The central part of Windermere with Belle Isle and the towns of Bowness and Windermere

2. WINDERMERE

—

Description, History and Development

2. THE WINDERMERE VALLEY

"The wind blew away the clouds and the stars shone out high over Swallow and her sleeping crew. The deep blue of the sky began to pale over the eastern hills. The islands clustered about Rio Bay became dark masses on a background no longer as dark as themselves. The colour of the water changed. 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."

Arthur Ransome, 'Swallows and Amazons' (1930)

2.1 DESCRIPTION

The long stretch of Windermere defined as the first spoke of Wordsworth's imaginary wheel, in the south east of the English Lake District, is a vast landscape leading all the way from the central mountain core to the sea. It includes a great range of landscape features and provides a sample of almost all the key elements characteristic of the Lake District. The main Windermere Valley provides a natural route of communication from the shores of Morecambe Bay into the very heart of the central Lake District.

Windermere is, and has been for 200 years, a popular tourist destination and a popular place for summer retreats to appreciate the diversity and beauty of the landscape. The Valley is strong in showing evidence for the evolution and continuity of the agro-pastoral tradition and is particularly significant for the aesthetic appreciation of the Picturesque and Romantic traditions. The third intertwining theme of Outstanding Universal Value – the development of the early conservation movement – is also clearly demonstrated here; Windermere could well be described as the 'cradle' of the conservation movement. See Figures 2.1 and 2.2 for illustrative maps of the valley. Also see Figures 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 for an overview of the cultural landscape of the Windermere valley.

2.1.1 LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Windermere is the longest and largest natural lake in England and was formed in a glacial trough running north-south after the retreat of the ice some 12,000 years ago.

Figure 2.1 Windermere Valley North
Illustrative Map

- Agro-pastoral landscape
- Aesthetic appreciation
- Conservation
- Nominated Property boundary

1. Lamb Pasture Romano-British farmstead
2. Bryant's Gill early medieval shieling
3. Kentmere Hall
4. Calgarth Hall
5. Troutbeck village
6. Townend, Troutbeck (owned by National Trust)
7. Low Sadghyll
8. Holehird house and gardens (owned by Holehird Trust)
9. Brockhole (owned by National Park Authority)
10. Dove Nest
11. Jenkin Crag viewpoint (owned by National Trust)
12. Troutbeck Park (owned by National Trust)

Figure 2.2 Windermere Valley South
Illustrative Map

- Agro-pastoral landscape
- Aesthetic appreciation
- Conservation
- Nominated Property boundary

WINDERMERE
Belle Isle
6
Cockshot Point
BOWNESS-ON-WINDERMERE
12
Belsfield
Brant Fell
School Knott
Ings
STAVELEY
11
Blackwell
Storrs Hall
7
Broad Leys
9
Ghyll Head
Birket Houses
Moor Crag
10
Winster
Gilpin Mill
Ludderburn
Crook
Hartbarrow
Gummer's How
Addyfield
Cunswick Hall
1
5
Plumgarths
Cunswick Scar
Crosthwaite
Underbarrow
Lakeside
The Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway
Staveley Fell
Bowland Bridge
Thorns Villa
Scout Scar
Fell Foot Park
Newby Bridge
HAVERTHWAITE
BACKBARROW
Simpson Ground Reservoir
Raven's Barrow
2
Cartmel Fell
Staveley in Cartmel
4
Hodge Hill Hall
Cowmire Hall
Row
River Leven
Bigland Barrow
Low Wood
Bigland Hall
Pool Bank
River Gilpin
Saskills
The Howe
Bigland Tarn
River Winster
Witherslack Hall
Whitbarrow
LYTH VALLEY
Ayside
Barber Green
High Newton
Field Broughton
WINSTER VALLEY
Witherslack
Sampool Bridge
8
Broughton Lodge
Low Newton
Dixon Heights
Borwick's Aynsome
Cartmel
3
Hampsfield Hall
Hampsfell
Hampsfield
Lindale
Wilson House Farm
Meathop Moss
Foulshaw Moss
Meathop
Castle Head
Meathop Grange
Ulpha
River Kent
Holme Island
N

1. Cunswick Hall Romano-British settlement
2. Cowmire Hall
3. Hampsfield Hall
4. Hodge Hill Hall, Cartmel Fell
5. Plumgarths Cottages
6. Belle Isle house
7. Storrs Hall
8. Broughton Lodge
9. Broad Leys
10. Moor Crag
11. Blackwell (owned by Lakeland Arts Trust)
12. Cockshott Point (owned by National Trust)

← FOLD OUT MAP

Figure 2.3 Windermere Valley North East
Cultural Landscape Map

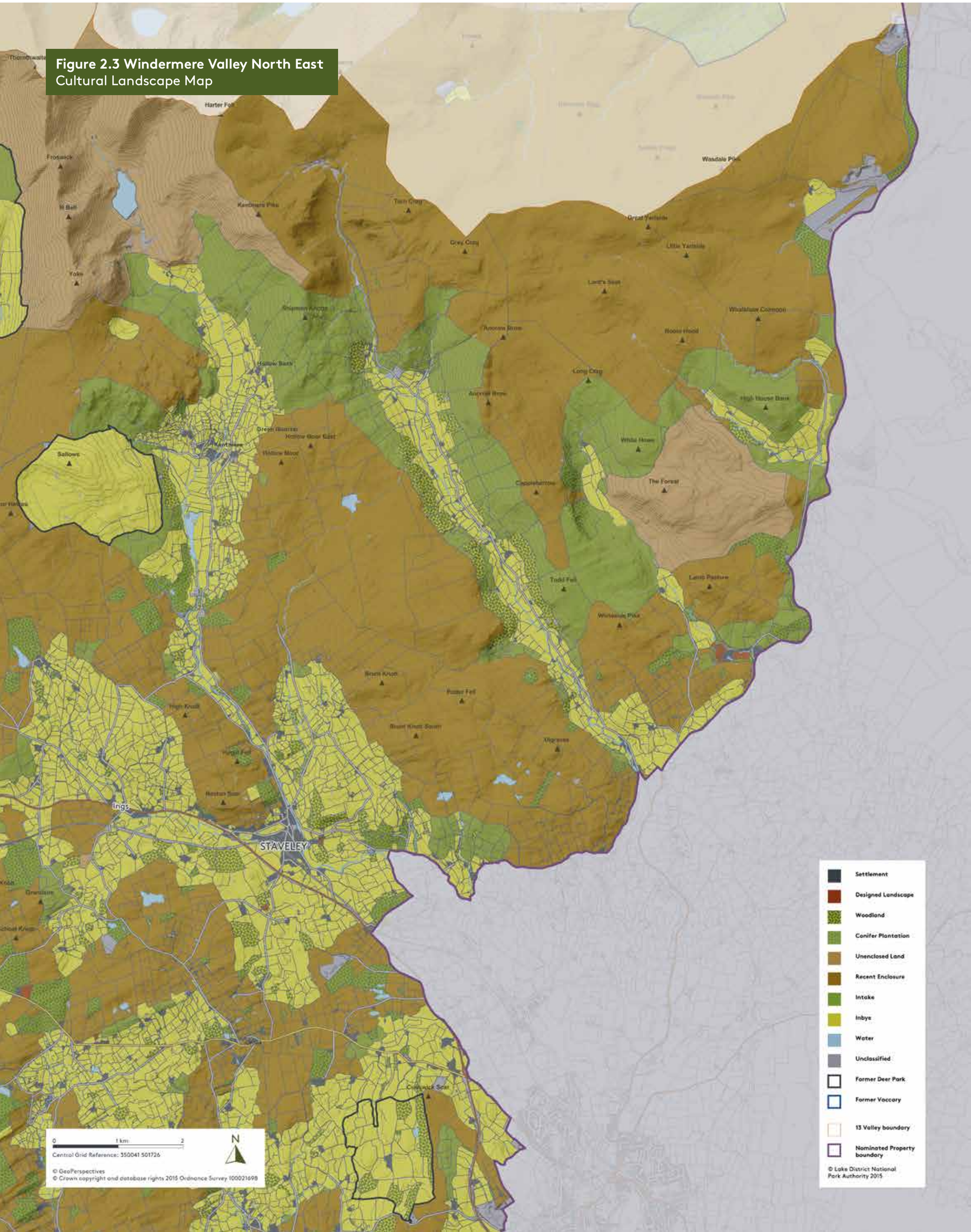
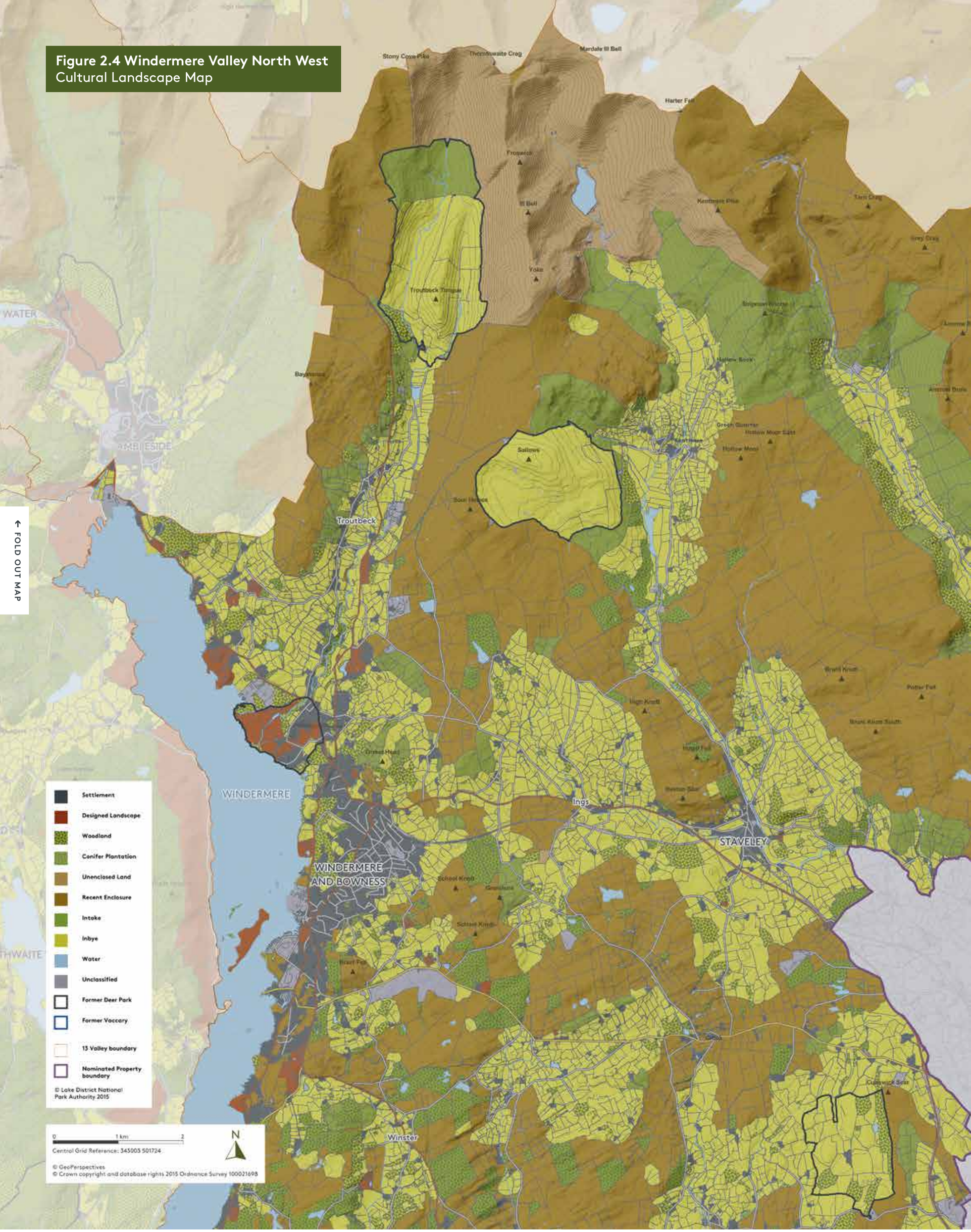


Figure 2.4 Windermere Valley North West
Cultural Landscape Map



← FOLD OUT MAP

Figure 2.5 Windermere Valley South
Cultural Landscape Map

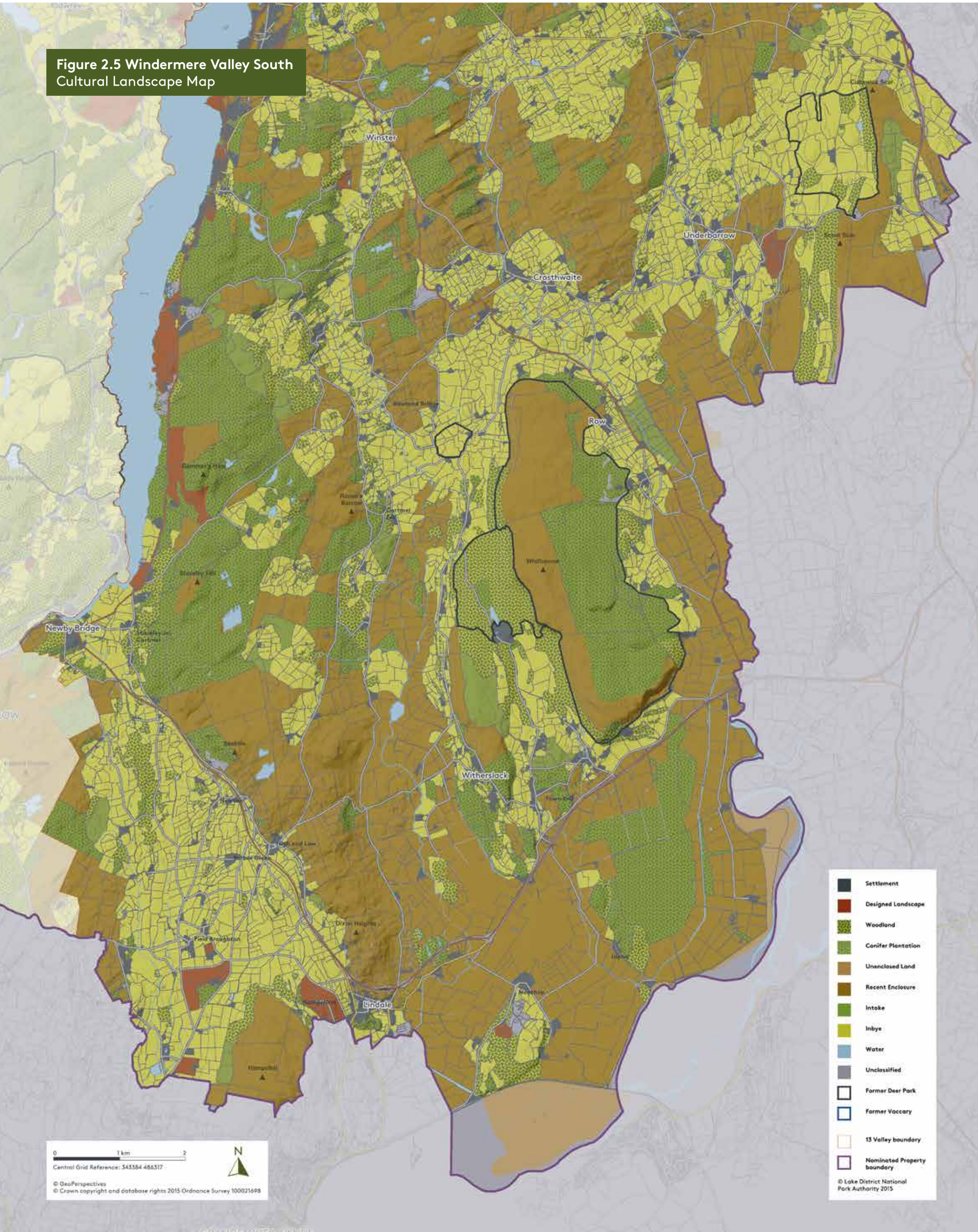


FIGURE 2.6 The contribution of the Windermere Valley to the cultural landscape themes identified

