic quality, six of which are Grade II listed buildings, and many others which make a positive contribution to the area's historic character and appearance. The buildings predominantly date from the 17th and 18th centuries and are good examples of the vernacular tradition. The palette of building materials reflects the underlying geology, Carboniferous Limestone, sandstone, slate-stone and limestone rubble, typically with a render coat, is used for domestic buildings. Farm buildings and boundary walls of exposed limestone, with many examples of structural 'throughstones', can be found along with surviving stretches of traditional cobbled street surfaces. The central village green, wide grass verges and fields enhance the relationship between Helton and the surrounding landscape.

BAMPTON AND BAMPTON GRANGE

Bampton lies within the parish of Bampton and the parish church of St Patrick is in the nearby village of Bampton Grange. Bampton lies at the junction of two historical routes between Askham and Shap and to Haweswater, at the crossing of the Howes Beck. It is comprised of domestic and agricultural buildings, with surviving structures including the smithy, corn mill/saw mill, post office and a limekiln. These date predominantly from the 17th and 18th centuries, although the very rare listed dovecote at Bampton Hall (in Bampton), later used as a smokehouse, dates from the 16th century.

Bampton Grange developed as a farming settlement, but also as a centre for the parish and the wider area, containing an important river crossing, a large church and, from 1623, a Grammar School. Church Bridge dates from the late 18th or early 19th century and replaced an older structure; the bridge was declared a public crossing belonging to the County in 1685. The school was founded using money collected in London by the Reverend Thomas Sutton from his parish of St Saviour's in Southwark and attracted boarders from a wide area, while being free to children of the parish. It was renowned for providing students for the Church of England ministry. During the 19th century, the school house occupied the building immediately to the east of the Church of St Patrick, dated 1726.

However, the 18th century saw the remodelling of the existing landscaped parkland around Lowther Hall/Castle and Askham Hall. Lancelot Brown (1716-83) visited Lowther on two occasions, in 1763 and 1771, but the new naturalistic landscaping to another design was not carried out until the parkland was extended to the north which

happened sometime between 1770 and 1824. J. M. W. Turner painted the castle and the grounds in 1809 and Jan De Wint painted the same scene c. 1835. The landscaped grounds around Askham Hall were extended sometime after 1777.

12.1.6 PICTURESQUE BUILDINGS AND LANDSCAPE

There are no Picturesque buildings or landscapes in the Haweswater Valley. However, the 18th century saw the remodelling of the existing landscaped parkland around Lowther Hall/Castle and Askham Hall. Lancelot Brown (1716-83) visited Lowther on two occasions, in 1763 and 1771, but the new naturalistic landscaping to another design was not carried out until the parkland was extended to the north which happened sometime between 1770 and 1824. J. M. W. Turner painted the castle and the grounds in 1809 and Jan De Wint painted the same scene c. 1835. The landscaped grounds around Askham Hall were extended sometime after 1777.

There are a number of country houses with designed landscapes. At Askham Hall there are formal gardens and terraces possibly with late 17th or 18th century origins approached via the main entrance on the south side with a gateway with stone gate piers (listed Grade II) leading to a drive to the Hall. A second drive leads to the north side of the Hall from the track to Broadgate. At Lowther Castle, the parkland of the 17th to 19th century date with medieval origins, a late 17th/early 18th century avenue and terrace, and an early 19th century terrace and forecourt by Robert Smirke, provide a magnificent setting to the medieval and later building. Both designed landscapes are registered parks and gardens and include nationally important listed buildings.

12.1.7 VILLAS AND DESIGNED LANDSCAPES

There are no true villas in the Haweswater Valley.

12.2 HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

12.2.1 ARCHAEOLOGY AND EARLY SETTLEMENT

The flooding of the valley in 1935 submerged much prehistoric evidence, but evidence of human activity survives on higher ground including Bronze Age standing stones and hill-top prehistoric burial cairns. Of the 54 scheduled monuments in the valley, 32 relate to round cairns, barrows or cairnfields. There is a particular prehistoric complex on Moor Divock and Askham Fell consisting of the Cockpit stone circle, prehistoric burial cairns, a standing stone and aligned monuments. A small hillfort with a massive stone bank at Castle Crag is probably Bronze Age or Iron Age in date and may have functioned as a stock enclosure.

