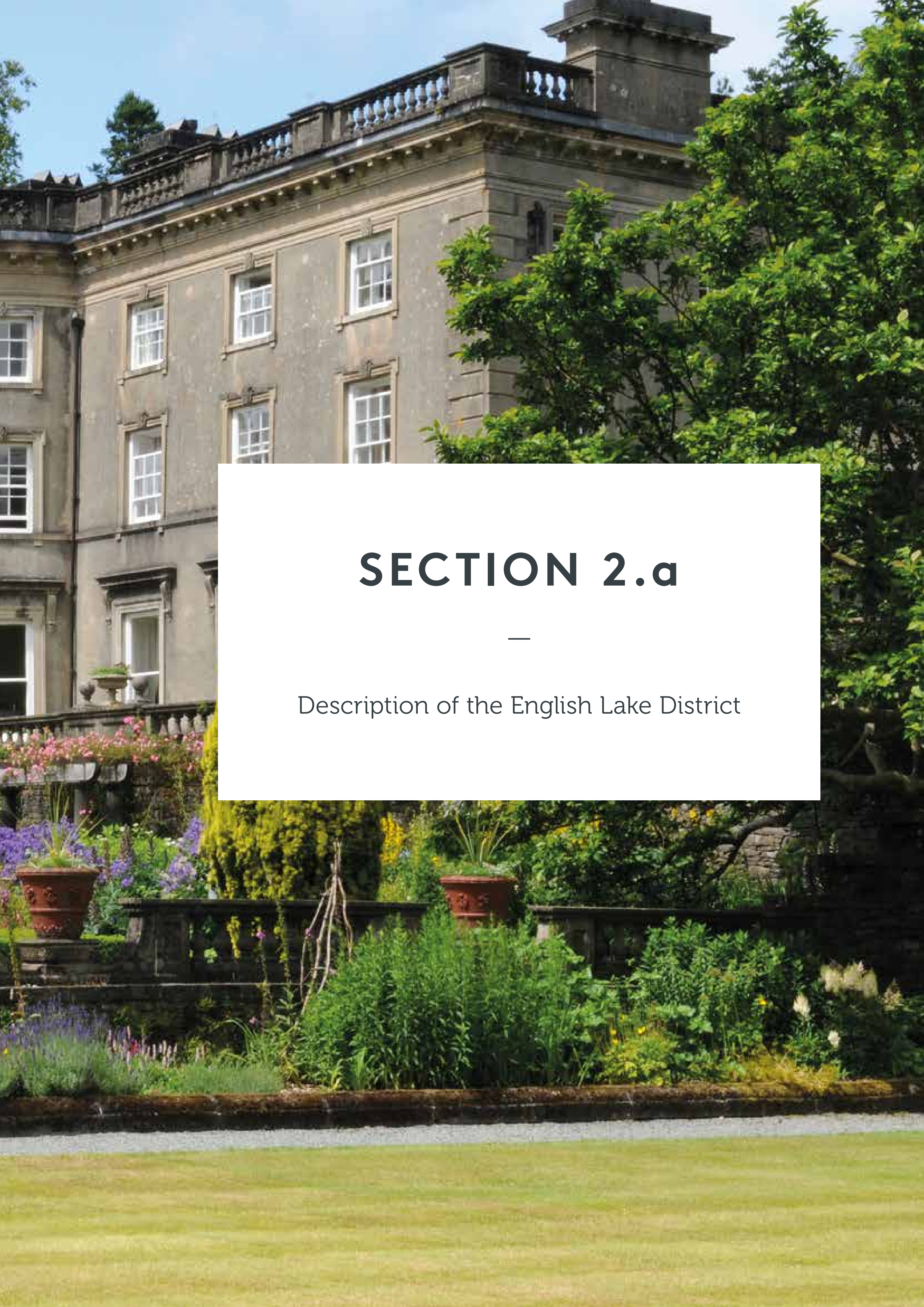
Rydal Hall and garden



SECTION 2.a

—

Description of the English Lake District

2.a DESCRIPTION OF THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT

2.a.1 THE CHARACTER OF THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT TODAY

A DISTINCTIVE NATURAL AREA

The English Lake District is a compact area of some 2,292 square kilometres, roughly circular in shape and divided into a number of radial valleys with hills and mountains in between (Figures 1.2 to 1.4). It is topographically distinct, in large part due to its geology (particularly the volcanic phases) which has produced mountains of hard, jagged rock which contrast with the lower-lying, sedimentary rocks of the surrounding area. The narrow, deep valleys carved by glaciers, some filled with lakes, also serve to highlight the distinctiveness of the area. Each of the valleys has an individual character which is determined by geology, natural vegetation and a particular history of land use, and there are clear differences in landscape character between east and west and north and south. Notwithstanding these internal variations in detail, the area that is characterised as 'the English Lake District' has an acknowledged unity. This was recognised in the designation of the English Lake District as a National Park in 1951 with a boundary encircling all the key topographic, scenic and cultural features which characterise the importance of the area. This boundary is also the proposed boundary of the candidate World Heritage property.

GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

The topography of the English Lake District owes much to its geology. The ancient rocks of the area were shaped by the last major ice advance and retreat, the Devensian, which reached its peak 22,000 years ago. The ice sheet reached over 700 metres in thickness leaving only the highest peaks visible. Nowhere else in England is evidence for the tremendous landscape-shaping forces of the Ice Age more evident than in the glacier-scoured U-shaped valleys of the English Lake District and the upland corries (small rounded hollows; approximately 150 are found in the Lake District), arêtes (sharp, narrow mountain ridges or spurs) and craggy outcrops.

FIGURE 2.a.13 Limestone pavement on Hampsfell, Windermere Valley

As the ice sheets and glaciers retreated, large amounts of material were released and transported by the meltwaters to form deposits of fluvio-glacial sand and gravel. Arctic, tundra-like conditions prevailed for the first few thousand years and during this time earlier glacial deposits were subject to repeated freezing and thawing leading to the formation of deposits of shattered bedrock (known as Head), the development of limestone pavement in areas such as Whitbarrow Scar and Hampsfell and large scree deposits. Most spectacular are The Screes on the northern side of Wast Water.

FIGURE 2.a.14 Red Tarn, a glacial corrie beneath Helvellyn, Ullswater Valley

The presence of large amounts of glacial material also led to modifications in the course of streams and rivers. For example, glacial deposits held back the rising waters of Windermere during the melting of the glaciers, so that the lake now drains out through an overflow channel to the west rather than directly to the south.

CLIMATE

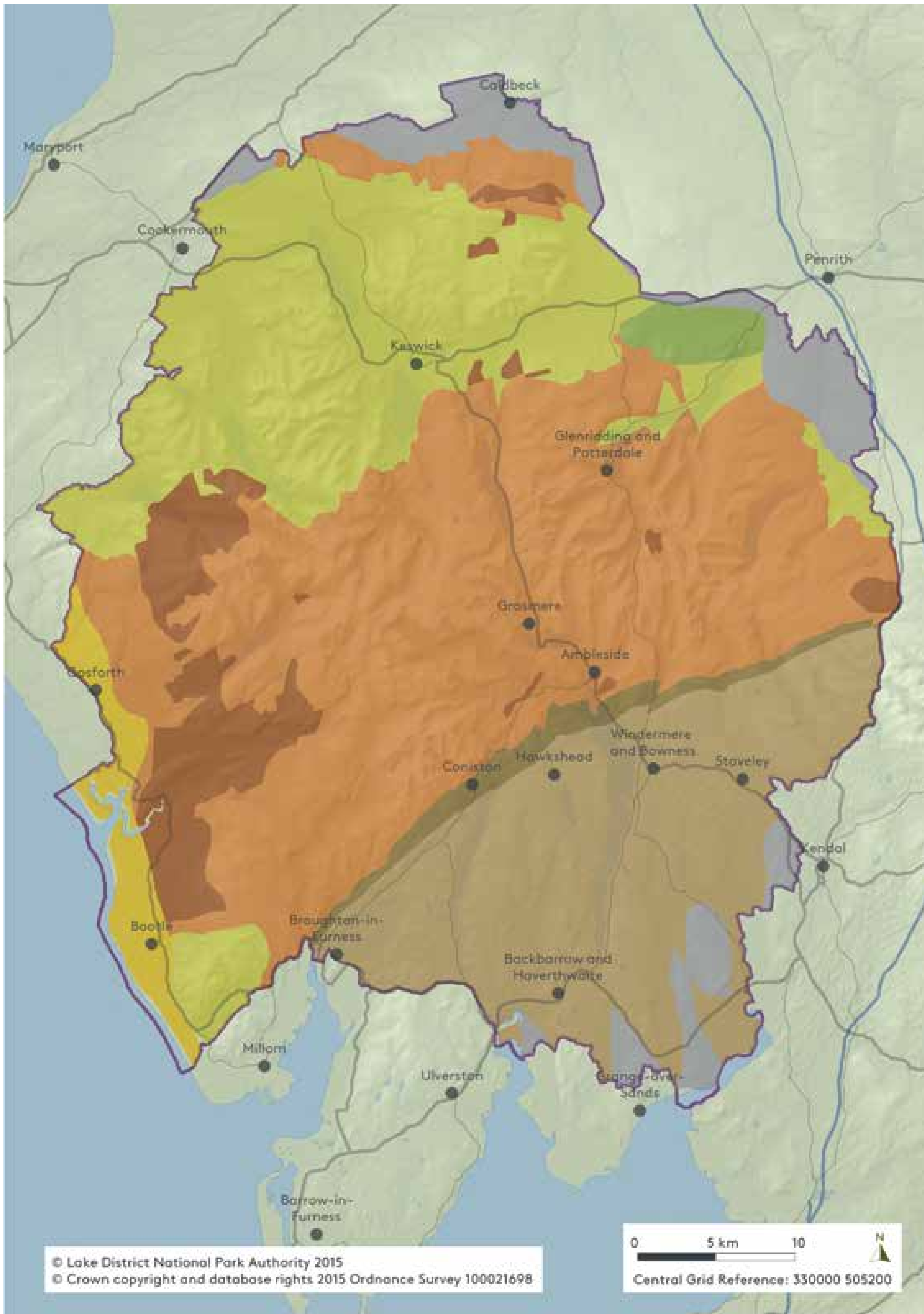
The English Lake District has a distinctive climate, which combined with its geology and topography fits it well for agro-pastoralism, with Herdwick sheep particularly well-adapted to the area. It has one of the highest annual rainfalls in Britain, largely due to moist air masses from the Atlantic having to rise above the mountains. The winters are milder and the summers cooler than would normally be expected at this latitude, between 54 degrees and 55 degrees north, because of the influence of the sea, particularly the Gulf Stream.