WINDERMERE		
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	
	Rough Fell flocks	
	Swaledale flocks	
	Common land	CL
	Shepherds' meets/shows and traditional sports	
	Woodland industries	
	Mining/Quarrying	
	Water-powered industry	
	Market towns	
Discovery and appreciation of a rich cultural landscape	Viewing stations	
	Villas	
	Designed landscape	
	Early tourist infrastructure	
	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	
	Opportunities for quiet enjoyment and spiritual refreshment	
Development of a model for protecting cultural landscape	Conservation movement	
	National Trust ownership (inalienable land)	
	National Trust covenanted land	NTC NTC
	Other Protective Trusts and ownership including National Park Authority	

← FOLD OUT MAP

FIGURE 2.7 The enclosed inbye fields in the valley bottom at the head of the Kentmere Valley

FIGURE 2.8 View of Windermere, looking north towards the Langdale Fells from Orrest Head

It measures some 18 kilometres from north to south. Its name is thought to derive from a combination of the Norse name 'Vinandr' and the Old English term 'mere' meaning lake. The lake contains 18 islands, most heavily wooded. Its outflow, the River Leven, passes through the narrow course of the Leven Valley, over many weirs built for the plentiful water powered industries past and present, to reach the wide sands of Morecambe Bay at Greenodd. The wider Windermere area encompasses other smaller valleys such as Troutbeck to the north of the area, Winster and Lyth to the south and the Kentmere, Longsleddale, Bannisdale, Borrowdale and Crookdale valleys in the east.

The Valley's scenery and character are hugely diverse, for a variety of reasons, both natural and cultural. The generally more rugged, unenclosed fell grazing in the north of the area changes at a lower altitude to a more settled, wooded, enclosed and intimate landscape south of the A591/Kendal-Windermere railway corridor. The lake and its landscape setting have two distinct basins, north and south, which differ in character owing to a change in the underlying geology from the hard and erosion resistant volcanic rocks and associated high fells in the north to softer shales with lower rolling fells in the south. There is also a distinct change in landscape character between the more settled east shore and the densely wooded, less accessible west.

2.1.2 THE INHERITED LANDSCAPE'S CHARACTER

The Windermere Valley is a landscape of great diversity and contrast. It includes the busiest location in the Lake District in the tourist hotspot of Bowness Bay, but also the quietest in the valleys and hills of the Shap Fells in the east. There are high, open, wild landscapes where hill farming is the only sign of human activity; intimate patchworks of enclosed pasture fields nestling between small woodlands; and also grand and ornate buildings, gardens and estates created by the influx of enormous wealth from Victorian industrialists seeking to modify their environment to suit their taste and status. It contains the excesses of modern tourism alongside a farming system that has changed little in the last few centuries, with modern industries often located in buildings adapted from redundant former uses. The landscape today would still be wholly familiar to the 17th century yeoman farmer or the Victorian tourist and retains a reputation today, as it has done since the 18th century, of being one of the most scenically beautiful areas of the world.

The English Lake District, and in particular the east shore of Windermere, has been one of the country's most popular destinations for holidays and summer homes since the early 19th century, with rapid expansion following the opening of the railway branch line to Braithwaite, (soon after re-named Windermere) in 1847. The result is an attractive mix of agricultural land with parkland and designed landscape associated with Victorian villas constructed by the new industrialists. The landscape of the smaller valleys and the higher land between them varies significantly but the general trend is for more rugged, unenclosed fell grazing in the north of the area and more settled, wooded, enclosed and intimate landscape south of the A591/Kendal-Windermere railway corridor.

The northern Windermere Valley is dominated by the wide expanse of Lake Windermere, often referred to using the title to distinguish it from the village of Windermere.

(Strictly speaking, all lakes in the Lake District are referred to as 'Water' – Coniston Water, etc. or a 'mere' – Thirlmere for example, with the one exception being Bassenthwaite Lake.) The impressive backdrop of Wansfell, the Fairfield Horseshoe, Loughrigg, and further away the distinctive skyline of the Langdale Pikes, together with the expanse of water create a dramatic landscape with a strong 'upland' character. Influenced by weather and light conditions the developed and busy nature of the tourist hubs at Bowness and Waterhead, the residential development along the east shore, and the arterial route the A591, somewhat surprisingly, do little to detract from a sense of remoteness and wildness.

Further south the shorelines of the lake have a softer, more wooded and parkland character with the west shore being almost continually cloaked in mainly deciduous woodland on the lower slopes and mixed or coniferous woodland higher up. The valley has extensive areas of former coppiced woodland, particularly in the south, and this makes a huge contribution to landscape character. Although the surrounding fells are much lower and less rugged this creates a sense of enclosure and intimacy, particularly as the lake narrows further south. The eastern shore is speckled with large houses, including a significant number of Arts and Crafts houses including Broad Leys (by Voysey) and Blackwell (Baillie Scott), often facing the lake and with extensive gardens and parkland planting running down to the lakeshore. Many have a distinctive style of boathouse and a jetty. Ornamental planting, including a diverse range of exotic tree species introduced by the Victorian plant collectors, makes a bold statement and adds variety, interest and a defining character to the landscape.

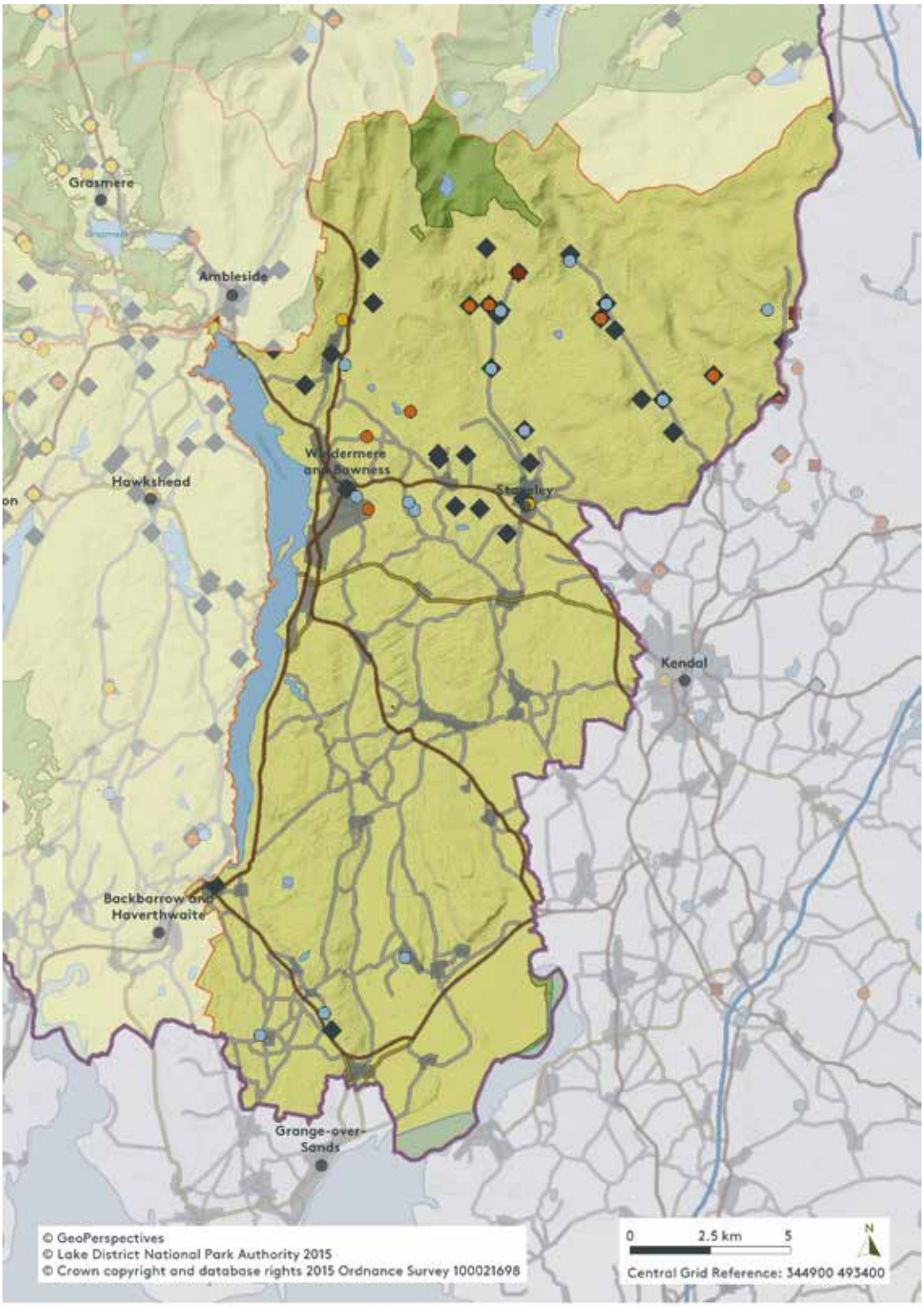
2.1.3 FARMING TODAY – THE AGRO-PASTORAL LANDSCAPE

FIGURE 2.9 Troutbeck village follows a spring line along the west side of the Troutbeck Valley, with some of the best surviving examples in the Lake District of groups of farm buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries

Hill sheep farming is the dominant land use in the upland valleys running north to south (Troutbeck, Kentmere, Longsleddale, Bannisdale), producing a typical landscape of single farms, occasional hamlets, inbye, intakes and open fell grazing. Troutbeck is one of the classic farming landscapes in the Lake District. The village incorporates a number of farms, including many buildings dating from the 17th century. The field system around the village has fossilised the pattern of former open town fields, where the farms of Town Head and Town End delineate the extent of the open field.

The area between Kendal and Lake Windermere has its own farming character: more woodland and less open fell grazing and extensive planned enclosure fields and straight-walled boundaries.

FIGURE 2.10 Shepherds' flocks and native sheep breeds in the Windermere Valley



Registered Common Land © Natural England 2015. Attribute data for Fell-going flocks: Lakeland Shepherds' Guide 2005.
Attribute data for flocks: Herdwick Sheep Breeders Association 2014, Rough Fell and Swaledale Sheep Breeders' Associations 2013.

There is a further change in the farming landscape in the south of the Windermere valley area, towards the Lyth Valley where there is more planned enclosure and emphasis on cattle rather than sheep. The nature of the field boundaries also varies, with rugged stone walls of volcanic rock in the valleys of Troutbeck, Upper Kentmere and Longsleddale and a mixture of stone walls, and hedges in the low fells to the east of Lake Windermere and limestone walls on the southern and eastern edges.

WORKING FARMS AND FLOCKS

The Windermere Valley area is outside the Herdwick breed's historical stronghold in the central and western Lake District, but it still has a tradition of Herdwick sheep farming and two farms in particular stand out: Kentmere Hall and Troutbeck Park. The incidence of Herdwick flocks generally decreases on the eastern side of the Lake District. Instead, Swaledale and Rough Fell breeds tend to predominate. There are 32 farms with fell-going flocks in the Windermere Valley area. There are three Herdwick flocks, 16 Rough Fell flocks and nine Swaledale flocks, registered with the relevant Sheep Breeders' Associations. There is one National Trust Landlord flock in the Windermere Valley area at Troutbeck Park Farm ('Lakeland Shepherds' Guide' 2005).

There are about 823 hectares of Registered Common Land in the Windermere Valley area, only 2 per cent of the total area. The main area of Common Land is Kentmere Dale Head Common with small areas on Moss Allotment, and a small part of Grasmere and Rydal Common.

CONTINUING FARMING CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

FIGURE 2.11 The kitchen interior and fireplace of the Stateman period farm at Townend, Troutbeck. Owned by the National Trust and open to the public.

The Troutbeck Shepherds' Meet convenes on the Thursday nearest 20th November at the Queen's Head Hotel, Troutbeck. The Cartmel Agricultural Society Show on the first Wednesday of August each year, just to the south of the valley boundary, serves the southern part of the Windermere Valley area. It has show classes for Herdwick and Rough Fell sheep. The annual show and sale for Rough Fell sheep is the 'Rough Diamonds' show and sale held each year at the end of January at the Junction 36 Auction Mart (just off the main M6 motorway), near Kendal, immediately outside the valley boundary.

FARMSTEADS

The valley has a number of fine Statesmen farmhouses dating from the 16th to the 17th centuries. The finest example in the area and probably the entire Lake District, is Townend at Troutbeck, one of the jewels of the National Trust's Lake District estate. Townend was passed down through 12 generations of the Browne family until 1948, when it was acquired by the National Trust.

TABLE 2.1 Key Farmhouses in the Windermere Valley

WOOD FARM, TROUTBECK

17th and 18th century farmhouse with barn and shippon under continuous roof and low 19th century addition.

DATE 17th – 18th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 339416 501559

HODGE HILL HALL, CARTMEL FELL

Large farmhouse possibly dates from 1560 with later alterations, including spice cupboard door dated 1674 and spinning gallery.