FIGURE 12.9 Part of the route of the Roman Road on High Street

The route of a Roman road runs on High Street to the west, the highest Roman road in England. Farming settlements which date to the Romano-British period can be found at Haweswater and Haweswater Hotel, on land north of High House, Cragside Wood, and at Skirsgill where there is an enclosed stone hut circle settlement which consists of a farmstead and regular aggregate field system. All these remains are nationally important scheduled monuments.

12.2.2 THE ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CURRENT SETTLEMENT PATTERN

Much of the area – especially the lower-lying and wider valleys – was probably settled before the Norman Conquest, in this area c.1093, but evidence is rare for the period.

There is, however, evidence from pollen samples for large-scale clearance around Littlewater in late 6th/early 7th century, with the introduction of hemp and flax. Both crops are also documented throughout the medieval period in tithe payments.

There are three Norse hog-back coffin lids and a cross shaft at Lowther Church suggesting an earlier predecessor at least as early at the 10th century. The name Carhullen may derive from the ancient British word 'caer' meaning a fortress or stronghold and if this is correct, then it would be a rare example in Cumbria of a 'caer' being taken into English hands. The nearby earthwork at Towtop Kirk may have enclosed a sanctified Christian area in the 6th to 8th centuries. Butterwick (Old English derivation from 'Buttyrwick' meaning 'farm where butter was made') suggests a pre-Conquest origin but it does not appear in surviving historic sources until the 16th century.

12.2.3 THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FARMING LANDSCAPE

There are no useful documents which set out the 11th or early 12th century landscape history for the Haweswater Valley area. Consequently, evidence for early farming practices and the evolution of land use in the valley is reliant on archaeological evidence

and much later mapping. Much of the valley has been flooded restricting the amount of available evidence visible on the ground to higher areas.

There was some monastic influence in the valley. Shap Abbey was founded about 1191 originally at Preston Patrick, but moving to Shap c.1201. The abbey was granted land immediately around it, and also towards Swindale and Shap village. Pasture at Rayside, Tailbert, Swindale and beyond Thiefstead was specifically for the upkeep of 60 cows, 20 mares and 500 sheep, 5 yoke of oxen and wood for fuel and other necessities. Further grants were made at the end of the 12th century, and between the 13th and 14th centuries. More land in Tailbert and Shap came from the Curwens; the Viteripont family gave nine acres in Shap and the vill of Reagill, and the Cliffords also granted Shap Abbey land. The presence of the Abbey in the Lowther Valley generated wealth within the area through successful sheep farming and wool production. The monks bred sheep on the surrounding fells and the high quality of wool from Shap is recorded in an Italian wool buyer's list of 1315. The foundations of medieval shielings have been recorded at Whelter Beck together with the remains of a more extensive medieval settlement at Burnbanks.

FIGURE 12.10 The remains of the tower and church at Shap Abbey

An account given by the Bishop of Carlisle soon after the Scots raids of 1322 relates that one of the two armies "burnt nearly all the churches, houses and buildings, driven off their cattle". That the account puts cattle in its own category separate from other types of moveable wealth, may show just how important cattle were here at this period. It also provides a date by which the medieval building stock had already been established at least for Shap. Thornthwaite Manor residents were excused payments of dues to Crown at some point after these raids suggesting that neighbouring settlements suffered a similar fate. The Abbey itself is surrounded by dykes that probably enclosed pasture for the Abbey's stock; these earthworks are now part of the nationally important scheduled monument.

Large parts of Wet Sleddale (Sleddale Hall and Sleddale Grange) were granted to Shap Abbey after 1249. The place-names Littleseat, Seat Robert and Ulset Rigg, all in Wet Sleddale, suggest that this was predominantly seasonal pasture (their names deriving from the Old Norse 'saetr', meaning shieling) until colonised by the Shap Abbey monks after 1249. However, the Lord Patrick kept rights in Wet Sleddale for 'beast of chase', and a forester with bow to serve him and his heirs (hence a division of this manor between the Hall and Grange perhaps). The limits of the common pasture for the Abbey were set out in the same grant document. Sleddale Grange is near surviving medieval landscape features around Sleddale Hall, including lynchets on a south east slope north east of the Hall. A 1257 confirmation of the 1249 grant describes the enlargement of the meadow land of abbot and convent; this mentions walls and dykes. This two-stage process may possibly be reflected in the 19th century 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, which shows a central group of enclosures with an outer layer around it. Sleddale Hall