The weather is generally wet and mild, but there are periods of hot dry weather and cold spells with snow and ice. On average, on the lower fells annually there are 220 days with precipitation, 20 of which will be snow falls. On mountain tops the number of days of snowfall rises to 67 days annually on average. There is evidence that global warming is starting to affect the area's climate.

LAKES, RIVERS AND STREAMS

Water is a defining characteristic of the English Lake District. Almost the full range of types of water body that occur in Britain is found here. From the large valley lakes (the largest and deepest in England) to the high mountain tarns and pools, there is great diversity in their size, shape, altitude, depth and water chemistry. Numerous small tarns are of international biological importance as water bodies with low to medium nutrient status. The rare fish species Vendace, Schelly and Arctic Charr are distinctive to the area and have persisted since the last ice age due to the deep cold environment of the glacial lakes. Gills, or narrow mountain streams, traverse the montane and sub-montane zones

FIGURE 2.a.15 Geological map of the English Lake District



- Nominated Property boundary
- Borrowdale Volcanic Group
- Carboniferous Limestone
- Dent Group (formerly Coniston Limestone)
- Igneous Intrusions (granite and microgranite)
- Mell Fell Conglomerate
- Sandstone
- Skiddaw Group
- Windermere Supergroup

Contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC 2015

and link the uplands with the valley bottoms. The inaccessibility of these steep, fast-flowing rocky streams mean sections of gills can support near-natural plant and animal communities and are especially important for their mosses, liverworts and ferns. Rivers start as steep, fast-flowing becks in the uplands. Parts of the rivers Derwent, Eden, Kent and Ehen systems are of international importance for their habitats and associated species including otter, salmon, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey and Sea Lamprey, White-clawed Crayfish and Freshwater Mussel.

ECOLOGICAL ZONES

The most mountainous part of the National Park is situated in the central and northern area of the English Lake District where the Ordovican Borrowdale Volcanics and Skiddaw Slates have been shaped by the last glaciation into a landscape of U-shaped valleys, steep mountain sides, corries and tarns. This is the most biologically-diverse suite of upland habitats in England and is of international importance with 27,000 hectares designated as the English Lake District High Fells Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Habitats Directive. This is sustained by the agro-pastoral system, government grants and by the activities of current conservation organisations. These exposed high fells have extensive areas of semi-natural habitats, including a significant proportion of England's upland heathland, blanket bog, tarns and mires. The high mountain peaks support montane heath, montane grassland and rocky habitats such as cliff, scree and ledges with, where ungrazed, remnant arctic alpine flora. The rocky crags also provide important nesting sites for Raven, Peregrine Falcon, and Ring Ouzel. Haweswater was England's only nesting site for the Golden Eagle. The fells support important but declining breeding populations of curlew, Ring Ouzel, Dotterel and Merlin.

FIGURE 2.a.16 The mountain tops of Scafell and Scafell Pike, the highest land in England, straddling the boundary between the Eskdale and Wasdale valleys

In the north and east of the English Lake District National Park woodland is typically sparse and found in isolated stands on valley sides and along steep inaccessible gills. The Borrowdale Woodland Complex and Ullswater Oakwoods SAC support bryophyte – and lichen-rich western old sessile oak woods of international importance. In Europe these forests are restricted to the British Isles; the English Lake District examples are the largest in England. Rocky crags provide a refuge from grazing and more trees are found on these than on the open fell, including rare and specialist types. Notable examples are a dwarf type of juniper that inhabits the crags above 500 metres and the rare Downy Willow that is restricted to ten individual plants growing in the Helvellyn Coves. Juniper is an important characteristic species of the English Lake District, found on open fell sides and crags and is deep rooted in the cultural history of the area having been used as medicine, firewood, to flavour gin, as well as a talisman.

Immediately to the south of the mountainous northern region are the low fells underlain by the mudstones, siltstones and sandstones of the Windermere Supergroup of Silurian Age. They are less resistant to erosion and form a gentler, rolling landscape of wooded hills and valleys with rocky ridges and basins. The area is characterised by extensive broadleaved and ancient semi-natural woodland; it is considered one of the most wooded landscapes in England. Past traditional woodland management for a number of local industries, including gunpowder production, charcoal, potash and iron smelting and wood turning for the bobbin mills, led to extensive coppice woodlands in central and South Cumbria providing important habitat for woodland butterfly assemblages and the area is the northern stronghold for dormice. The traditional practice of pollarding (a system of pruning in which the upper branches of a tree are removed) is still widely adopted in the English Lake District, with examples of veteran ash pollards found in the Rydal and Ullswater areas. The technique provided additional fodder in areas where the hay crop was precarious due to the weather, but is now implemented for its biodiversity