DATE 16th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 341845 488164

THE CAUSEWAY FARM, WINDERMERE

Large mid-17th Statesman century farmhouse, with many fine unaltered interior features, including 1658 dated plasterwork and 1661 spice cupboard.

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 341523 500039

ROBIN LANE COTTAGES, TROUTBECK

Two 17th century cottages.

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 340672 502547

LOW SADGILL, LONGSLEDDALE

Late 16th or early 17th century with later alterations and additions. Farmhouse with outbuildings under the same roof. Spice cupboard with initials and date 1670 MID (said by owners to be for John and Dorothy Mattinson).

DATE 16th – 17th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 348236 505651

POOL BANK FARM, CROSTHWAITE

A complex of houses and barns. Main farmhouse has 1693 datestone. Later alterations. Small wooden gallery in yard. Two other late 17th or early 18th century houses.

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 343009 487817

TOWN FOOT FARMHOUSE, TROUTBECK

Built on rising ground with its gable end to the road. 1694 on the spice cupboard.

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 340687 502009

FUSETHWAITE YEAT, TROUTBECK BRIDGE

Late 17th century house. Interior cupboard has 1683 date. Slate stepped gables and large round chimney.

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 341189 501321

TOWNEND

The house at Townend dates from 1626 and belonged to the Browne family. It is a typical house of a well-to-do Lake District Statesmen family, of stone and slate construction with wood-mullioned windows and characteristic tall, round chimneys. The house contains a wealth of internal detail including carved furniture and fittings and forms part of an important group of buildings which includes a fine 17th century bank barn.

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 340711 502277

PLUMGARTHS COTTAGES

House, now divided into two. 1611 date over door. Two massive chimneys with circular shafts.

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 349573 494618

2.1.4 INDUSTRY

Since the medieval period the natural resources of Windermere have been harnessed for industrial production. Corn, fulling and bobbin mills were constructed on many of the rivers and becks in the area. It was the bobbin mills that transformed Staveley into an industrial village. The most significant evidence for that industrial past consists of the large four-storey former woollen mill at Barley Bridge (now the premises of the Kentmere Paper and Packaging Company), which dates in part from 1789, and Chadwick Mill, the very large former woodturning factory at the southern end of the village, now the focal point of a growing light-industrial and retail centre.

Good evidence of charcoal production can still be seen. For example there are extensive areas of former coppiced woodland (also used for iron-smelting), particularly in the south part of the valley. In addition, there are high numbers of charcoal burning pitsteads (platforms) in the woodlands of on the western shore of Windermere, in the woodlands around the north and eastern side of Windermere, along the western side of the Troutbeck valley and in Kentmere.

Numerous medieval bloomeries (iron smelting sites) are scattered throughout the valley. Good examples are at Ghyll Head on the east side of Windermere, and in Witherslack Woods. The impact of the iron-smelting industry on the local landscape was not limited to the coppiced woodlands. Many of the local peatland 'mosses' in the south of the area and just outside the boundary were drained and cut for fuel for the iron industry.

The two main slate quarries in Longsleddale were Wrengill and Stockdalebank. Wrengill is at the head of Longsleddale and the remains include the quarries themselves, but there are also trackways and buildings. Stockdalebank now consists of some small excavations, tracks and a few building remains . In Kentmere, there were several large slate quarries at the head of the valley to the south and east of the reservoir. The last known quarrying activity was in the mid-1960s; remains include quarries, tips, tracks and buildings. The slate quarries in Troutbeck are mainly to the north and east of Troutbeck village where there are quarries, tips, tracks and buildings. The local architecture reflects the use of local stone extensively.

2.1.5 SETTLEMENTS

The settlement pattern over the large area of Windermere is very varied and ranges from small farming hamlets in the narrow valleys and low fells to the large (in Lake District terms) conjoined towns of Bowness and Windermere with their tourist facilities. The earliest surviving domestic structures are the remains of defended pele towers of the 14th century which are generally located on the periphery of the Lake District and may have been built in response to Scottish raids. Examples include Yewbarrow Hall in Longsleddale and Kentmere Hall in Kentmere.

The significant settlements around the lake are Waterhead at its northern end, Bowness-on-Windermere roughly at the midpoint of the east shore, Windermere, set back from the lake behind Bowness, and the smaller Lakeside and Newby Bridge at the south

end. East of the lake, settlement north of the A591 route from Kendal to Windermere is limited to small agricultural communities of vernacular buildings including Troutbeck with its numerous listed buildings, Kentmere Village with its prominent church and fine, fortified Kentmere Hall and Sadgill in Longsleddale. The A591 road links a number of communities including the busy working village of Staveley, prosperous since medieval times as a result of water powered industries such as bobbin manufacture and textiles, and with impressive mill buildings and 19th century stone terraced houses. South of the A591 the Winster and Lyth valleys and the low fell farmland between them are densely settled with scattered farms, small villages and hamlets including Crook, Winster, Underbarrow and Crosthwaite with Witherslack, Lindale and High Newton further south in the locality of the busy A590 trunk road.

The four main settlements are Troutbeck, Staveley, Bowness and Windermere.

TROUTBECK

Troutbeck is the finest example in the valley of a small farming hamlet with its origins in the medieval period, but with substantial rebuilding in the 17th and 18th centuries. There were an unusual number of wealthy, influential Yeoman farmers and the village was at the very forefront of the great rebuilding in stone in the 1620s. The village has some of the best surviving examples of groups of farm buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries. It is a linear settlement following a spring line along the west side of the Troutbeck Valley from Town End to Town Head. Troutbeck's small, linked settlements, sometimes referred to as 'bye-hamlets', reflect past family ownerships and are still readily identifiable as dispersed groups of farmhouses and barns separated by tracts of open countryside. The buildings display a wealth of external vernacular details including graded slate roofs, cylindrical chimney stacks, crow steps, wrestler slate ridges and spinning galleries. There are also notable examples of different types of 'bank barns', a peculiarly regional style of barn construction of the upland Lake District in which a two-level building is built on sloping land and has direct access from the ground to both levels. The quality of the architecture is reflected in 26 of the buildings in the village being listed. The buildings almost exclusively use local stone. Jesus Church in the valley bottom has oak roof trusses dated to 1562, a tower built in 1736 and an exceptionally fine east window of the 1870s by William Morris and Edward Burne Jones. There are only a few Victorian buildings, mainly post-railway and mostly related to slate quarrying prosperity further up the valley.

FIGURE 2.12 Statesman period farm at Low Fold, Troutbeck, displaying cylindrical chimney stacks, wooden window mullions and graded slate roof

FIGURE 2.13 Bank Barn, Town End, Troutbeck

STAVELEY

The large village of Staveley at the foot of the Kentmere Valley has developed on the basis of industrial production. The centre consists of mainly 19th century cottages, shops and pubs that line the Main Street, behind which lie some very substantial 19th century mill buildings, built for wool processing, wood turning and corn milling, but now successfully adapted to other purposes. Fields, farms and fells and long views to surrounding crags and scars provide an attractive rural backdrop. Many buildings are of architectural and historical interest, including the tower of the medieval Church of St Margaret; the 19th century Church of St James with its Morris & Company stained glass; the former Abbey Hotel; the former bank buildings, chapels and pubs. There is also a fine historic farm group at Staveley Park and Far Park, and a superb Victorian terrace of Danes Row with its attractive front gardens and trees. Brow Lane and the meadow below it form a substantial and important area of green space within the village.

BOWNESS AND WINDERMERE

Bowness and Windermere are bustling Victorian creations developed following the arrival of the railway, with imposing and ornate hotels, guest houses and shops with all the trappings of 'High Victorian' design. Hectic boating activity at the lakeshore, including the large lake steamers, yachts, cruisers and rowing boats, adds its own character to the lake. Although there are no longer any medieval buildings surrounding St. Martin's Church and what might have been a medieval market place, subsequent rebuilding in situ in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries has crystallised an early pattern of intimate building groups and interlinking spaces. The former Rectory, on the south side of Glebe Road, outside of the main village of Bowness, denotes the importance of the position of Rector of St Martin's. It is a large vernacular house, originating possibly in the 16th century, but with 17th, 18th and 19th century additions and alterations. Most of Windermere was built in a 50 year period in the second half of the 19th century. The village includes good examples of typical provincial commercial and residential architecture in the town centre, suburban developments off Lake Road, well-preserved out-of-town post-railway 19th century villas, public open spaces and gardens, and period street furniture. Lake Road in Bowness shows a range of post-railway development including a Non-Conformist chapel, the former police station, suburban villas, semi-detached houses, guest houses and terraces of houses. Bowness and Windermere continued to expand towards each other and merged in the mid-20th century with the building of large estates and residential infill of large grounds. Today both towns have a separate and distinctive identity but continue to share a role as hosts to Lake District visitors.

CROSTHWAITE

Crosthwaite is a sprawling village with farms and cottages, in an undulating pastoral landscape along the old turnpike road (built 1763) between Kendal and Furness. The Lyth Valley is well known for its damsons. There are some good 18th century houses and villas, such as Crosthwaite House on the approach from Kendal. One of the largest and best-preserved corn mills (now a management study centre) sits beside the River Gilpin and there are a number of other mills which are now dwellings. There are well-preserved limekilns in the area, where Carboniferous

Limestone outcrops. The Church of 1878 is a very prominent feature. Nearby, Cowmire Hall is a particularly fine three-storey house, with a pele tower to the rear, and 17th century frontage. At Pool Bank, there is a cluster of good 17th century farmhouses.

WINSTER

Winster, named after the River Winster, the former county boundary between Westmorland and Lancashire, is a small village of mainly whitewashed houses along the Lyth Valley road to Bowness. There is a small number of historical buildings, such as the 17th century Old Post Office, an inn, a tiny school and a small church. Nearby is Birket House, a fine vernacular revival mansion of 1908 designed by Dan Gibson with gardens by Thomas Mawson. Winster House is a fine villa of 1827 by Websters of Kendal.

WITHERSLACK

Witherslack is a quiet rural village on the western side of Whitbarrow, based on farming. Witherslack Hall is a very dominant building; the Old Hall dates from the 17th and 18th centuries, and the New Hall is late 19th century in date. It was the seat of the Stanley family (the Earls of Derby). St Paul's Church is a very fine 17th century church (1669), built with money from John Barwick, a local lad who became chaplain to King Charles II and Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, London. Nether Hall has a very fine late medieval timber roof structure.

NEWBY BRIDGE

Newby Bridge is a vital crossing point where Lake Windermere runs into the River Leven. It has a fine late medieval bridge with a series of low arches, surrounded by a few houses. The Swan Hotel is an 18th century coaching inn on the 1763 turnpike road from Kendal to Ulverston. There is a good terrace of Furness Railway workers' houses near the Lakeside road and an old corn mill, part of the variety of the Leven Valley industries. The Furness Railway branch line originally terminated here in 1868, but was then extended to Lakeside in 1869 to connect with the steamer service on the lake. Nearby, Stott Park Bobbin Mill was built in 1835 and it is now a nationally important working museum dedicated to the Lake District's famous bobbin industry.

LINDALE

Lindale is just off the A590 road on the old road to Ulverston, at the foot of a notoriously steep hill. Near to Grange-over-Sands, Lindale developed when marshland around Morecambe Bay was drained and new roads were built. It is a mixture of old and new, with some 18th and 19th century houses, barns and a mill, but with much 20th century infill and new small estates. There are strong historic links with John Wilkinson at Wilson House Farm, and his large Georgian house at Castlehead. His father, Isaac, was the Iron Master at Backbarrow Ironworks and there is an important cast iron monument to John Wilkinson on Grange Road. Eller How at the top of Lindale Hill was home to the Websters, famous early 19th century architects who owned the marble works in Kendal.

2.1.6 PICTURESQUE BUILDINGS AND LANDSCAPE

Many picturesque woodlands were established on the Windermere shoreline throughout the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The landscape impact of these plantations was unrivalled in the Lake District. As a result, the shores of Windermere have been described as "probably the most exciting piece of artificial picturesque planting in existence" (Robinson, 1991). The valley is also rich in designed landscapes and gardens, mostly 19th century in date (Hampsfield House, Borwick's Aynsome Farm gardens, Broughton Lodge grounds, Lowbridge House, Selside, The Howe, Troutbeck and Calgarth Hall grounds) but with a few earlier ones (Belle Isle, Haws Wood and possibly Thorns Villa) and a few from the early 20th century (Meathop Grange, Gilpin Lodge Hotel grounds and Brockhole House and Gardens).

Thomas West identified five viewing stations around the lake in his 'Guide to the Lakes' of 1778 and the majority of these can still be visited. Two of West's listed stations actually had two alternative viewing locations, so there were in effect seven stations. Also from this period, wealthy outsiders were moved to purchase lake shore land and build grand properties and grounds to assist their enjoyment and appreciation of the landscape.

FIGURE 2.14 Claife Viewing Station, Windermere

The first of West's Stations was located on the west shore of Windermere in Scar Wood, opposite Bowness and at about the midpoint of the lake. In 1799 the land here was bought by the Reverend William Braithwaite c. 1794 – 99, who had a building known as 'The Station' or 'Belle Vue' constructed to a Gothic design by the architect John Carr (1723-1807), for visitors to enjoy the prospect (this is now known as Claife Viewing Station – see Volume 1, Section 2.b.3 text box).

Following Braithwaite's death in 1800, the station and associated land was sold to John Christian Curwen as an extension of his estate. Curwen enlarged the Station in 1801, changing the architecture to a Gothic revival style. The building had a drawing room on the first floor with stunning views across the lake. Robert Southey was one of the many visitors and in 1802 described the windows with coloured glass that could be used to give an impression of the landscape in different seasons.

By the end of the 19th century Claife Viewing Station had fallen out of fashion. When John Curwen's ancestor E. A. Curwen died, the Station and surrounding land passed to the National Trust in 1962. The building remains a rare example of a purpose-built viewing station and is one of the earliest monuments to Lake District tourism. The National Trust has recently conserved and opened up the remains of the Station so that visitors can once again use it to appreciate the landscape before them.

The second viewing location listed under Station I is at Harrow Slack, north of Ferry House. West's four other Stations were located at the southern and northern ends of Belle Isle, at Rawlinson's Nab near Cunsey, on the western shore and on Brant Fell, a low hill above Bowness, with an additional (seventh) station referred to at Rayrigg.