perhaps occupies its own particular parcel at the head of the valley adjacent to the hunting grounds. The farms in Wet Sleddale presumably each post-date the Dissolution when the abbey had the farm of the 'whole township'. Perhaps these lie over the sites of medieval buildings belonging to the monastery; there are no further clues to when the houses were built, although 'Bowfield' may pre-date 1562 when a 'Bowhouse' is referred to.

The name Bampton Grange implies that it was the location for a monastic farm. By 1535 the vicarage of Bampton paid a tithe of calves which indicates cattle-rearing, but this may have a long heritage extending back to medieval times. Other than by the occurrence of its name, the grange is undocumented and it is difficult to make out obvious candidates for its boundaries in the landscape today or on historic mapping. However, Bampton Bridge has been in existence since the 14th century; in 1362 John de Askeby, the vicar of Bampton bequeathed a legacy for the fabric of the bridge.

Other scant references to medieval occupation can also be found at Bampton. The parish church of St Patrick is located in the nearby village of Bampton Grange. A church on the site is first mentioned in 1170 when it was attached to Shap Abbey. There are two sets of possible former open fields here – at Butterwick and these possibly extend south towards Bampton.

At Swindale Head the earliest farm settlement is represented on historic mapping by a group of radial field enclosures. This potentially dates to the Abbey's acquisition of pasture in 1191. The Abbey exchanged a tithe of hay from Swindale in 1257, indicating that they were using this at least for meadow. Perhaps Swindale Foot was also originally settled in 1191. Similarly, at Tailbert there is a group of radial field patterns similar to Swindale, and an Abbey farm may have been established here although we have no documentary evidence for this. Tailbert lies to the south of Rayside and its place-name including the 'seatr' element for a shieling suggests a probable 11th/12th century date, possibly settled later as a permanent farm on the edge or beyond of permanent settlement.

FIGURE 12.11 Swindale Head, with inbye and intake fields

There is more information for Lowther, but due to a lack of documentary sources, dating evidence from the building stock has to supplement the meagre historical sources. The earliest surviving fabric of the parish church of St. Michael at Lowther dates to c.1170, although there are three Norse hog-back tomb stones and a cross shaft possibly suggesting an earlier structure. The church is not mentioned in historic source material until 1280, but a William de Louthere is recorded in the 1184 'Pipe Rolls of Westmorland'. Lowther Hall probably originated as a motte and bailey before 1287. About the middle of the 14th century a pele tower was erected; the hall and second tower date from the 15th century. The rectory of the church of Lowther is described in 1535 as a mansion within the glebe lands and with three cottages, probably all at Glebe House.

FIGURE 12.12 Askham Hall

The manor of Askham was in lay ownership, having been acquired in 1280 by Sir Thomas de Helbeck. Records show that a church dedicated to St Kentigern existed in Askham in 1240. The manor remained in the de Helbeck family until the early 14th century when it passed by marriage to the Swynburn family. An inquisition of 1326 referred to a dwelling on the site being partially burnt by the Scots. Edmund de Sandford and his wife Idonea, co-heiress of Sir Thomas English, came into possession of Askham in 1375, and it remained in the family for c. 350 years. Askham Hall (listed Grade I) originated as a pele tower, probably in the 14th century. It has three irregular wings around a rectangular courtyard. The tower forms the south front and was remodelled 1685-90, although medieval tunnel vaulting survives at ground floor level. The north wing retains some medieval work and the remainder of the building is of 16th and 17th century date with later alterations and additions.

There are two deserted medieval villages at Low and High Knipe, both of which may be connected to the devastation of 1322. Reference in 1562 to ten tofts (over and above the 15 houses and four cottages) suggests a high proportion of abandonment. Shap Abbey had a tenement at Knype and at Rosgill in the 1540s, but their location is uncertain; possibly, based on their names, they are the sites of Abbott House in Rosgill and Grange House on the Bampton/Knipe border. Knipe Hall appears to overlook the strip fields to the north at High and Low Knipe, in the manner of a manorial lord's holding being separate and superior to the common land. Rosgill does not appear in documentary material until 1343 or soon after, when the de Rosgill family married into the Salkeld family.