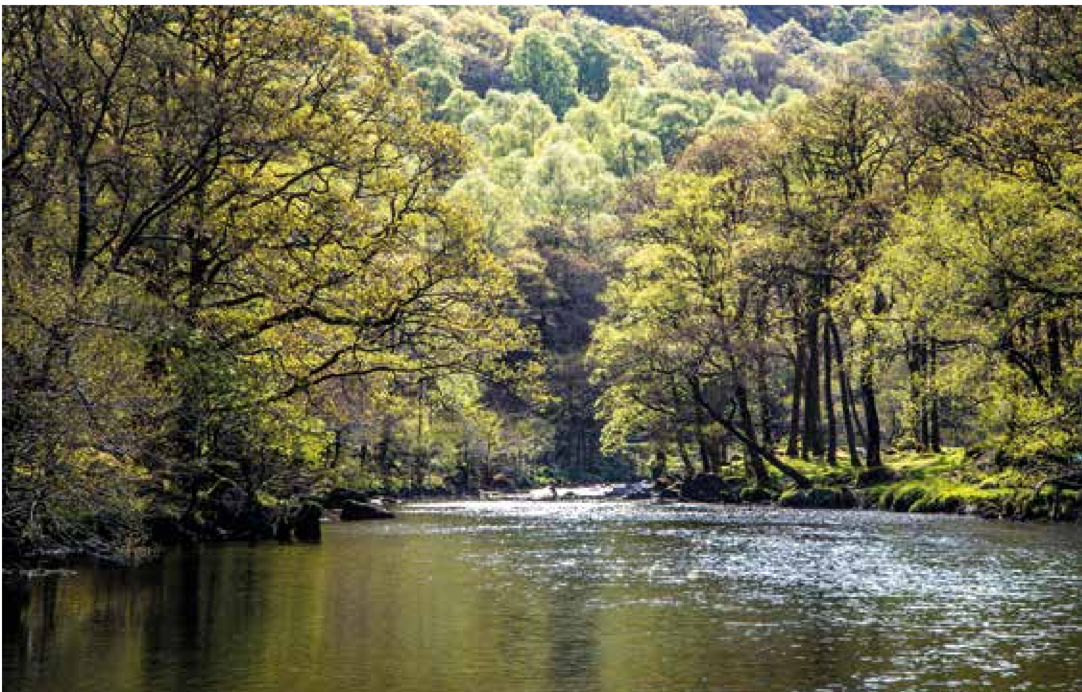


FIGURE 2.a.17 Dense woodland along the banks of the river Derwent in upper Borrowdale

benefits and historic contribution. Wood pasture and parkland also contribute to the area's cultural heritage. They have a distinctive saproxylic fauna (species dependent on dead or decaying wood) and epiphytic flora (plants that grow on other plants and derive water and nutrients from rain) are associated with their ancient trees.

The complex topography of South Cumbria also favours the development of basin and valley mires. The hilly plateau at Subberthwaite, Torver and Blawith Low Commons Special Area of Conservation (SAC), in the Coniston Valley, contains over 200 mires and is internationally-important for the quality of this habitat. The tarns also provide habitat for nationally-important populations of medicinal leeches and natterjack toads. Lowland raised mires, such as Witherslack Mosses SAC, in the Windermere Valley, are found on the valley floors and lower end of valleys around Morecambe Bay. Though damaged these are now being widely restored, providing some of the most extensive examples left in Britain, with a diverse and rare wildlife resource.