2.1.7 VILLAS AND ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPING

In addition to the woodland planting schemes inspired by the Picturesque aesthetic, the shores of Windermere were also the focus for a rash of mansion and villa building by wealthy incomers which continued well into the 19th century. As a result Windermere has a greater concentration of nationally-important buildings than any other of the Lake District valleys. The earliest house, built in 1774 on Belle Isle, has iconic status as both the first house in the Lake District to be built for Picturesque reasons and as the first cylindrical building of the Picturesque in England. The designs of the houses and villas which followed the construction of Belle Isle were more conventional in terms of contemporary design but also had a significant impact on the landscape around the lake.

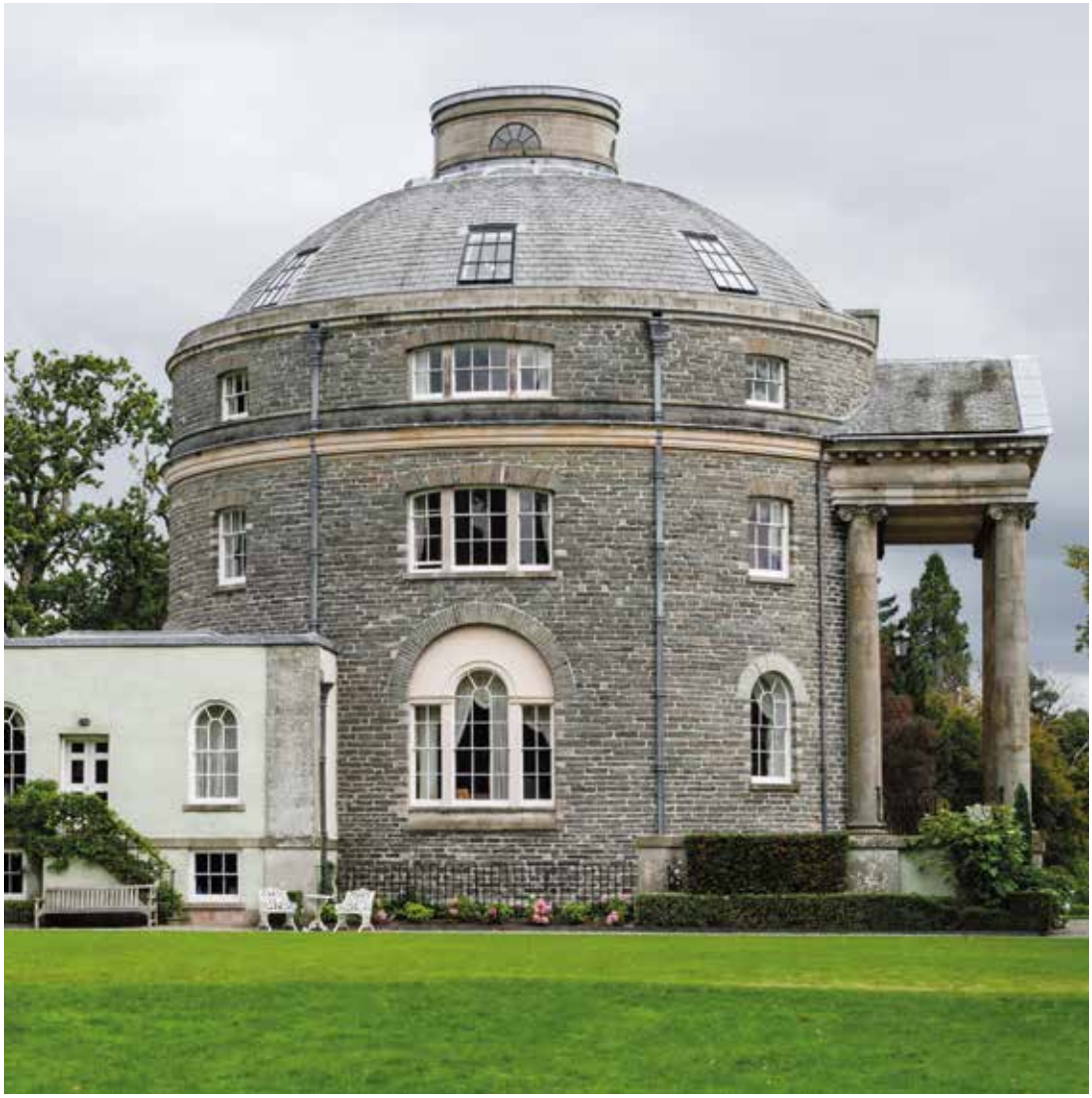


FIGURE 2.15 Belle Isle, Windermere. Side view of the cylindrical villa built c. 1774 for Thomas English.

FIGURE 2.16 Interior view of Blackwell

The Arts and Crafts style at the end of the 19th and start of the 20th centuries was significant in this part of the Lake District. Properties cluster on estates such as the Storrs Hall Estate where landowners and designers collaborated to develop three of the most significant Arts and Crafts houses: Broad Leys, Moor Crag and Blackwell. Moor Crag and Broad Leys are said to be two of the finest houses of their date in Europe. Dan Gibson, the architect, commented at the time that in these Arts and Crafts houses "the principal rooms are arranged to comprise fine lake and mountain views rather than aspect, and everything in the garden is made subservient to them". Other significant villas include Cragwood (1910), designed by Frank Brookhouse Dunkerley (1868-1951), occupying a prominent position above the lake with extensive gardens designed by Thomas Mawson.

TABLE 2.2 Key villas in the Windermere Valley

BELLE ISLE

Built for Thomas English in c. 1774 to a design by John Plaw. Wordsworth said that this was the first house built in the Lake District because of the beauty of the area. The house comprises a cylindrical Pantheon style with a dome, lantern and front portico of four Ionic columns. Bought in 1781 by the Curwen family and owned by them until 1991. The Curwens developed the wooded parkland around the house, revetted the shore of the island and constructed a drive around the perimeter. The house was damaged by fire in 1994 and skilfully restored. It remains an almost perfect example of a Picturesque Arcadian scene.

DATE 18th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed

ELLERAY BANK, WINDERMERE

Villa built from 1856-61 by Alfred Waterhouse for G. S. Cunningham.

DATE 19th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Not listed
GRID REFERENCE 341063 499265

CLEEVE HOWE, WINDERMERE

Designed by J. S. Crowther in 1853 in the Gothic style with later Mawson gardens.

DATE 19th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Not listed
GRID REFERENCE 341019 499162

BLACKWELL

Built in 1900 to a design by M. H. Baillie Scott for the Manchester brewer, philanthropist and Lord Mayor, Sir Edward Holt. The subsequent uses as a school and offices did little damage to the still outstanding interior. A restoration project in 1997 by the Lakeland Arts Trust brought it back to its former glory and it is now managed as visitor attraction by the Lakeland Arts Trust. According to the listing description 'Blackwell is considered to be Baillie Scott's finest surviving work in England, and its significance is enhanced by the survival of so many elements of the outstandingly important interior, despite its recent usage as a school and then as offices.'

DATE 20th century
OWNERSHIP Lakeland Arts Trust
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 340061 494558

WANSFELL HOLME, WATERHEAD

Villa of 1836. Stone rubble construction, two storeys, and three centre bays on the ground floor covered by an ornamented iron and glass sun room. Tall octagonal chimneys and interior has an early hydraulic lift.

DATE 19th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 338020 502694

BELSFIELD HOTEL IN BOWNESS

Originally built as a villa in 1838 in Italianate style by George Webster for Baroness de Sternberg. This is perhaps the best example of a pre-railway age mansion on the east side of the lake and was later owned by the Barrow ironmaster Sir Henry Schneider, whose daily commute has become legendary: breakfast on his steam launch to a special train service from Lakeside to Barrow.

DATE 19th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 340242 496647

BROCKHOLE

Built in 1900 for the Gaddum family, is now the Lake District National Park Visitor Centre. The house and grounds were designed as one by the partnership of Dan Gibson, a notable local architect, and the famous landscape gardener Thomas Mawson. Other notable Gibson designs include the imposing villa of White Crags, Clappersgate, which is a good example of the vernacular revival at the end of the 19th century. Other examples of Mawson gardens around Windermere include those at Graythwaite Hall, Langdale Chase, and Holehird. The property of Holehird perhaps epitomizes the Gothic style that became typical for the Windermere area in the late 19th century.

DATE 20th century
OWNERSHIP Lake District National Park Authority
PROTECTION Registered Historic Park and Garden
GRID REFERENCE 338947 500999

BIRKET HOUSES, NEAR WINSTER

Designed by Dan Gibson and built in 1907-8. It is described by Nikolaus Pevsner as 'the last, finest and best-preserved work of his too short life'. It is not a lakeside villa, but more a country house for the landed family, the Birkets. The garden is designed by Thomas Mawson.

DATE 20th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 341217 493016

BROADLEYS

Designed by C. F. A Voysey and built by Pattinsons in 1898-99, including electric lighting, for Henry Currer-Briggs, a colliery owner from Leeds. According to the listing 'One of Voysey's finest houses and one of the most important of its date in Europe'.

DATE 19th century
OWNERSHIP Windermere Motorboat Racing Club
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 339315 493324

BROUGHTON LODGE, FIELD BROUGHTON

Built in 1770-80 for Josiah Birch of Failsworth, Manchester, either for the Directors of Backbarrow Cotton Mill, or as a holiday house, which would be a very early example. Now flats.

DATE 18th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 339157 480816

CRAGWOOD

Cragwood, next door to Brockhole, was built in 1910 and designed by Frank Dunkerley, a relation of the Gaddums of Brockhole. The garden was designed by Thomas Mawson. It is now a hotel.

DATE 20th century
OWNERSHIP Lake District Country Hotels/Impact International
PROTECTION Not listed
GRID REFERENCE 339050 500658

DOVE NEST

Built in 1780 above the eastern shore of the lake in a more romantic style. Mrs Hemans, a poet and close friend of Wordsworth, stayed here for the summer of 1830 and wrote there was "a glorious view of Windermere from an old-fashioned alcove" in the garden. The alcove is also now a listed building. Now a hotel.

DATE 18th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 338391 502551

HOLEHIRD

A large Gothic-style house, was built and altered for three successive Manchester owners between 1854 and 1904. Dan Gibson and Thomas Mawson worked together for the third owner. The Thomas Mawson garden is now run by the Lake District Horticultural Association.

DATE 19th – 20th century
OWNERSHIP Leonard Cheshire Disability
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 341014 500861

LANGDALE CHASE

Built between 1889 and 1894 by Pattinsons for Mrs Howarth of Manchester. Victorian Jacobean in a Picturesque style in a magnificent lakeside setting. It is now a hotel.

DATE 19th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 338667 501680

MOOR CRAG

Designed by Voysey, built in 1899-1900, for J. W. Buckley of Altrincham, near Manchester. According to the listing 'Moor Crag is one of Voysey's finest houses and one of the most important of its date in Europe.'

DATE 19th – 20th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 339170 492481

OAKLAND, WINDERMERE

Designed by J. S. Crowther in 1855 in the Gothic style with later Mawson gardens.

DATE 19th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Not listed
GRID REFERENCE 340967 499091

WYNLASS BECK, WINDERMERE

A distinctive and little- altered detached villa of 1854 for Mr Peter Kennedy by the architect J. S. Crowther of Manchester, part of an important group of Gothic revival style buildings which helped create the distinctive architectural character of Windermere village in the decades following the completion of the Kendal and Windermere railway in 1847.

DATE 19th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 340713 499319

THE CORBELLS, HEATHWAITE, WINDERMERE

Designed by Thomas Mawson, for himself in 1900.

DATE 20th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Not listed
GRID REFERENCE 341531 497717

STORRS HALL

Remodelled in 1808-9 from Sir John Legard's 1790s simple classical villa, Storrs Hall is one of the best Regency buildings in the Lake District. It was built by John Bolton on proceeds derived from the Liverpool slave trade. The grounds are laid out with romantic pathways and a lakeside walk. They include the Picturesque Temple of the Heroes built by Legard at the end of a causeway projecting into the lake. It was altered in the early 19th century to commemorate the naval victories of a number of British admirals including Nelson. As at The Station, coloured glass gave the impression from within of different seasons and weather. Storrs Hall was enlarged and converted to a hotel in 1892 by the then owner, Joseph Pattinson. Pattinson also divided and developed the estate in the 1890s with Blackwell, Broadleys and Moor Crag.

DATE 18th – 19th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 339260 494132

SHRUBLANDS, WINDERMERE

Designed by Mawson for his brother. Now the Windermere Social Club.

DATE 20th century
OWNERSHIP Private
GRID REFERENCE 341112 498096

2.2 HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

2.2.1 ARCHAEOLOGY AND EARLY SETTLEMENT

The earliest evidence of human activity in Windermere is the finding of Mesolithic flints (c. 8000 – 4000 BC) beneath Ambleside Roman fort at the northern end of Windermere. There are also probable Bronze Age (2,000 – 800 BC) burial cairns on the Tongue (Troutbeck) and on Cunswick and Scout Scars.

The Romans constructed a fort at the head of Windermere which was surrounded by a civilian settlement (vicus) and the remains of a Roman road linking this with the fort at Hardknott can be traced through Little Langdale and over Wrynose and Hardknott Passes. There are a small number of Romano-British settlements of this period with

a concentration in Kentmere (Tongue House Barn, Millriggs, Kentmere Hall Plantation), High Borrans, Cunswick Scar, Cunswick Hall, and Lamb Pasture (Bannisdale). Roman artefacts have been found at these sites.

2.2.2 THE ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CURRENT SETTLEMENT PATTERN

It is clear that the Windermere Valley was settled before the Norman Conquest of 1066/1092 in Cumbria, although the nature and extent of this occupation is not yet understood. In 685, Earl Ecgfrith of Northumberland granted to St Cuthbert the lands of Cartmel and Carlisle 'et omnes Britannos cum eo' (and all Britons with it). This suggests that the population in the Cartmel/Carlisle area was considered to be native British, not Anglo-Saxon. The place-name evidence includes Norse influences such as upland sheiling sites (High Skelghyll, Banniside and Sadgill), or natural features which became place-names such as Troutbeck, referring to the spawning of trout in the adjacent beck. However, such names with Old Norse roots could be much later in origin. By the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066, the valley area appears to have been owned by Gillemichael, as the manor of Strickland. Around the fringes some land may have been owned by members of the Anglo Saxon nobility: by Torfin as the manor of Austwick, Yorkshire; by Earl Tostig as the manor of Whittington, Lancashire; and by Earl Tostig as the manor of Beetham. By 1086 the land had been transferred to King William I except Beetham, which had been granted to Roger de Poitou (a Norman), with Ernuin the Priest as his subordinate.