Traditionally an oratory was believed to have been founded in the 14th century at Mardale although a chapel is not recorded until 1586, before which the dead had to be taken to Shap Church along a 'Corpse Road'. The tithe map of 1842 may capture surviving elements of the medieval field system and it shows town fields; the common field was called the Mardale field, on both sides of the river at the head of Haweswater. Riggindale may perhaps have been the separate lord's or steward's holding, overlooking the open fields. Bouderthwaite (indicating further clearance to the south/southwest) was apparently the oldest standing farmhouse in Mardale in 1904 – the other farmhouses were 17th/18th century in date (a response perhaps to the wealth which perhaps derived from the rich wool trade of that period).

There appears to have been older inbye around Measandbecke and Hall, extending all around the north side of Haweswater up into Mardale. Although this does not necessarily equate to common fields, perhaps rather reflecting topography, it is possible that there was another small open field represented to the south-west of Colby, with Measandbecke comprising a separate holding for the manorial lord or their agent.

Apart from Mardale Common and Bampton Common, the shores of Haweswater seem to have been exclusively for deer parks, retained by the Curwen family outside of their land grants to Shap Abbey. Although the forests/chase of Thornthwaite included Mardale and Measand, the precise boundaries of the chase are not well-attested on the ground. From the names alone, Naddle Forest and Thornthwaite Park seem to have originated amongst these hunting preserves. Around Thornthwaite Park itself a wall boundary continues to the north east bank of the old Haweswater Lake on historic mapping; this may define the northern boundary of Shap Abbey land in the 16th century, and may have fossilised an earlier boundary.

Lowther Hall/Castle probably had a deer park, but there is no evidence that it was as early as the medieval period in date. Setterah Park also looks like a deer park on later historic mapping, but is undocumented. The moated site within it may have been a former lord's holding overlooking the settlement to the north at Helton Flecket and raises the possibility that the deer park had medieval origins.

One of Shap Abbey's boundaries above Sleddale Hall includes Buck Stone or 'Lestablie' which suggests a deer trap. This could be the scheduled deer pound to the east of the junction of Tonguerigg Gill and Sleddale Beck. The stone-walled enclosure is 1.3 hectares in size with walls standing to a maximum height of 3.6 metres. A newspaper article of 1851 in the Westmorland Gazette referred to the whole enclosure being rebuilt for renewed interest in large game; deer were last put in the enclosure in the 1860s .

Much of the useful land had already been enclosed in the medieval period, so 16th and 17th century enclosure largely consisted of small intakes and consolidation. At Swindale, there is specific reference to enclosure called "the New Close and Hoghouse Garth", and also "inclosure called the waistes with one dale of meadow adjoining called the Prye" (1703/4, perhaps echoing a tenement mortgaged in 1697/8).

In Mardale, 13 tenants appear in the earliest documents which is an indenture dating to 1660. Mardale was on a packhorse route between Kendal and Penrith, and had two 17th century bridges at Arnold Bridge and Chapel Bridge, presumably replacing earlier bridges or fords on this important route.

The Hearth Tax for Sleddale Hall in 1670 shows 11 households with one hearth each and five households exempted because of poverty. This is a reasonable match for the 11 isolated farms shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map. Possibly the five exempted households were subordinate units attached to the 11 main farmhouses. The reorganisation of the landscape in the 16th and 17th centuries may have blurred the earlier lines between monastic land and land belonging to the Salkelds, but the number of farms seems to have remained stable until the 20th century.