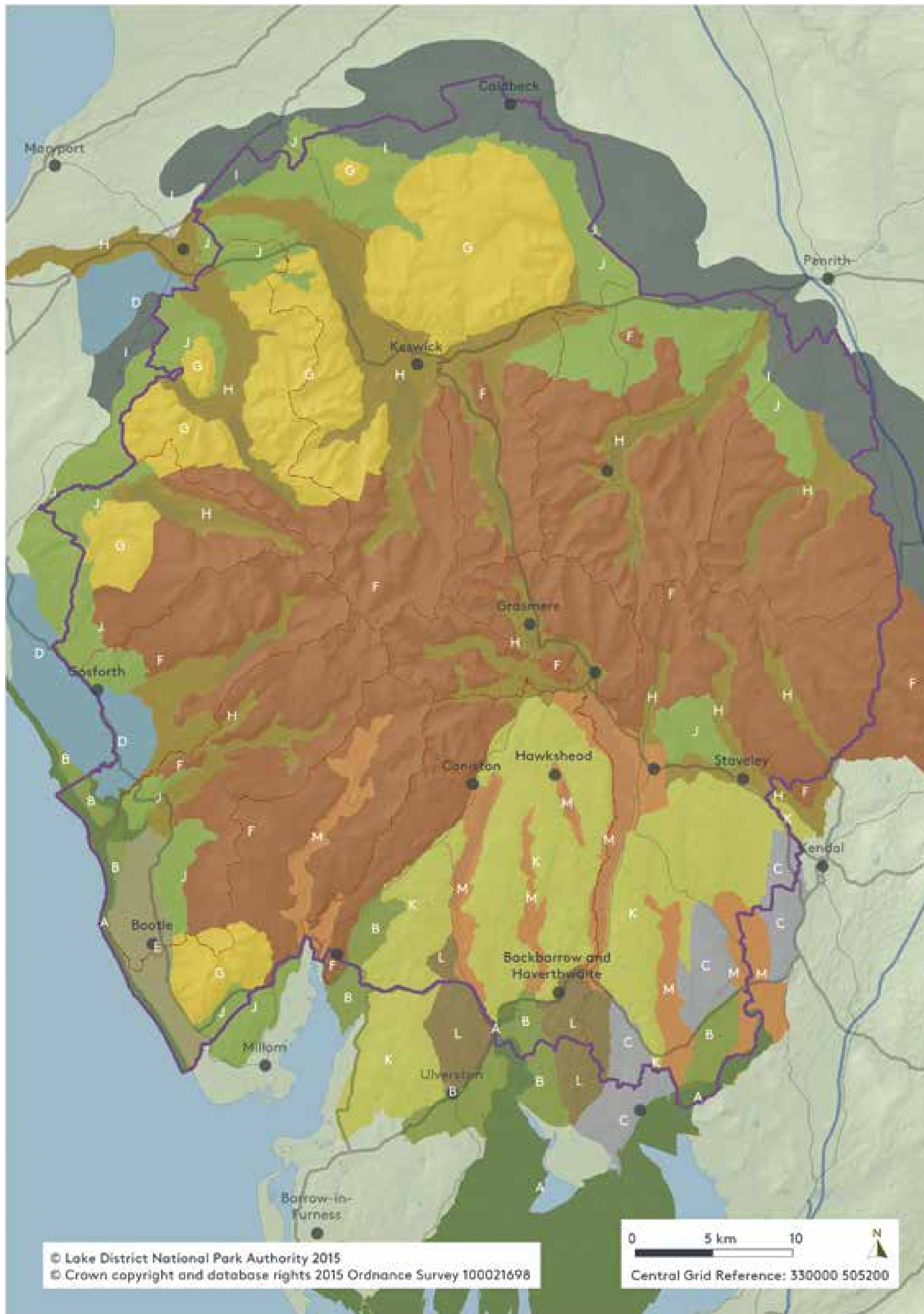
To the south east the landscape is dominated by the limestone geology, evident in a series of limestone blocks rising, islandlike or as ridges, from the surrounding lower land and separated by valleys of grass and woodland. The larger blocks such as at Whitbarrow Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), in the Windermere Valley, part of a suite of sites designated within the Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC, support an extensive mosaic of habitats – screes and woodlands on steeper slopes and pavements and grasslands on the summit plateaux. These woodland/ limestone mosaics across the south of the English Lake District are an English stronghold for the High Brown Fritillary and Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies and are one of the isolated northern sites for the Duke of Burgundy butterfly. The area lacks open water but a lime-rich marl lake, a rare habitat in Britain, is found at Cunswick Scar. To the south and the south west the English Lake District reaches the coast and includes areas of intertidal saltmarsh and the mudflats of Morecambe Bay. The extensive areas of vegetated shingle and sand dune at Drigg Coast SAC, in the Eskdale and Wasdale Valleys, are internationally-significant. These coastal habitats are also important for wintering waders and wildfowl, the nationally important populations of natterjack toad and specialist flora communities.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

The very varied nature of the individual parts of the English Lake District was captured by the Landscape Character Assessment carried out in 2008. Thirteen character types were identified (Figure 2.a.18) and are used in the management of the property (as discussed below in Sections 4 and 5). The following descriptions of the 13 Landscape Character Types (LCT) within the English Lake District National Park are distilled from the full descriptions in the 'Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines for the English Lake District National Park' produced by Chris Blandford Associates at the end of 2008. This document has been adopted by the Authority as a Supplementary Planning Document.

Landscape Character Types are generic in form. They are not defined by a single location and may occur in different areas of the National Park. They have a distinct and relatively homogenous composition and pattern of physical and cultural attributes – including geology, landform, hydrology, land cover/ecological habitats and historical land use.

FIGURE 2.a.18 Landscape character types identified in 2008 and used in the management of the nominated Property



Nominated Property boundary
Valley boundary

A - Estuary and Marsh
B - Coastal Margins
C - Coastal Limestone
D - Lowland
E - Coastal Sandstone
F - Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell
G - Rugged Angular Slate High Fell
H - Upland Valley
I - Upland Limestone Farmland
J - High Fell Fringe
K - Low Fell
L - Low Fell Fringe
M - Lowland Valley

Landscape Character Assessment © Lake District National Park Authority 2008

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE A – ESTUARY AND MARSH

FIGURE 2.a.19 Landscape Character Type A - Estuary and Marsh

The Estuary and Marsh LCT consists of several areas located on the West and Morecambe Bay Coasts within the Ravenglass (Irt, Mite and Esk), Leven and Kent estuaries. Although these are small areas within the candidate World Heritage Site there is strong visual connectivity with contiguous estuarine and coastal landscapes outside the boundary which influence landscape character.

These are expansive, open landscapes with predominantly flat topography and vast skies. A dynamic pattern of interlinked, meandering river channels dissects expanses of mudflats, salt marsh, dunes and shingle beaches. These habitats are of significant ecological interest with a rich variety of invertebrates supporting numerous species of wading birds and wildfowl and the LCT contains several designations including the Morecambe Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) and SAC. There is a strong sense of tranquillity in this LCT reinforced by the lack of built structures, settlement and enclosure due largely to the mobile, inter-tidal nature of the landscape. In past times these would have been prime food gathering locations but there is a lack of recorded archaeological evidence possibly due more to a lack of investigation more than any other reason.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE B – COASTAL MARGINS

FIGURE 2.a.20 Landscape Character Type B - Coastal Margins

The Coastal Margins LCT follows the same location pattern as LCT A, occupying small areas in the south west and south of the English Lake District connected to the Ravenglass (Rivers Irt, Mite and Esk) and Duddon estuaries on the west coast and the Leven and Kent estuaries in Morecambe Bay. There is strong intervisibility with the estuarine and coastal landscapes which continue outside the boundary of the candidate property and inland with a range of different LCT including High Fell Fringe (J), Low Fell (K), Lowland (D), and Coastal Limestone (C).