Evidence for sites known to be early medieval in date are thin on the ground. There is a possible early farmstead site at Cunswick Fell and Bryant's Gill, Kentmere is a supposed early medieval longhouse site. Just outside the Windermere Valley area there are Anglian Crosses at Kendal and Heversham.

2.2.3 THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FARMING LANDSCAPE

After the Norman Conquest of England, Westmorland was still border country and Cumberland was not made part of Norman England until 1092. All of the Barony of Kendale (the area centred on the valley of the river Kent) was granted to Ivo de Tallebois by William II (reigned 1087 to 1100), probably in connection with his efforts in the Conquest of the North. Much of the land appears to have been held under the jurisdiction of local lords, although during the majority of King Stephen of England's reign (1135-1154), Cumberland and 'Westmarieland' were held by King David of Scotland. Much of Windermere appears to have been administered as 'forest' with no freeholds except the Fleming estate in Rydal and Loughrigg, monastic land such as the Conishead Priory estate at Baisbrown, a small freehold estate in Little Langdale, and a freehold at Lickbarrow. Windermere Water was a fishery of the lords of Kendale.

The town of Bowness-on-Windermere probably has its origins as an early 10th century Norse fishing and trading settlement on the east shore of Windermere. It is first mentioned as 'Bulebas' in 1190, becoming 'Bulness' in 1282. By this time Bowness was

already well established as a settlement, primarily a fishing village (centred on catching the char found in Windermere), grouped around St Martin's Church. The town lay almost directly on the ancient packhorse route from Hawkshead to Kendal which crossed the lake at the old ferry point at Low Miller Ground. St Martin's Church, the parish church of Windermere, was first recorded in 1203. This church burnt down in 1480 and only its font and the base of the tower remain. St Martin's was rebuilt and re-consecrated in 1483. It was restored, enlarged and the tower heightened in 1870. The large east window contains medieval glass probably from Cartmel Priory, dated 1276 (in England only Canterbury Cathedral has earlier glass, from 1275) and the rest of the window is 14th/15th century.

Many of the settlements in the Barony of Kendale appear to have open field origins. Occasionally, settlements at either end of the open fields may reflect the development of one as a separate lord's holding. Evidence of former open field systems survive in a number of the more fertile low lying areas, including Longsleddale.

LONGSLEDDALE

There is documentary and archaeological evidence for medieval occupation and farming practices at Sadgill and Stockdale at the north end of Longsleddale, with open field strips on both sides of the road, bounded on the west by the River Sprint. Sadgill is referred to in historical source material from 1238 onwards and there are specific references to farming. For example in 1282 Margaret de Ros owned 600 acres of pasture across Sadgill and Strickland Ketel. In 1246 William de Lancastre III gave Robert de Layburn a shieling in Sleddale at Sadgill along with meadow and pasture land in return for a rent. The same William gave Roland, son of Ellis de Revegill, further meadow and pasture land also for a yearly rent. By 1283, the shieling at Sadgill was still referred to as such (perhaps also in 1360) which suggests that it was still recognised as seasonal upland pasture.

Pasture in Longsleddale seems to have been shared amongst a variety of landowners, including the monasteries, as shown by a 1263 agreement between local landowners and the Abbot of Shap. The ruins of the 'convent's mill of Revegill' described in these documents are thought to survive on the hillside overlooking the River Sprint opposite Yewbarrow Hall and the church. Longsleddale also has the earliest mention of a slate quarry anywhere in the Lake District, said to be worked in 1287, although its location is unknown and may have been destroyed by later workings.

Sleddale appears in the Patent Rolls of 1229, although a manor in the dale of Sleddale is not referred to until 1306. The 1332 Subsidy refers to nine individuals, perhaps each the head of a household and liable for various rentals.

A tenement west of the River Spryt is referred to in 1364 as held by Thomas son of Benedict. Perhaps this is Tom's Howe – Henry Holme of Tomshow was 'burried Sleddale Chappel', 19 December 1713; the first to be buried at the chapel after it was licenced for burial that same year. The farms at Stockdale and Tom's Howe, and the shieling at Sadgill, seem to be relics of a deserted village of Longsleddale, previously thought to have been abandoned in the medieval period. However, Machell, in the 1690s, mentioned two hamlets at the head of Sleddale in the middle of which was a chapel and a court, and stated that 39 families lived there. There are also 14th century references to it in the

Lay Subsidy Rolls of 1332 and of 1334/36. A further reference dating to 1336 records an enclosure being broken into and timber and other goods stolen. Tom's Howe sits apart from the Sleddale open fields, and may well represent the farm of a feudal steward. The documents show that the village was deserted only after the 1690s.

TROUTBECK

Evidence for medieval settlement and farming at Troutbeck is a little less straight forward. Troutbeck as a settlement may be referred to obliquely in a 1272 Inquisition Post Mortem to Troutbeck Park, in which reference is made to the pannage of Troutbeck in Troutbeck Forest. Pannage is a right to feed pigs in a forest, which suggests a local farming community who could exercise that right. By 1324 there was a hamlet in Troutbeck which was referred to in the Inquisition Post Mortem of Ingram de Gynes. It records that he held at his death:

> **"the hamlet of Troutbek, parcel of the said manor of Wynandremer, in which there are 11 tenants at will, who render £11 8s. 2½d. yearly, six tenements there were in the lord's hands and ought to render £5 11s. 2½d. yearly and now nothing".**

The date of this document suggests that the Scots laid the village waste; perhaps also that Ingram himself was a victim of this episode. Further source material suggests that a medieval chapel was rebuilt 1562, again testifying to an earlier established settlement.

STAVELEY

Staveley was not mentioned in the Domesday Book and may therefore be a post Conquest settlement, although this cannot be certain as the Domesday Book was incomplete for this area. There is evidence of open fields over much of the area north of Staveley and land improvements are first referred to in a grant of 1189-1200 when William Godmund was given permission to 'make improvements between the highway and Kent to the bounds of Bolteston and common of pasture'. If the highway at that time skirted Spy Crag then this may be associated with Staveley Park Farm, preserving in its place-name a lord's holding. Alternatively if the highway was the old Kendal Road, then the park boundary may have been much further south and included land either side of the Kent, up to the common on Spy Crag. The manor of Staveley is first named in a grant dated 1281 to William de Twenge for a market on Fridays at his manor of Staveley in Kendale and for a three-day annual fair. The hamlet seems to have been prosperous from an early period and was awarded a market charter in 1329. In 1341, 10 years after the establishment of woollen mills at Kendal, there was a fulling mill at Staveley. The first reference to a park at Staveley was in an Inquisition Post Mortem of 1323, although by 1344 another Inquisition Post Mortem recorded that it had been split into two pieces, of one third and two thirds. This may record the customary right of a widow of a copyholder to only one third of an acre. The park was referred to again in 1396, but then there is a gap until 1525 when five messuages were recorded within the park's boundaries. This gap plus the later subdivision of the park suggest that the hunt had become unfashionable and more income was to be made from letting out the park for farming.

There are clear examples of open fields at Cunswick. This settlement first appears in historical documents between 1186-1200, along with part of the vill of Tranthwaite. In 1220–46 the vill of Tranthwaite appears again, with references to Bracanrigg (probably indicating rigg and furrow or open field cultivation), a High Assart and Adam's Assart (both indicating recent clearance and therefore likely agricultural activity).

CROSTHWAITE

At Crosthwaite there is a small area of former arable land to the south of Crosthwaite Green, possibly originally part of the hamlet. Crosthwaite first appeared in historical sources in 1187-1200. In 1301 there was reference to a mill here, but the account does not say if it is a corn mill of a fulling mill. But a 1374 rental referred to a 'tenter' at Mirks Howe (Mirkhouse?). Tenter normally refers to cloth making, and a fulling mill is referred to in other documents such as the 1390-91 rental of the lands of Philippa, the wife of the late Robert de Vere, earl of Oxford, and John de Hothome in the lordship of Kendale when John de Hall held the fulling mill as did Adam Pacocke who held one referred to as Holleclowck. In 1421 "John de Lumley held at his death, as appurtenant to an eighth part of the manor of Kirkeby in Kendale, lands and messuages in Crossethwayte, and 120 a. land, 60 a. meadow, 140 a. wood and a watermill in Crossethwayte, worth 14 marks yearly clear; and four messuages, 60 a. land and 40 a. meadow in Lithe, worth 100s. yearly clear". Robert Philipson held a water-corn-mill in 1390 confirming arable farming at Crosthwaite.

In a 1454 rental one intake is recorded as 'newly enclosed' by William Belle ('for which he does not answer because he occupied the said intake without lease or licence of the steward'). Generally, the surviving rentals for Crosthwaite contain numerous references in 1374 and 1390 to free farms, cottages, tenements, tofts, closes (enclosures) and messuages with appurtences held by tenants at will and so clearly it consisted of an agricultural community. Interestingly, John Hurd held a 'new approvement' and Elias Mantill held an intake in 1390-1, showing that active enclosure and improvements were being made at this time.

THORPHINSTY

Thorphinsty has a classic Hall at one end of former open fields. It appears first in historical sources in 1275–6 as:

> **"a messuage and a plough-land in a suit against the Prior of Cartmel, alleging that the prior had no right except by one Alexander de Thorphinsty, who had made a grant there to the injury of the plaintiff's grandfather, Thomas le Fitz Kelly or son of Ketel. The prior raised a technical objection — that Thorphinsty was neither town nor borough — and plaintiff could not gainsay."**

Other evidence of early agriculture occurs in the valley in the form of strip lynchets. These can be difficult to date, but generally a relative chronology can be established where they are associated with other features. These undated features occur on the steep hillsides east side of Holbeck Ghyll, and there is a possible deserted medieval

village to the west behind the Lowwood Hotel, with ridge and furrow agriculture extending upslope. Some of this is clearly broad ridge and furrow suggesting a medieval date. The enclosure of the land between Waterhead House and Thief Fold Wood seems (from the historical mapping alone) to indicate similar improvement of land for agriculture as lynchets. The drive towards arable improvement in the 12th and 13th centuries was interrupted permanently in the 14th century probably because of the plague and subsequent population decline.

The uplands provide additional information on later colonisation of farmland and seasonal transhumant practices. There are examples of probable colony farms set apart from the open field settlements, which represent 12th-13th century settlement expansion at Wasdale Head near the packhorse route to Shap. Hause Foot in Crookdale; Borrowdale Head; and Bannisdale Head are further examples. The latter first documented in 1357 under Strickland Ketel (an inquisition post mortem).

MEDIEVAL MONASTIC HOLDINGS

In terms of monastic landholdings, Shap Abbey had a sheep farming interest and a mill at Longsleddale in 1263. A document of 1525 refers to enclosed improvements and intakes in Skelmsergh, Cunswick, Bradleyfield and Tranthwaite. The abbot and convent of St Mary's Abbey, York, granted and let to farm to:

> "James Layburne, esquier, all the tethe cornez of the hamelett of Skelmyssergh with all the approwmentes at the making herof enclosed within the seid hamelett in the pishinge of Kirkeby in Kendall, excepte the tethe cornez with the approwmentes of the tenementes of Gilthwatrige, Ladyforde, the tenemente of John Redemayn and of a tenimente late in the handez of Willm. Gilpyne; also thei have latten to ferme to the seid James Layburn all the tethe cornez of Bradeleyfeld and Tranthwate wth Connyswik, Bulmerstrandes and Bradesl[ak] [eaten away] with ther intakes and approwmentes which Thomas Layburn father to the seid James occupied afortyme..."

The hamlets of Addyfield, Hartbarrow, Birket Houses, Ludderburn, Rosthwaite and Gill Head and the northern end of Cartmel Fell were held for the most part by customary tenants of the Prior and Canons of Cartmel Abbey. Most was common land although by 1577, after the authority of Cartmel Abbey was removed, there were disputed encroachments onto the fell. The only manor in this area was Burblethwaite.

DEER PARKS

Deer parks were also located in the Windermere Valley and in some instances their outlines can still be discerned in present day field boundaries. Troutbeck Park was documented in 1272 (see above), but there are a number of possibilities for its boundaries apparent in the landscape today. Calgarth Park is referred to in 1365, but its boundaries are unknown. Similarly other parks are referred to in medieval documents,

but their location is unknown, as Routheworth Park cited in 1255–72 (in Underbarrow, Bradley Field and Cunswick), and Le Cole Park documented in 1437 (in Ambleside and Troutbeck). A number of other deer parks are referred to in 16th century documents, a period when hunting was re-established as a fashionable pursuit.

THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES

The period of reorganisation and expansion in the 16th and 17th centuries is relatively well-documented in Windermere compared with the other Lake District valleys. Nonetheless, even with documented evidence for new intakes of land, the picture presented is of small episodes of piecemeal enclosure over long periods. In the south of the valley, intakes occur at the edges of inbye, occupying easily accessible slopes on former common land adjacent to existing holdings, as around Staveley-in-Kendal, for example.

While documentary evidence points to a considerable amount of piecemeal enclosure, not all of this has been identified on the ground. For example, a 1574 Richmond Fee Survey covering Crosthwaite and Lyth referred to land which had belonged to Miles Briges being improved and an associated Memorandum stated that "the said tenants claim to have annexed and adjoined to each tenement of the rent of 6s. 8d., 7 acres of arable and meadow land by divers grants of divers lords".

A 1579 Articles of Agreement for Crosthwaite and Lyth outlined the process of piecemeal enclosure where it was agreed that tenants could cut down and grub out any old dead wood within their farm holdings in any place where they can make arable ground or meadow. A later 1618 Lumley Fee Rental included 38 entries recording the rents of new improvements.

A 1669 Demise document for Longsleddale referred to sheep heafs, as in formerly common pasture now attached to specific farms by custom. The tenants were liable for repair and maintenance to the fences and walls, presumably a codification of historic local custom.

That tenants were liable for the maintenance and repairs to their enclosures can be seen from a 1560 court of Henry, Earl of Cumberland, covering Ambleside and Troutbeck which referred to a long list of land stewardship misdemeanours including unrepaired fences, broken gates and gaps in enclosures.