Deer parks became fashionable again in the 16th century and around Littlewater Tarn a park is referred to in historic sources. The two medieval deer parks at Thornthwaite continued in use (or their use was revived) and they were extended. Thornthwaite Manor House is Elizabethan, and these parks are therefore likely to be 16th/17th century and may represent an enclosure referred to in a Court of Requests petition of the 25th May 1576:

> "Thomas Langhorne and others showing that whereas they and their ancestors time out of memory of man have

> quietly had and enjoyed possession of certain tenements according to ancient custom, in consideration of their service to be in readiness with horse, harness and other furniture to serve her majesty the Queen at their own cost and charges in defence of the realm against the Scots; but so it is that Sir Henry Curwen, lord of the lordship of Thornthwaite hath expelled twelve tenants and taken their land from them and hath enclosed it into his demesne and hath surrendered over the same lordship to Nicholas Curwen his son and heir."
>
> Curwen, 1932

This may be the first record of Thornthwaite Hall, as Sir Henry provided an estate for his son whereon he could build for himself a home in imitation of a Border Pele. It was at this time that landlords began to improve their manors and estates on aesthetic principles before the end of the 17th century. At Lowther Park, the ancient village of Lowther was pulled down in 1682 in order to enlarge the estate and improve its prospect; the 17 tenements had until then stood just in front of the castle. Lowther Newtown (sometimes known simply as Newtown) was designed to replace the old village and aimed to establish a successful carpet manufacturing centre. It did not succeed and this village was subsequently replaced. Askham Hall was purchased by the Lowther family in 1680 and a number of alterations were made to the hall and grounds including the creation of garden terraces.

By the 18th century there were approximately 80 farms in the parish, predominantly focused on sheep farming. In 1846 the Carlisle to Preston railway line arrived in the area, passing through Shap, and this opened up new markets for import and export.

Parliamentary enclosure had a minimal effect in the parish and took place long after Wordsworth and Coleridge visited. Records detail only one enclosure award of 1846 on Sackwath common field close to the River Lowther's west bank between Bampton and Butterwick. The only other major group of this type of enclosure is at Whitby Stead, but its date is unknown. There were also some minor episodes of improvement by drainage at Heltondale adjacent to Askham. The 1842 tithe map shows only eight fields in Swindale, but by the publication of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1863 there was considerably more enclosure. This suggests a large amount of late enclosure in Swindale, although it is possible that they were simply missed off the tithe map as not having a tithe due. The settlement at Mosedale Cottage may have added a large enclosure in the early 19th century (seen on Ordnance Survey maps), although it is possible that this relates to the adjacent slate quarry.

12.2.4 DISCOVERY AND APPRECIATION OF A RICH CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Haweswater was not a valley that featured strongly in early tourism or the Picturesque experience of the Lake District, although it was considered to have admirable qualities.

West described it in his 'Guide to the Lakes' as a "sweet but unfrequented lake". The approach to the valley from the east was considered to be picturesque, and the lower part "most pleasantly elegant'"

In contrast, West's comment on the upper reaches of Haweswater was that "above the chapel, all is hopeless waste and desolate", with the "precipitated ruins of mouldering mountains and the destruction of perpetual waterfalls". West described Bampton vale as "a beautifully secreted valley". However, he devised no viewing stations in Haweswater and his tepid descriptions did not inspire tourists to flock to the area. Consequently the farm at Greenhead – later rebuilt as the Dun Bull Inn – was probably the only packhorse hotel or inn in Keld, Hardendale, Wasdale, Rosgill and Swindale.

FIGURE 12.13 Crowds outside Mardale Church for Farewell service, 18th August 1935

12.2.5 ROMANTIC SITES, BUILDINGS AND ASSOCIATIONS

William and Dorothy Wordsworth's father, John Wordsworth, was a steward for Sir James Lowther, later to become the first Earl of Lonsdale. On the death of the first Earl, William Lowther, his successor, who became second Earl of Lonsdale, settled all of the first Earl's debts, including £4,000 owed to Wordsworth's father in unpaid wages. William Lowther became one of Wordsworth's principal patrons. Despite this connection, when compared with the other Lake District valleys, Haweswater and its surrounding area attracted far less attention from the Romantic Movement.