The underlying marine alluvium and undulating boulder clay produces a low-lying, flat to undulating landscape with occasional low mounds. This contrasts sharply with the

enclosing fell edge where there are views inland. Nearest the coast there are hummocky dunes, raised beaches and further inland coastal mosses formed by peat accumulation in alluvial or boulder clay basins which rise up to three metres above surrounding levels. Habitats are varied and include shingle bank, dune and maritime heath communities, raised bogs and mosses supporting a variety of insects, butterflies and birds and also reptiles and amphibians. Agricultural improvement through drainage, fertilising and re-seeding has created pockets of pasture with hedges, copses, ditches, and small woodlands confirming human influence on the landscape. The Coastal Margins in the west are predominantly unenclosed or common land whereas in the south they are more often the result of planned enclosure with scattered single ancient farms and small villages linked by a network of minor roads and tracks forming the basis of the dispersed settlement pattern. Cobble stone banks, often with a hedge on top, known locally as 'kests' are a common distinguishing feature. Broughton-in-Furness, with its distinctive central 'square', is the only settlement of any size with its historic core designated as a Conservation Area to protect its architectural and historic interest.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE C – COASTAL LIMESTONE

The Coastal Limestone LCT is located in the south east and south of the English Lake District to the west of Kendal and north of Grange-over-Sands. It is part of the broken rim of Carboniferous Limestone around the higher, mountainous core and includes the prominent west facing escarpments of Scout Scar, Whitbarrow and Hampsfell, in the Windermere Valley.

FIGURE 2.a.21 Landscape Character Type C - Coastal Limestone

The landscape exhibits typical limestone features including steep scarp slopes, rocky outcrops and limestone pavement and the rolling farmland has a rough texture where these occur. The grazed land cover, with scrub and woodland on the steeper slopes, is often enclosed with distinctive limestone walls as further evidence of the underlying geology. Semi-improved pasture and species-rich calcareous grassland together with semi-natural woodland provide ecological interest throughout the LCT and Scout and Cunswick Scars are SSSI and part of the larger Morecambe Bay SAC. The landscape pattern of open fields, woodland, parliamentary enclosure and single ancient farms shape the settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads and houses where the widespread use of limestone as a building material gives a visual cohesion to buildings, settlement and landscape. Occasional Georgian villas and their attractive parkland setting are particularly apparent in the Field Broughton area north of Cartmel, in the Windermere Valley.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE D – LOWLAND

The Lowland Landscape Character Type lies at the western edge of the English Lake District north of the Ravenglass Estuary between the upland edge and the coast.

FIGURE 2.a.22 Landscape Character Type D – Lowland

The underlying sandstone leads to a low-lying 'soft' landscape with rolling or undulating topography dissected by meandering valleys. The predominant land cover is pasture, with pockets of woodland, arable fields, scrub and more marginal land. Together with hedges and hedgerow trees this leads to a recognisable landscape pattern. Ecological interest is particularly notable within areas of semi-natural woodland, wetland habitats along river corridors and botanically-rich exposures of sand. A mixture of historic landscape types is apparent, consisting of former common fields, ancient enclosures, small patches of intakes and blocks of planned enclosures. There are also large blocks of plantation woodland, with fragments of ancient woodland. The pattern of distribution of these landscape types relates to topography, with the former common fields situated on the low-lying western side of the area, and the planned enclosure plus much of the plantation woodland on the higher ground. Hedgerows are the dominant type of field boundary with stone walls restricted largely to the planned enclosures of the fell edges. The settlement pattern is one of dispersed and nucleated settlements with scattered farmsteads and a number of late Georgian houses in mature landscaped grounds. The two main settlements of Gosforth and Ravenglass have different characters. Gosforth has a linear core of 17th to 19th century buildings, surrounded by large housing estates and Ravenglass is a small historic medieval market centre and port, with a unique identity. The use of local building materials, in particular Eskdale Granite and St Bees Red Sandstone, forms a consistent feature of farmsteads, houses and older parts of settlements.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE E – COASTAL SANDSTONE

FIGURE 2.a.23 Landscape Character Type E - Coastal Sandstone

The Coastal Sandstone LCT is located along the West Coast and is essentially the coastal plain between the Black Combe massif and the sea. It is adjacent to the Estuary and Marsh (A) and Coastal Margins (B) LCT of the Ravenglass Estuary to the north and High Fell Fringe (J) and Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell (G) inland to the east.