The lists of farms mentioned in a number of 16th century sources, were also present in the Hearth Taxes of 1669/72 and are still recognisable today. By implication, there has been little change in areas such as Longsleddale for at least the last 500 years. Troutbeck parish was divided into Hundreds and was originally divided into 72 tenements called five cattle tenements (each had five cattle 'gaits' onto the fells and the common pasture). As early as Henry VIII (reigned 1509-1547), some tenants had doubled their holdings by acquisition into ten cattle tenements, so it is difficult to identify the original tenements. This process may have been set out in the 1574 Richmond Fee Survey in which most (of 56) tenants were calculated as 6s. 8d. Only eight tenants have precisely double this, at 13s. 4d. Some smaller rental units mean that it is difficult to account for the 72 original tenements but they are likely still present within this pattern. At this stage the old Troutbeck deer park appeared to be divided amongst the tenants and the rent fixed at 6s. 8d. By 1675 there were 48 tenants, 16 fewer than in 1574

suggesting a process of rationalisation of land holdings amongst fewer tenants. Of these only 22 had the 6s. 8d intact; others held larger tenements or parts thereof.

A similar process is documented at Kentmere Park where George Gilpin's Inquisition Post Mortem referred to his earlier marriage settlement of 1595. This was referred to as "my feeding land called le Parke". Kentmere Hall was established in the 14th century, so it is possible that the Park was earlier. The same document suggested that George Gilpin had owned several farms to the south west of the Hall including houses and buildings at the 'Park Yeate' (gate) and enclosures adjacent. He appeared to buy out his humbler neighbours in order to create his own personal pasture land (or park?) and this became known as 'Hall Quarter'. Later, in 1698, Sir Daniel Fleming bought 89 heafed sheep at Kentmere Hall at the same time as acquiring the farm – an early example of establishing a landlord's flock.

This process of shifting tenurial rights and consolidation of land holdings was not necessarily a popular one. At Staveley, a plaque at the chapel commemorates the meeting that took place at there in 1620 when the Lake District Yeomen ('statesmen') met to protest against the King's (James I) attempt to overturn the rights of customary tenure that had existed in the northern counties of England for centuries. The men were brought before the Star Chamber in London and their case was so strong that for once the court decided in their favour.

As with other valleys, the Dissolution of the Monasteries (1536-41) also created opportunities for land acquisition. Mabel Benson claimed Thorphinsty unsuccessfully in 1577. In 1587 Thomas Allen claimed the tenement under a lease from the Crown for 21 years at a rent of £3 2s. 8d. which was the rent formerly paid to the priory. Thomas Hutton said that he and his ancestors had held the same as customary lands of the manor of Cartmel.

Witherslack Hall first appears in historical sources in 1542, suggesting that it too was the result of monastic land being made available for private development. It was described along with its parkland in 1653-4:

> "capital messuage or mansion house commonly called Wither Slacke situate in Witherslack Park and one barn, an oxhouse, a stable and a malt kiln, a courtyard, an orchard, a garden and greens, containing in the whole by estimation 2 acres 1 rood; and also all that Park or demesne lands called Witherslack Park consisting of several parcels of land, namely, 33 acres arable, 37 acres meadow, 620 acres of rockey and woody pasture bounded on the south-east with a certain parcel of land called the "Deare Garthes," on the north with Whitbury common and a place called Howredding, on the west with certain lands called Poobancke and on the south with certain lands called the Customary Lands and with a certain common called Witherslack Common; and also all that "stocke and game of deare" in the said Park and all and every or any other part of the premises... whatsoever to the said

> capital messuage park and premises belonging. All which now are or late were in tenure of the said John Leyburne or his assigns; and all other the lands tenements and hereditaments in Witherslack, etc., and containing in the whole by estimation 694 acres, 3 roods".

The deer park boundary can possibly be identified today on the east side of Witherslack Hall.

THE 'GREAT REBUILDING'

The 16th and 17th centuries also marked a period of rebuilding resulting from the new prosperity and some of the best surviving examples of groups of farm buildings from that period survive in the Windermere Valley. The histories of houses at Townend, The Crag, Longmire Yeat, High Green, and Town Head show that Troutbeck at one time contained up to 50 statesmen families rather than being dominated by two or three squires as was typical in other parts of England. The rights accrued through customary tenure enabled successive generations of some families to live in Troutbeck and thereby to accumulate wealth and become very influential in the area. For example, the Birketts and the Brownes lived in Troutbeck from the 14th century to the 19th century, and from the 16th century to the 20th century respectively. Most of the surviving rural building stock in Troutbeck dates from the 17th century, with only six buildings dating to the 18th century. Glenside has heavy wall-posts which may indicate an earlier timber cruck-frame, although the present building is dated 1634.

Indeed the majority of vernacular architecture in the Windermere Valley area dates from the 17th century. A small number of buildings are known to contain original (probably 16th century) or re-used (medieval) crucks; the actual number may possibly be higher. In Staveley in Kendal there are some notable 17th century survivals at Barley Bridge, Staveley Park Farm, High Scroggs, Low Scroggs and Low Fold. Most of the surviving rural building stock in Underbarrow and Bradleyfield dates from the 17th century, with only eight notable buildings from the 18th century. In Undermillock there are ten notable 18th century buildings. The remainder are 17th century and the church, rebuilt in 1875, contains 17th century fittings. In Windermere, most (17) of the surviving rural buildings date from the 17th century, with 11 notable buildings from the 18th century. Orrest Head Farm and Far Orrest both incorporate the remains of cruck-trusses, and Low Longmire is said to have a cruck-roof.

Other notable buildings in the valley which display evidence of 16-17th century building include Cunswick Hall which also retains some early 16th century rubble walling; and the Gatehouse is 15th or early 16th century. Although Calgarth Hall is 14th century in date it also contains fabric from the 15th-17th centuries. Cowmire Hall originated as a 16th century pele tower and is now the west wing of the present house. Meathop Hall was built late in the 17th or early in the 18th century.

The pele tower at Yewbarrow Hall appears to be first mentioned in 1531, when William Vaux and Joan his wife passed by fine to Anne and Thomas Haryngton, tenements in Langsleydayll (probably including Yewbarrow Hall). It is referred to as a dower in 1573, but probably developed from a 'capital messuage', perhaps in its own land.

Collectively, the building stock in the valley suggests considerable prosperity leading to new building and rebuilding of old houses, farms and outbuildings.

THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES

The construction of the railway to Windermere (see below) included a station at Staveley but this had little impact on the historic core of the village as a new, separate suburb was built to the south-west of the medieval village. This building coincided with the construction of the former Abbey Hotel, a handsome and imposing building erected in 1844 on a prominent site in the centre of the village to profit from the tourism boom that resulted from the railway. Passengers alighting here could use Staveley as a base for exploring the Lake District on horseback or by carriage: the large stable block at the rear of the hotel were described by contemporary trade directories as "second to none in this part of England". In 1856 the growing community of Staveley became a parish in its own right. A new church of St James was dedicated in 1865 and the old chapel of St Margaret, said to be founded in 1388, was all demolished, except for the late 14th/early 15th century tower. As well as the new church, built in the neo-Gothic style by J. S. Crowther and adorned with Arts and Crafts furnishings (including three fine stained glass windows by Morris and Company, designed by Burne-Jones in 1874), the school and vicarage were also built at this time.

While the settlements of Bowness, Staveley and Troutbeck were being transformed, there were significant changes being made to the wider farming landscape in the 19th century, driven by agricultural improvement rather than the Picturesque appreciation of the landscape. Numerous Parliamentary Enclosure Awards took place after 1815 with the enclosure of Heversham of 1868 and the enclosure of Sadgill or High Fell. Key to the improvement of former moorland was the availability of lime, hence many lime kilns were constructed near Dawson Fold, Crosthwaite, near Witherslack, near Hampsfield Fell, and near Low Newton. The band of Coniston Limestone through Kentmere and Longsleddale even led to lime kilns in the high valleys at Stockdale, Longsleddale and at Kentmere Hall. Smaller enclosures probably took place by private agreement or else represented improved and drained mosses in the south of the area, with the exception of the Cartmel Fell uplands. Cartmel Fell was enclosed between 1796 and 1809 and this included land at Staveley, Lower Holker and Lower Allithwaite.

The 18th century was also a period of rebuilding and as such a number of medieval buildings were probably replaced at this time (which also created a market for lime). Crook Hall was built probably early in the 18th century; inside the building, however, is a re-used early 16th century moulded beam. Crosthwaite corn mill, mentioned in 13th century documents, appears to have been replaced by the present day one, with later additions and alterations. The Mill Dam with weir, sluice gate and mill race also survive and are probably mainly 19th century in date, but incorporate earlier features. Barley Bridge Mill was established as a cotton mill in the 18th century and a bobbin-turning shop was added by 1800. However, at Staveley, the weir just upstream of Barley Bridge provided water to power a 17th century corn mill on the east bank, which operated until the 1950s. It was the bobbin mills that transformed Staveley into an industrial village. The area had the key elements of coppice woodland and water-power. The big expansion in the bobbin industry came after 1819 when the

Kendal to Lancaster Canal opened. By 1829 there were seven bobbin mills working in Staveley and Hugill. It was given further impetus with the opening of the Kendal to Windermere Railway in 1847. By 1851, 193 people in the area worked in the bobbin industry and more local families earned their living from the bobbin industry than by farming. The nature of the Kent catchment, compounded by agricultural land drainage in the 19th century, led a consortium of mill owners to build Kentmere Reservoir in 1846-48 to provide a steady water supply. Other important examples of Staveley bobbin mills include Gatefoot Mill and Rawes Mill, and at Witherslack, there is the good example of a bobbin and corn mill both operating in the mid-19th century.

Other industrial processes were transformed by new technology and the arrival of the railway. In the late 17th and early 18th century water power was introduced into the iron smelting process to create a more efficient smelt. Lindale-in-Cartmel at Wilson House Farm is thought to be the site of the smelting experiments by John Wilkinson and his father Isaac Wilkinson. John "Iron-Mad" Wilkinson (1728–1808) was born and brought up in Cumberland and Westmorland and pioneered the manufacture of cast iron and the use of cast-iron goods during the Industrial Revolution. He was the inventor of a precision boring machine that could bore cast iron cylinders, such as those used in steam engines of James Watt. His boring machine has been called the first machine tool. He also developed a blowing device for blast furnaces that allowed higher temperatures, increasing their efficiency. On the corner of the road to Grange is a monument to John Wilkinson.

Shap Pink granite quarry was able to move to a more commercial scale in 1868 because of the availability of the railway. Shap Pink was used extensively in Euston Railway Station, Waterloo Bridge and the Albert Memorial, all in London.

The two main slate quarries in Longsleddale were Wrengill and Stockdalebank and they were exploited throughout the 18th and 19th centuries (and possibly earlier). In Kentmere, there were several large slate quarries at the head of the valley to the south and east of the reservoir. Documentary evidence goes back to the 18th century and the last known quarrying activity was in the mid-1960s. The slate quarries in Troutbeck are mainly to the north and east of Troutbeck village. The documentary evidence shows the quarries working from the early 18th century to the early 20th century. A significant change to the appearance of the village occurred after the slate quarrying brought relative prosperity into the area in the mid-18th century. It provided, in quarry waste, building materials for many of the houses and barns. A further change in the appearance to the village arose after the opening of the railway to Windermere in 1847. Additional houses and The Institute were built (or rebuilt) causing Troutbeck to acquire the combination of vernacular and Victorian buildings which can be seen today. Along with the alterations and extensions to the properties came the widening and levelling of some of the roads.

While Windermere was changing through the influences of tourism and industry, sheep farming remained a serious business. From 1868 to 1875 the Troutbeck Herdwick and Other Sheep Association played a significant role in improving the standard of Herdwick sheep. Its annual show had 14 classes for Herdwick sheep, including four for white-faced tups for breeding cross-bred lambs from older ewes. In 1850 William Dickinson, the West Cumberland farmer and agricultural writer, had noted that cross-bred lambs sold for 50 per cent more than true mountain stock.

At Kentmere Hall, one of Christopher Wilson's Herdwick tups was runner-up at the Royal Show in 1873 and was pictured in an engraving in 'The Field' magazine in an article about Herdwicks that year. In the 1890s there was an account of a 1,500-2,000 strong heaf-going flock at Kentmere Hall of either Herdwicks or black-faced sheep. Troutbeck Park appeared in the first Herdwick Sheep Breeders Association flock book in 1920: Mrs Leck had a 500 strong flock.

2.2.4 DISCOVERY AND APPRECIATION OF A RICH CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

EARLY TOURISM

The ease of access to Windermere by coach from the south, combined with its undoubted grandeur as England's largest lake with a stunning mountain backdrop, led to an early interest from visitors seeking Picturesque landscapes. The earliest description of Windermere in Picturesque style appears to be an anonymous piece in the 'Gentleman's Magazine' of 1748:

> "We came upon a high promontory that gave us at once a full view of the bright lake; which, spreading itself under us, in the midst of the mountains, presented one of the most glorious appearances that ever struck the eye of a traveller with transport... In some places the crags appear through the trees hanging over the water, in other places little valleys are seen opening between the hills, through which small torrents empty themselves into the lake; and, in all places, the border quite round shows itself delicate and beautiful."

The increasing popularity of the valley in the 19th century resulted in change arising from the ever multiplying facilities and accommodation provided for the tourists, and there were concerns that this change had to be managed. In the late 18th century the English Lake District Association was formed; it aimed to promote and develop tourism and improve communications, while at the same time safeguarding the scenery on which that tourism depended. It drew much of its membership from the hoteliers of Bowness and Windermere.

Contemporary descriptions illustrate the popularity of the area. William Green's 1819 'Guide to the Lakes' already described Bowness as: "Good place for enjoyment, boats being kept by Mr Ullock for accommodation of tourists. The Inn at Bowness is extensive and excellently well provided". Parson and Wight's 1829 directory described Bowness as:

> "...a small but neat market town. It is the chief port on the lake and has a few fishing vessels, a number of pleasure boats and a trade in charcoal and slate. From its admirable situation it is much frequented by tourists and has excellent

> accommodation for them in two good inns... as well as lodgings."

John Bolton, the owner of Storrs Hall, held an extravagant regatta, (in the style of Joseph Pocklington's Derwent Water Regattas of the late 18th century) on Windermere in August 1825, organised by John Wilson of Elleray in honour of Walter Scott's 54th birthday. Bowness's status was further boosted by a visit by the Dowager Queen Adelaide in 1840. At this time Bowness boasted two large hotels, The White Lion (renamed The Royal in honour of Queen Adelaide's visit) and The Crown. A plaque still marks the spot where Queen Adelaide alighted at Rayrigg Bank with the Reverend Fletcher and Mrs Fleming.