Wordsworth and Coleridge stayed at Bampton, the village at the foot of Haweswater, in early November 1799 at the beginning of their walking tour. Haweswater was then known as Mardale, and both men walked along the shore of the old lake and over the passes into Longsleddale and then Kentmere. Mardale is below Kidsty Pike, the mountain which figures in 'The Brothers' (1800):

> "On that tall pike
> (It is the loneliest place of all these hills)
> There were two springs which bubbled side by side

> As if 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." (139-45)

Not far from Haweswater is Barton Fell Moor which Wordsworth used as the setting for the beginning of his poem 'Resolution and Independence' (1802):

> "I was a Traveller then upon the moor;
> I saw the hare that raced about with joy;
> I heard the woods and distant waters roar;
> Or heard them not, as happy as a boy:
> The pleasant season did my heart employ:
> My old remembrances went from me wholly;
> And all the ways of men, so vain and melancholy".

As Wordsworth said:

> "I was in the state of feeling described in the beginning of the poem, while crossing over Barton Fell".

In 1811 John Marshall, the wealthy Leeds industrialist, purchased Low Whelter at the head of High Water, Haweswater. Marshall had become a close friend of Wordsworth through the friendship between his wife Jane and Dorothy Wordsworth. The purchase of Low Whelter is significant as it was Marshall's first purchase (of many) in the Lake District and was a guide to his intentions driving his future purchases of estates in other valleys. The purchase was not an economic investment and too minor and remote for a country seat. Instead he acquired Low Whelter for its scenic beauty and to control the management of the woodland. Haweswater had a particular appeal for Wordsworth; he wrote in his 1810 Guide:

> "From Pooley Bridge, at the foot of the lake (Ullswater), Haweswater may be conveniently visited. Haweswater is a lesser Ullswater, with this advantage, that it remains undefiled by the intrusion of bad taste".

Low Whelter was sold out of the Marshall family in 1861 and so protection from inappropriate change as defined by Wordsworth and Marshall was lost.

12.2.6 EARLY CONSERVATION – THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MODEL FOR PROTECTING LANDSCAPES

The 1919 Haweswater Act gave the Manchester Corporation powers to acquire the lake in Mardale and the large surrounding catchment area for a major reservoir and allowed for similar work in the adjacent small valleys of Swindale and Wet Sleddale. In the event, only Wet Sleddale was dammed in 1966 and Swindale has remained as it was.

The Mardale residents from the four farms and other houses moved to nearby villages. Although the exact number is not known, the population of Mardale was about 40 in 1916. Most of the buildings were demolished by Royal Engineers, using them as demolition practice. The Old School was dismantled and rebuilt at Walmgate Head at the expense of a private well-wisher. The church was dismantled and the stones and windows were used to build the draw-off tower. About 100 coffins from the church graveyard were exhumed and re-buried at Shap. Most of the contents of the church were moved to what was then the new St Barnabas Church in Carlisle. The Dun Bull Inn was demolished and replaced by the present day Haweswater Hotel in 1937 on the east side of the lake on a new road and on an elevated shelf below Guerness Woods, giving the new building extensive views across the lake to the sweeping hillsides rising to the High Street ridge. In consultation with the Friends of the Lake District, it was built in an Art Deco-style, but also reused many of the dressed stone from demolished buildings and walls.

In the earliest days of the Haweswater scheme extensive afforestation of the catchment area was contemplated, but not carried out. In 1972, following a national study of water resources, a further expansion of the Haweswater reservoir was proposed by raising the height of the dam by a further 35 metres. Additional damage to the valley would also have been caused through the reservoir becoming a 'regulating reservoir', with a consequent seasonal variation in level. These proposals were not implemented.

Access to all open and unenclosed land in the valley in the decades after the flooding was in large part due to the efforts of the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society, established in 1865, which managed to have a clause inserted in the Haweswater Act of 1919 by which the public were given full right of access on all the common and unenclosed land purchased by the Manchester Corporation. A footpath was provided on the west shore, now a link in Alfred Wainwright's famous 'Coast to Coast' route. This access long pre-dated the open access provided through the Countryside and Rights of Way Act of 1990.

By the time the dam construction was completed in 1935, the Friends of the Lake District was officially established and it was able to influence the landscaping and other subsequent construction and design details.