The underlying geology of Triassic Sandstone with some mudstones, being soft, produces a low-lying, gently rolling landscape which is well suited to agriculture. This is an open landscape with extensive views west across the

Irish Sea and inland to the upland edge of the imposing High Fell backdrop. Land cover is dominated by rolling pasture fields divided by a combination of hedgerow and hedgebank field boundaries. Woodland cover is generally absent but occasional small patches and copses of trees punctuate the landscape. Ecological interest within this LCT is focussed on the hedgerow network, small pockets of semi-natural woodland and a small number of river and beck corridors running through the landscape. This area was heavily settled in the prehistoric and later periods and the cropmarks of enclosures and other features are visible from the air. The settlement pattern is mixed with dispersed farms across the whole character type and small settlements such as Silecroft, Bootle and Hycemoor sited next to their former common fields. The distinctive red sandstone buildings characterise the settlements, often grouped tightly together for shelter in this open and exposed landscape.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE F – RUGGED/CRAGGY VOLCANIC HIGH FELL

FIGURE 2.a.24 Landscape Character Type F - Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell

This is the largest LCT and covers land above the fell wall. It encompasses a broad band running east to west across the central part of the English Lake District and is dissected by the Upland Valley LCT (H). To the north are the more rounded fells of LCT (G) Rounded/Angular High Fell and to the south Low Fell (K).

The hard, resistant rocks of the Borrowdale Volcanics Group, with some granite to the west, underlie this LCT. Tens of thousands of years of erosion by ice, water and weather have created a highly complex topography which in simple terms has a dome-shaped morphology with the highest point being Scafell Pike. Ridges radiate out with the landform generally lowering towards the edge of the English Lake District and between them the lakes and valleys for which the area is renowned. The LCT exhibits classic examples of glacial features such as arêtes, corries, and corrie lakes, pyramidal peaks, hanging valleys, drumlins, moraines and U-shaped valleys. But there are also examples of V-shaped valleys eroded by streams and frost shattering of rock to produce sometimes extensive scree slopes, hill tarns and a complex network of cascading becks. There are uplifting, long-range, panoramic views from the fell tops. Soils are mostly thin and acidic and land cover is either bare rock, scree or low growing vegetation with low-density grazing by the iconic Herdwick sheep over most of the area. These upland fells contain a number of habitats which are rare in the UK. Certain species within the wet and dry upland heaths, blanket bogs and montane heaths thrive in the poor soils and harsh climate and much of the LCT is designated as SAC and SSSI. Many niche communities and species survive in the diverse habitats created by aspect, altitude and micro-topography which reduce competition. Although today the upland fells are sparsely populated the archaeological record reveals a rich history of settlement

and industry across the area spanning several thousand years. Numerous mines, mineral workings and quarries have left their mark on the landscape. But it is agriculture, past and present, which defines the landscape. Enclosure dating back to medieval times in the valley floors was gradually extended up the valley sides to produce the 'intakes' above which is the common grazing of the open fell. There are few occupied buildings in the LCT as the landscape has so little shelter. Industrial buildings have been largely abandoned and farms are concentrated in the valleys though occasionally they do exist.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE G – RUGGED/ANGULAR SLATE HIGH FELL

FIGURE 2.a.25 Landscape Character Type G - Rugged/Angular Slate High Fell

This LCT is mostly situated in the north of the English Lake District with the outlier of Black Combe in the south west. The northern area of this LCT is bordered by High Fell Fringe (J) to the north and Rugged/Craggy Volcanic High Fell (F) to the south, and dissected by the Upland Valley (H) LCT. The Black Combe outlier is also flanked by LCT J and F but with Coastal Sandstone (E) to its seaward side.

The easily-weathered Skiddaw Slates group of rocks underlies these distinctive, smooth, but steep sided hills. This elevated and open landscape provides uplifting panoramic views. The hills are dissected by a mix of narrow, stream-cut valleys and glaciated valleys with typical glacial features including corries with craggy headwalls, corrie lakes and arêtes. Soils are generally thin and acidic with peat formations in less well drained areas. There are some areas of scree but generally the land cover is rough acid grassland and heather, with some areas of bracken. The lower slopes support some higher vegetation including gorse, juniper and small trees such as rowan and hawthorn. A large proportion of the LCT is included in the English Lake District High Fells SAC and is designated as SSSI. Wet and dry heathland, montane heaths, extensive areas of blanket bog and heather and bilberry heath have developed on the thin acidic soils and support an important upland bird population, amphibians and reptiles. Archaeological finds reflect the past importance of this area as a place for defence, settlement and industry and minerals in the rocks have resulted in a rich history of mining. There is a distinctive lack of built structures in this elevated and exposed landscape with very few walls and buildings being small in number and isolated.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE H – UPLAND VALLEY

The Upland Valley LCT dissects the High Fell LCT (F and G) within the English Lake District creating a distinctive pattern first described by Wordsworth as being like the spokes of a wheel.