The first steam boats with paddle wheels appeared on Windermere in 1845 to much opposition. They were coal-fired, smoky and noisy, with brass bands. After 1847 the railway brought parties of day trippers from the industrial towns in Lancashire. Punch magazine published a mock Wordsworthian protest poem:

> "What incubus, my goodness! have we here
> Cumbering the bosom of our lovely lake?
> A steamboat, as I live! – without mistake!-
> Puffing and splashing over Windermere
> What inharmonious shouts assail mine ear?
> Shocking poor Echo, that perforce replies -
> "Ease her!" and "Stop her!" – frightful and horrid cries,
> Mingling with frequent pop of ginger beer..."

In its first year the railway, now terminating at Birthwaite, carried over 100,000 passengers. When the railway arrived, Birthwaite was little more than a dispersed settlement of cottages and farmsteads. The station terminus stood in a completely rural location close to the main Kendal to Ambleside road and not far from its junction with a by-road to Bowness-on-Windermere. Within months of the opening of the railway, buildings began to appear around the terminus to accommodate and serve the needs of the incoming tourists.

Such had been the confidence in the success of the railway that the London and North Western Railway Company together with Richard Rigg, a local entrepreneur, had already financed the building of a large hotel just beside the station. It opened a month after completion of the railway, first known as Rigg's Hotel and, later, the Windermere Hotel. The hotel's proprietor, Richard Rigg, soon established a successful coaching business to carry passengers further into the Lake District. By 1855 Harriet Martineau could write:

> "Now there is a Windermere railway station and a Windermere post office and hotel – a thriving village of Windermere and a populous locality".

Other large hotels were built. Harriet Martineau wrote about the Crown in 1854 noting its "ten private sitting rooms and ...ninety beds. Nothing can well exceed the beauty of the view from its garden seats."

The arrival of the railway at Birthwaite in 1847 railway changed the social class of visitors. Relatively low fares and cheap day excursions enabled less prosperous sectors of the middle classes to visit and, for the first time, working-class visitors. This in turn led to a need for simple guest-houses and boarding-houses as opposed to the more up-market hotel accommodation already being offered in, for example, The Crown or The Royal in Bowness or The White Lion in Ambleside.

As the settlement at Windermere developed, traders and businessmen in the 1850s who wanted to popularise the connection between the station and the lake succeeded in changing the station's (and the settlement's) name from Birthwaite to Windermere. The bulk of Windermere was built in a 50-year period in the second half of the 19th century, almost exclusively by three local builders and almost entirely using local stone. As a new Victorian village in the Lake District, Windermere attracted much comment. For example, Eliza Lynn Linton wrote in 1864:

> **"Here everything is modern, wealthy, and well-adapted. Natural advantages are made the most of, and natural beauties are respected; becoming sites are chosen for mansions fitted for people of deep purses and liberal education."**

Excursion trains from the mill towns of Lancashire poured into Windermere and Lakeside – and on to Bowness. By the end of the 19th century over 100 lodging houses had been built and a further three large hotels created to take advantage of views over Windermere – The Belsfield, The Hydro and The Old England. Between 1851 and 1891 the combined population of Bowness and Windermere rose from 2,085 to 4,613. The lake frontage at Bowness changed from a collection of fishing boat jetties to a more formal arrangement of landing stages, pleasure boat facilities and promenade. The Royal Windermere Yacht Club received its Royal Warrant in 1887. The oldest vessel in Windermere Lake Cruises fleet, the MV Tern, dates back to this Victorian era, being built in 1891 as a steam powered yacht.

PICTURESQUE BUILDINGS AND LANDSCAPE

Thomas West identified five viewing stations around the lake in his 'Guide to the Lakes' (1778), including the viewing station at Claife (Figure 2.14) and these were later mapped and published by Peter Crosthwaite in 1783. In 1778 West wrote of the Inn at Low Wood on the northeast shore of Windermere which provided a taste of the tourist attractions to come:

> **"No other inn in (this) route has so fine a view of a lake... A small cannon is kept here to gratify the curious with those remarkable reverberations of sound, which follow the report of a gun &c. in these singular vales."**

Peter Crosthwaite, the late 18th century Keswick-based tourist entrepreneur, included Windermere as one of the lakes he mapped, selling the maps as tourist guides. At a scale of three inches to one mile, he marked them with information he thought useful to tourists including roads, hotels, prominent houses, landmarks, natural features, currents and depths of lakes and West's viewing stations.

FIGURE 2.17 Crosthwaite's map of Windermere, surveyed in 1783

Modification of the landscape around Windermere resulting from Picturesque interest began with the creation of new woodland. The Reverend Braithwaite is reported to have planted over 40,000 different plants or trees in Station Scar Wood in 1797. It is likely that many of these were non-native species, although a number of oaks were also planted. When Curwen bought The Station he had also begun to acquire land on the west side of the lake for his Belle Isle Estate, purchasing a number of properties between Pinstones Wood in the north and Cunsey in the south in the period 1783 to 1805. He undertook planting on Belle Isle in the early 1780s but his largest scheme was at Heald Wood where according to Curwen's annotated map of his estate "[in] 1798 by the desire of my respected friend Dr Watson Bishop of Llandaff I planted here 30,000 Larches". The Belle Isle Estate woodlands were not planted and managed solely for Picturesque reasons. They were also intensively managed for charcoal from oak coppice and timber from larch plantations on the higher ground.

A great many other Picturesque woodlands were established on the Windermere shoreline throughout the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Plantations of pine, spruce, larch and poplar were established in 1783 by the Browne family of Townend in Troutbeck on Beech Hill and in Pull Woods. Richard Watson, the absentee Bishop of Llandaff (Cardiff) whose residence was at Calgarth Park, established larch plantations over Birk Fell, Gummer's How (now one of the most popular viewpoints in the Lake District) and in Bishops Wood, abutting the Curwen estate just north of Cunsey. The landscape impact of these plantations was unrivalled in the Lake District.

In addition to the woodland planting schemes inspired by the Picturesque aesthetic, the shores of Windermere were also the focus for a rash of mansion and villa building by wealthy incomers which continued well into the 19th century.

ROMANTIC SITES, BUILDINGS AND ASSOCIATIONS

The increasing popularity of Windermere ensured that it would feature in many of the poems and other writings of the Lake Poets, but few took up residence here, unlike Grasmere, Rydal and Keswick.

> "I am always glad to see Staveley... it is a place I dearly love to think of – the first mountain village that I came to with

> Wm when we first began our pilgrimage together".
>
> Dorothy Wordsworth (referring to their walking holiday of 1794)

William Wordsworth's 'Michael' tells the story of a native of Ings, Robert Bateman. St Anne's Church in Ings was rebuilt by Bateman in 1743 and he is commemorated in a tablet over the door. According to Wordsworth he was a poor 'parish boy' who went to London and became a merchant and

> "grew wondrous rich,
> And left estates and moneys to the poor,
> And at his birth-place built a chapel floored
> With marble, which he sent from foreign lands".

In later years Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy visited many of the major residences around Windermere including, in William's case, a visit to Bishop Watson at Calgarth Hall. As a young man, and ardent republican, he had fallen out with the Bishop over political developments in France (prompting his 'Letter to the Bishop of Llandaff' in 1793). Coleridge and De Quincey were also entertained at Calgarth. Lowwood on Windermere was the place where Dorothy recorded in her famous 'Grasmere Journal' her sorrowful parting from her brothers, William and John, when they set off on a tour of Yorkshire in 1800. In 1802 she wrote a critical account of the house and landscaped gardens on Belle Isle and visited the owners, the Curwens, in 1831.

In 'The Prelude', Wordsworth recounted his time as a schoolboy in Hawkshead, adventuring on and around Windermere with his friend. Like many who have since enjoyed the lake and its surroundings, Wordsworth and his school friends made many summer visits to The White Lion, now the Royal Hotel in Bowness: "nor did we want/ Refreshment, strawberries and mellow cream." ('The Prelude').

Among Wordsworth's friends at Hawkshead were Fletcher Raincock and John Tyson. Both these friends were brought together in memorable poetry associated with Windermere:

> "There was a Boy: ye knew him well, ye cliffs
> And islands of Winander!- many a time
> At evening when the stars had just begun
> To move along the edges of the hills,
> Rising or setting, would he stand alone
> Beneath the trees or by the glimmering lake,
> And there, with fingers interwoven, both hands
> Pressed closely palm to palm, and to his mouth
> Uplifted, he, as through an instrument,
> Blew mimic hootings to the silent owls,
> That they might answer him; and they would shout
> Across the watery vale, and shout again
> Responsive to his call..."
>
> 'The Prelude'

As a student returning home from Cambridge, Wordsworth would cross the bridge at Banner Rigg, as car-borne visitors do today, see Windermere and know he was almost home:

> "A pleasant sight it was when, having clomb
> The Heights of Kendal, and that dreary moor
> Was crossed, at length, as from a rampart's edge,
> I overlooked the bed of Windermere.
> I bounded down the hill, shouting amain
> A lusty summons to the farther shore
> For the old Ferryman..."
>
> 'The Prelude'

The picturesque beauty of Windermere also inspired artists, many of whom used West's original viewing stations. Thomas Girtin produced a watercolour of Lake Windermere and Belle Isle, c. 1793-4 and Joseph Farington depicted a view down Windermere from Rayrigg which was subsequently engraved and published in 1789. J. M. W. Turner sketched at Kentmere Hall on his northern tour on 5 August 1816 and painted 'Winandermere, Westmorland' which was subsequently engraved by James Tibbitts Willmore in order to produce a print for Harriet Martineau's 'A Complete Guide to the English Lakes', 1st Edition, 1855. The slate quarries at Kentmere Head were painted by T. Allom in 1834 in a dramatic Picturesque style.

The valley was to provide many other literary associations. Longsleddale is 'Long Whindale' in Mrs Humphry Ward's great Victorian novel, 'Robert Elsmere' (1888). W. G. Collingwood, John Ruskin's secretary lived at the Cottage, next to what is now Ghyll Head Outdoor Education Centre, until 1889 when he moved to Lanehead, Coniston, to be nearer to Ruskin at Brantwood. Beatrix Potter stayed at Holehird with her parents for the summers of 1889 and 1895 and she spent many days hunting for fossils and fungi in the surrounding area. The novelists Charlotte Bronte and Elizabeth Gaskell met for the first time at Briery Close, near Troutbeck, in August 1850 and became friends. Gaskell went on to write the first life of Charlotte Bronte in 1857.

THE 20TH CENTURY

In the 20th century, the valley continued to attract a variety of literary and cultural associations. Arthur Ransome attended Preparatory School at The Old College in Windermere, which he hated and so he escaped to his Great Aunt Susan, who lived at The Terrace in Windermere. Ransome sailed on Windermere in the 1920s and 30s, mainly in his 14-foot dinghy called 'Swallow'. Arthur Ransome and his wife had lodgings at Great Hartbarrow whilst waiting to move into nearby Low Ludderburn, where he lived from 1925 to 1935. Of the many houses he lived in, in the Lake District, this was the one he stayed in the longest and thought of as home. It was here that he wrote 'Swallows and Amazons' (1930), 'Swallowdale' (1931), 'Winter Holiday' (1933), 'Coot Club' (1936), and most of 'Pigeon Post' (1936). The view from the popular nearby viewpoint over Windermere Lake of Gummers How has an uncanny resemblance to the endpaper map of 'Swallows and Amazons'. Blake Holme, a small island close to the east shore

of Windermere was described by Ransome himself as the island most used as Wildcat Island in 'Swallows and Amazons'. The tiny island of Silverholme is 'Cormorant Island', Belle Isle is 'Long Island' and Bowness is 'Rio':

> **"The little town is known by another name, but the crew of the Swallow had long ago given it the name of Rio Grande".**

In 1930 Alfred Wainwright at the age of 23 came for the first time to the Lake District on a walking holiday. He arrived at Windermere and climbed nearby Orrest Head, where Wainwright saw his first view of the Lake District Fells. This moment marked the start of what Wainwright himself later described as his love affair with the English Lake District leading to his iconic seven-volume 'Pictorial Guide to the Lakeland Fells' published between 1955 and 1966, consisting entirely of reproductions of his manuscript.

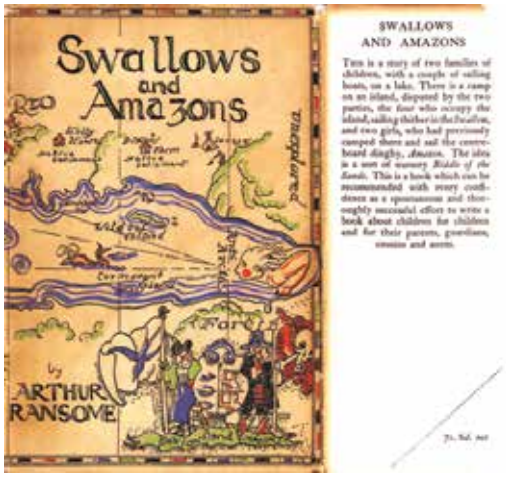


FIGURE 2.18 The 1st Edition cover of 'Swallows and Amazons' by Arthur Ransome

More recently, Longsleddale is the inspiration for the fictional valley of Greendale in the 1980s children's books 'Postman Pat' by John Cunliffe, a Kendal schoolteacher. The books were made into a television series which has had global success. They tell the story of late 20th century rural life in a fictional Lakeland valley.

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

Windermere is the cradle of the conservation movement. It was here that the first environmental protest took place against proposed railway development. Here also in the late 19th century met the key figures, (including Beatrix Potter, John Ruskin and Canon Rawnsley) whose activities would lead to the founding of the National Trust. There have been numerous proposals over the years which have brought development, tourism and industry into conflict with the conservation movement and today, the lack of a reservoir, the lack of an airplane factory and limited access by train, are all a result of battles won or partially won by the conservation movement. As a result of the Heelis and Trevelyan bequests and other donations and purchases, the National Trust holdings in the Windermere area are very substantial and formed the core of the National Trust's early landholding estate in the Lake District.

The opening of the Kendal to Windermere railway line in 1847 was the catalyst for an expansion of the town and a huge increase in resident and visiting population (see above). The Kendal and Windermere Railway Company had originally intended to construct the line between Kendal to Lowwood on the lake shore. Engineering and financial constraints and vociferous opposition to the scheme caused the railway company to amend its plans

and terminate the line at Birthwaite, a mile and a half from the lake. William Wordsworth, then resident at Rydal Mount was utterly opposed to the railway and the potential changes that it would bring to his beloved Lake District. His campaign against the railway began in 1844 with his letters to newspapers and the publication of two sonnets, the first of which, 'On the Projected Kendal and Windermere Railway', began:

> "Is there no nook of English ground secure
> From rash assault?"