Attempts to remove commoners' rights and create limestone quarries on Knipe Scar in 1941-2 were resisted by parishioners, in collaboration with the Friends of the Lake District. A process of negotiation and pro-active attempts to find alternative locations resulted in the kilns being constructed close to the Shap-Penrith road in order to protect the skyline of Knipe Scar. This outcome was welcomed by protestors because of its aesthetic and legal impacts and also for practical reasons – it was noted that new works would provide local employment after the War at a time when the Manchester Corporation's Haweswater scheme was ending.

The extent to which recreation should be encouraged and catered for at Haweswater has been much discussed by successive water authorities and companies, the National Park Authority and other statutory and voluntary bodies. In the mid-1970s there were proposals for boating on the lake from a centre near Measand, which would have required a new road along the western shore, buildings and slipways. The scheme

was not pursued being seen at the time as being inconsistent with the quiet and underdeveloped nature of the western shore.

The Haweswater Valley area is the only valley area in the Lake District with no National Trust land ownership. However, United Utilities, the private water company, which has inherited the Manchester Corporation estate, is assisted in its management of the estate by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. In recent years, United Utilities has introduced the Sustainable Catchment Management Programme through which it is working with its farming tenants and investing its funds, alongside national agri-environment scheme funds, into land management changes to improve raw water quality.

12.3 CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT'S OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

FIGURE 12.14 The distinctive profile of Knipe Scar, on the limestone at the eastern edge of the Haweswater valley. Straight-walled fields resulting from 18th or 19th century enclosure can be seen on the slopes to the right.

Although much of the agro-pastoral landscape around the two original lakes in Mardale has been lost beneath the Haweswater reservoir, the remainder of the present day landscape in the Valley displays very strong agro-pastoral continuity from earlier periods. The extensive areas of open land around the villages of Helton and Askham are overlain by fields which clearly show development from medieval strips and this is complemented by the patterns of inbye and intake fields in the more restricted sub-valleys of Heltondale, Swindale and Wet Sleddale. The arrangements of house plots in Askham and Helton also show strong continuity with the original medieval pattern. There are many examples here of early farm buildings dating from the 16th century, with later 17th to 19th century additions and re-building. Swaledale sheep are the principal breed in the Haweswater Valley and all of the extensive upland grazing here is Common Land.

There is widespread evidence of early land use in this valley, from prehistory to the post medieval period. Askham Fell is the location for an important group of Neolithic and Bronze Age ritual monuments and the western boundary of the valley follows the course of the High Street Roman Road. Early medieval activity is demonstrated by the Norse remains (hog back coffins) at Lowther and the pollen record for extensive agriculture in the late 6th/early 7th centuries. However it is the medieval period which is best represented with the remains of the monastery at Shap, early defended sites at Askham and Lowther and extensive remains of medieval agriculture around Shap

Abbey and in Wet Sleddale. With the exception of the later water industry, there has been little industrial activity in Haweswater, with limited evidence for mining, quarrying and charcoal burning.

Haweswater's remoter location to the east of the more popular valleys in the Lake District for early Picturesque tourists left it relatively unvisited and no villas were constructed here to take advantage of the lake views. The valley was visited by Wordsworth and Coleridge, featuring in some of Wordsworth's poetry, and artists including J. M. W. Turner were occasionally attracted to the area. However Haweswater was not a major inspiration for artists and writers of the 18th and 19th centuries.

The landscape beauty of the valley was recognised by John Marshall in the early 19th century and he purchased land in the Mardale Valley, now submerged beneath Haweswater. However, this early purchase of land for conservation purposes was not followed elsewhere in the valley, and Haweswater is unique amongst the other Lake District valleys in having no National Trust ownership. The construction of the Haweswater and Wet Sleddale reservoirs by the Manchester Corporation did not attract the same level of opposition as Thirlmere, but the loss of scenic and cultural landscape in this valley formed an important backdrop to vociferous and successful campaigns against similar proposals in other parts of the Lake District in the later 20th century.

The Haweswater Valley is very rich in attributes which demonstrate the continuity of agro-pastoral farming, the first theme of Outstanding Universal Value. It is particularly important for the remains of medieval agriculture and settlement and in demonstrating the long development of the farming landscape. It has rather fewer attributes than other valleys which demonstrate the other two themes of aesthetic inspiration and development of the early conservation movement.

FIGURE 12.15 The village of Askham

FIGURE 12.16 Grange Farm, Bampton Grange