His further worry was that the proposed railway line would be later extended to run through Rydal Park, behind his residence at Rydal Mount and on to Grasmere. Wordsworth was soon joined in his protest by local landowners, including the owners of the mansions at Dove Nest and Holehird, who like him were concerned over the potential effects to their peaceful abode not just of the railway but of the passengers that the railway would bring. Despite criticism of their stance by the Railway Commissioners, who could see the benefits of easier access to the Lake District by the urban working class, they succeeded in halting the advance of the railway at Birthwaite (now Windermere).

The proposal for the extension of the Windermere line to Ambleside was resurrected in 1876 and again attracted a famous opponent in the form of John Ruskin. Like Wordsworth, Ruskin's objections appear now to be not entirely altruistic and one of his letters on the subject included the memorable assertion concerning the populace that "I don't want to let them see Helvellyn while they are drunk". The proposal was again defeated by the opposition of landowners and a lack of investment.

In the first half of the 20th century a movement began amongst wealthy individuals with a concern for the maintenance of the Lake District's cultural landscape and traditions, to purchase key farms in order to conserve them and their tenants' way of life. This development was particularly effective in Windermere and eventually formed the basis for the National Trust's substantial land ownership in this area.

Similar activity was undertaken by the Reverend H. H. Symonds in other parts of the Lake District and in 1937, together with R. S. T. Chorley, he established the Lake District Farms Estates Limited to further pursue the purchase and protection of farms. One of these was Stockdale Farm in Longsleddale, which was placed under National Trust restrictive covenant in 1944.

However, the most famous personality involved in the purchase and protection of farms which were later donated to the National Trust was Beatrix Potter, better known in the Herdwick world as Mrs Heelis. By the early 1920s she had developed a concern for the loss of fell farms and of the traditional Herdwick sheep systems. In the early 1920s she acquired Troutbeck Park which at that time was one of the largest fell and Herdwick farms in the Lake District. The flock had been neglected and the farm was run down when she acquired it, but she worked with her shepherds to improve the quantity and quality of Herdwicks and soon between 700 to 800 draft ewes were sold from the farm each year. When she was considering the terms on which she would leave the farm to the National Trust she wanted to leave a large landlord's flock of 1,100 heafed pure bred Herdwicks to protect the unfenced heaf and the farm's economic sustainability. Consequently in the 1940s, in the Heelis bequest, she stipulated that on her fell farms that she left to the

FIGURE 2.19 Troutbeck Park Farm, purchased by Beatrix Potter in 1923 and later gifted to the National Trust

National Trust, the Herdwick fell-going flocks should 'continue to be of the pure Herdwick breed'.

Beatrix Potter was also active in protests against developments that she felt would damage the special qualities of the Lake District. These included a campaign against the construction of a seaplane factory at Cockshott Point on Windermere in 1911 which she fought with the assistance of Canon Rawnsley. Potter first met Rawnsley at Wray Castle in 1882 when she spent a summer there when she was sixteen. This meeting was to lead to a life-long friendship and the founding of the National Trust. The public inquiry was held as a result of petitions and letters to newspapers and the factory was closed in 1912. In World War II another seaplane factory was established on Windermere, at Calgarth Park, to construct Short Sunderland planes for the war effort. The Friends of the Lake District opposed this development from the start, and although a substantial factory and workers village was built and operated through the war years, the Friends obtained an agreement from the Government that the factory would be removed after the war. This factory was subsequently removed by the end of 1949.

As a result of the Heelis and Trevelyan bequests and other donations and purchases, the National Trust's substantial holdings in the Windermere area formed the core of the National Trust's early landholding estate in the Lake District. An early purchase was the site of the Roman fort at Ambleside, acquired through public subscription in 1913. In 1913 Queen Adelaide's Hill, a viewpoint overlooking the lake shore just north of Bowness, was also purchased through public subscription. This property included the 17th century house at Low Millerground. Rectory Farm and Cockshott Point, on the eastern shore of Windermere opposite Belle Isle, were purchased in 1927. Ladyholme, one of the islands in Windermere was gifted to the Trust in 1938 having previously been purchased for preservation by the Groves family in 1908.

The Wray Castle Estate was given to the Trust by the Barclay family in 1929, and the later acquisition of Claife Woods in 1962 (in lieu of death duties from the Curwen Estate) made it possible for the National Trust to protect almost all the shore from the ferry north to Wray Castle and to open it to the public. The Claife property included the Picturesque Station which has been conserved by the National Trust and made accessible to visitors. The National Trust currently owns 2,286 hectares of land in the valley, of which 2,193 hectares is inalienable. It also has an additional two hectares of leased land and 387 hectares of covenanted land.

In the early 1960s water supply became a source of contention between those wishing to protect this cultural landscape and those wishing to harvest its plentiful rainfall. In 1961 the Manchester Corporation promoted a Bill in Parliament to build a reservoir in Bannisdale east of Longsleddale and turn Ullswater into a reservoir. The campaign to

save Ullswater and Bannisdale was notable for the vehemence and the magnitude of the support it commanded. The Board lodged a petition in opposition and retained counsel and the water clauses in the Bill were eventually defeated by the eloquence of Lord Birkett in a debate in the House of Lords in February 1962 two days before he died.

After the rejection of those proposals, a meeting of all parties was convened to consider the way forward. The Corporation engaged consultants who, in February 1964, recommended abstracting 20 million gallons daily from Ullswater and pumping it into Haweswater, abstracting the same amount from Windermere and pumping it to the Thirlmere aqueduct and constructing a huge new reservoir in the Winster valley. The reservoir would have been about twice the size of Haweswater and would have inundated the village of Bowland Bridge. The Board objected strongly to the proposed reservoir in the Winster valley and the abstraction at Ullswater, but indicated that it was willing to discuss the proposed abstraction from Windermere. The Corporation did not proceed with the Winster reservoir but responded by publishing a draft Water Order in 1965 providing for abstraction from both Windermere and Ullswater. A new element in the Order was the proposal to drive a second tunnel from Haweswater to emerge at the head of the Longsleddale valley. The Board lodged objections to the Order because of the adverse effects of draw-down of the lakes and the damage which the new aqueduct would cause to an unspoiled valley. A public inquiry was held in June of 1965. Michael Jopling, the Member of Parliament for Westmorland at the time, spoke at the Parliamentary debate against the Winster reservoir proposal. The Minister's decision in May 1966 approved the proposals for abstraction from both Windermere and Ullswater, subject to tight controls over the infrastructure and a limit on draw down was imposed for the latter. The proposed aqueduct to Longsleddale was refused. Subsequently, in 1971 the Corporation came back with a proposal for a second aqueduct, this time to be routed via Shap. As the Minister had refused a second aqueduct in 1966, the Board felt that it was for the Corporation to justify the need for the additional capacity. In any event, it considered the proposed capacity of the new aqueduct (55 million gallons daily) to be excessive. The Board voiced its reservations to a public inquiry in December 1973. The Minister's decision in 1974 acknowledged that the proposed aqueduct would have spare capacity but considered that this was prudent in view of the age of the Corporation's other supply lines. The new aqueduct was constructed.

Car parking has also been a source of conflict. The Lake District Special Planning Board used its planning powers to stop the temporary use of fields in Troutbeck for up to 700 cars at peak periods because of the environmental impact on the landscape. The car park operator appealed against this control, but the Minister dismissed the appeal applying the Sandford Principle, which provided that in the event of irreconcilable conflict between the two national park purposes, the first, conservation of the environment, should prevail over the promotion of recreation.

Similar conflicts between National Park purposes have had to be resolved by the Board where the recreational use of tracks over the fells by motorised four-by-four vehicles has damaged the route and the landscape and had an impact on other users. An example of the management measures taken is at Gatescarth Pass running from the head of Longsleddale over to Haweswater where locked gates have been placed at both ends and a permit system now operates to control the level of use.

Similarly, the regulation of the recreational use of Windermere lake has been a long-running issue too. The Lake District Special Planning Board brought in byelaws in 1978 to make registration of power driven vessels compulsory. With increasing numbers of powered craft over the following decade, leading to growing conflict between different lake and lakeshore users, noise and shore erosion from boat wash were becoming issues. The Board were mindful of the second national park purpose aimed at quiet enjoyment. The Board decided to promote a 10 miles per hour speed limit (now 10 nautical miles per hour) on the lake which would bring it into line with the other three large lakes. Fast motor boating and water skiing interests objected to the proposed byelaw. After a long public inquiry in 1994/5, ministerial decisions, and High Court rulings, eventually in 2000 the speed limit on Windermere was confirmed, but with a five year transitional period to allow businesses and recreational interests to adjust. The byelaw came into effect in 2005 underpinning the principle of quiet enjoyment in the Lake District National Park.

An unusual extraction industry operated in Kentmere in the 20th century; that of diatomite extraction. Microscopic organisms thrived in the clear water of Kentmere Tarn at the end of the last ice age. The fossilised remains filled the bed of the tarn with the diatomite, a whitish clay. Twice in the 19th century local landowners attempted to drain the tarn, but both attempts failed. In the 20th century the diatomite under the tarn became a valuable resource used for filtration and insulation. The diatomite was scooped from the former bed of the tarn and processed in the local works. The operation ceased in 1985, but the diatomite extraction had left a newly-shaped Kentmere Tarn.

In 1966, the Lake District Special Planning Board acquired Brockhole in order to establish the first National Park Centre in the United Kingdom, as recommended by the Hobhouse Committee. It hosts hundreds of thousands of visitors a year and hundreds of school and youth groups. It is now implementing a significant redevelopment masterplan.

FIGURE 2.20 Windermere and Bowness from Claife Heights

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

The Windermere Valley is one of the largest in the English Lake District and it is therefore not surprising that it includes many attributes related to the three identified themes of Outstanding Universal Value.

The characteristic Lake District field pattern of inbye fields surrounded by intakes on the lower fells is particularly evident in the long narrow valleys of Troutbeck, Kentmere and Longsleddale and there are a high number of farm houses dating from the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Examples of ancient field systems include the former common field by Kentmere Hall, at the Head of Kentmere, while the area of low, wooded fells to the south of the A591 road from Kendal to Windermere displays a more widespread pattern of small, irregular fields. These are complemented by many examples of larger planned enclosures on the fells, laid out in the late 18th and 19th centuries, including part of the Troutbeck Hundreds. Many of the settlements in the Windermere Valley reflect the importance of its agro-pastoral agriculture including the classic farming hamlet of Troutbeck with its string of important Statesmen's farms.

This is the principal area for Rough Fell sheep in the Lake District and there are 16 flocks in the valley alongside Swaledale flocks and rather fewer Herdwicks than in the central and western valleys. However, there are two important Herdwick farms at Troutbeck Park and Kentmere Hall.

The evidence for early land use in Windermere is extensive and includes early prehistoric stone circles and burial monuments, well-preserved examples of Romano-British enclosed settlements, and medieval shielings. There are good examples of medieval pele towers at Kentmere Hall and Yewbarrow Hall in Longsleddale and former deer parks at Troutbeck and Kentmere. Past industries include slate quarrying and lead mining, although on a smaller scale than in other areas of the Lake District, but in the 19th century water powered processes including bobbin manufacture became important for example in the large village of Staveley.

Windermere, with its spectacular Picturesque views at the head of the lake, framed against a backdrop of high mountains, and its relatively easy access by coach from the south, was one of the principal attractions in the Lake District for early visitors in the 18th century. The lakeside town of Bowness developed to provide facilities for this and the adjacent town of Windermere developed directly as a result of the arrival of the railway in 1847. The early development of villas and designed landscapes around the lake and on its islands has produced one of the most important Picturesque landscapes in Europe. Key buildings include the cylindrical house on Belle Isle, Storrs Hall and the Station at Claife, constructed on one of the viewing stations identified by Thomas West. The western shore of Windermere, around Claife, was the location of the some of the earliest Picturesque tree planting in the Lake District. The tradition of villa construction continued into the early 20th century with the building of a small group of houses which are considered to be some of the best examples of the Arts and Crafts style.

Although none of the Romantic poets and writers lived in the Windermere Valley, they were frequent visitors to its villas and mansions and the area was featured in many of Wordsworth's works including 'The Prelude' and 'Michael'. It was perhaps more inspirational for the visual arts and many important artists including P. J. de Loutherbourg, Joseph Farington and J. M. W. Turner sketched and painted scenes in the valley.

Windermere was the setting for one of the earliest and best known environmental campaigns in the Lake District, against the construction of the railway from Kendal to Windermere (and, it was feared, beyond). William Wordsworth was one of the most vocal critics of this scheme, and although he was unsuccessful, and the railway was constructed to Windermere, this set an important precedent for later campaigners including Ruskin and Rawnsley. Other campaigns in Windermere included a successful battle by Rawnsley, Beatrix Potter and others to prevent the construction of a seaplane factory on the lake. Windermere also has examples of farms and land that were purchased by private individuals in order to preserve the traditional agro-pastoral way of life. The most famous of these was the purchase and management of Troutbeck Park Farm by Beatrix Potter, which was later gifted to the National Trust. The Lake District Farms Estates Limited also purchased farming land in Longsleddale which was covenanted to the National Trust. The National Trust's property in the Windermere Valley is substantial and includes early purchases such as Ambleside Roman Fort and significant gifts including Wray Castle. The Trust also owns the classic Statesman's farm at Townend, Troutbeck, which is one of the best-known farm houses in the Lake District.

Battles to preserve the scenic beauty of Windermere continued into the later 20th and early 21st centuries and have included successful actions to prevent the construction of a reservoir in the Winster Valley and a tunnel from the Haweswater reservoir to carry water through Longsleddale. The latest significant conservation initiative was the introduction by the National Park Authority of a 10 miles per hour speed limit for boats on Windermere (now 10 nautical miles per hour).

The Windermere Valley clearly demonstrates important attributes for all the three identified and intertwined themes of Outstanding Universal Value in the Lake District. The evidence for the long development and persistence of agro-pastoral farming is strong. The valley is also particularly important for aesthetic inspiration and it is of fundamental significance for the development of the early conservation movement.

FIGURE 2.21 Windermere and the Langdale Pikes at sunset