The U-shaped valleys were created by glacial activity in the last ice age up to about 10,000 years ago, creating a dramatic landscape where some of the deepest lakes are

FIGURE 2.a.26 Landscape Character Type H - Upland Valley

flanked by the highest mountains, as is the case in Wasdale where steep scree slopes plunge directly into the deep waters of the lake. Some valleys are less dramatic with shallower sides and slow-moving rivers. The valley floors may be dominated by a lake or river and are generally intensively farmed on the stony, river washed gravels, with a rich pattern of farms, drystone walls and barns within the bright green improved pasture of the inbye land. The valley sides are generally covered by a mix of pastoral farmland, including the inbye and intakes of rougher, semi-improved grazing, scrub and woodland. On lower-lying, wetter land, unimproved grassland and wetland often give way to mires, reed swamps and carr woodland at lake-heads and along lakeshores. Ecological interest includes a variety of lake, mire, river, and bog habitats and semi-natural Atlantic oak woods and associated bryophytes remain on the lower valley sides. The cultural and historical character of the Upland Valleys is evident in the intricate pattern of field boundaries, resulting from historic enclosure but still supporting a viable farming system. At valley heads a more irregular, smaller-scale, more ancient pattern of walled enclosures may be evident with Wasdale Head being a fine example. There are important former deer parks, designed landscapes and areas of parkland, particularly around lakes and associated with large country houses, whose mature trees make a significant contribution to the Lakeland landscape. This LCT contains the majority of settlements from individual vernacular farmsteads to the busy towns of Keswick and Ambleside. Vernacular stone and slate buildings give pattern to the landscape and represent the continuity of a long history of traditional upland farming. The architecture ranges from farms, medieval halls, Picturesque and Romantic Georgian, to railway tourism and imposing Victorian developments of housing, hotels and terraces.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE I – UPLAND LIMESTONE FARMLAND

The Upland Limestone Farmland LCT extends along the northern and eastern edge of the English Lake District, flanked by the High Fell Fringe LCT (J) as the land rises towards the central fells. It is part of a broader band of limestone, which stretches north and eastwards outside the English Lake District and is part of the broken rim of Carboniferous Limestone around the higher, mountainous core of the area of which is also evident in LCT C – Coastal Limestone.

The LCT is dominated by Carboniferous Limestone geology which gives rise to a typical upland limestone farmland landscape but has less of the typical limestone features such as large scars and surface features so common in the Coastal Limestone LCT. This is an open, gentle and rolling landscape with extensive views towards the central High Fells and the lowland landscapes outside the English Lake District. Land cover is predominantly improved and semi-improved pasture in fields lined with hedgerows in the in the north but drystone walls in the west and east. Occasional clumps of trees and small woods add variety and there is extensive parkland and plantations associated with

FIGURE 2.a.27 Landscape Character Type I - Upland Limestone Farmland

the Lowther Estate in the east. Herb-rich calcareous grassland and woodland habitats provide considerable ecological interest as do the becks, rivers and mires. Dispersed farms and nucleated settlements are evenly distributed across the LCT with associated large common field systems particularly around Caldbeck and Uldale in the north. Here the field boundaries are generally hedges. Further west the village of Blindcrake has walled strip fields fossilising the ancient open field structure and the remains of medieval deer parks associated with Isel Hall. In the east there are extensive parklands and attractive villages like Askham, Helton and Hesket Newmarket with distinctive village greens and the 18th century planned estate village of Lowther. These settlements illustrate very clearly factors such as geology, land quality and ownership, as well as reflecting medieval field patterns and agricultural and economic prosperity.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE J – HIGH FELL FRINGE

The High Fell Fringe LCT occupies an area to the north and west of the English Lake District with an isolated area east of Windermere. It is bordered almost entirely to the north and west by the Upland Limestone Farmland LCT (I) and to the south by High Fells (F and G) or Upland Valley (H) LCT.

FIGURE 2.a.28 Landscape Character Type J - High Fell Fringe

The diverse geology of this LCT, where one rock type meets another leads to a transitional landscape between open fell and lower, more enclosed landscapes. It varies between rolling hills with long distance views and intimate patterns of small fields on lower ground. The rough textured, semi-improved pasture of the fells, mostly intakes and ancient enclosures with small patches of woodland and scrub on steeper slopes, gives way to predominantly improved pasture and meadows with a pattern of stone walls then hedges at lower levels. Much of the ecological interest has been depleted by agricultural improvement but there are small patches of ancient semi-natural woodland, wetlands and mires some of which are National Nature Reserves and SSSI. Archaeological remains are prolific in this LCT with many scheduled monuments including prehistoric funerary cairns, field systems, hut circles, stone circles and Roman forts. There is a dispersed settlement pattern with building groups, hamlets and small villages scattered over the area with building materials reflecting the

underlying geology and drift deposits including boulders, cobbles, Skiddaw black slates, green slates, granite, limestone and sandstone. Many of the farms are good examples of the 'great rebuilding' of the late 17th century and of particular importance in this LCT are the well-known examples of Grade 1 listed medieval buildings such as Dacre Castle and Church, Muncaster Castle and Church and Hutton John Fortified Hall House.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE K – LOW FELL

FIGURE 2.a.29 Landscape Character Type K – Low Fell

The Low Fell LCT occupies a large proportion of the south east of the English Lake District and is dissected by a number of Lowland Valleys (Type M). To the south, the Low Fell slopes down to meet the Low Fell Fringe (L), Coastal Limestone (C) and Coastal Margins (B) LCTs. To the north, the Rugged/Craggy High Fells provide a dramatic backdrop.

The softer underlying siltstones and mudstones produce a landscape of low undulating fells and ridges dissected by the two large lakes of Coniston Water and Windermere. Despite their relative low height in comparison with adjacent High Fells, the elevated open land on tops of ridges within this LCT provides striking long distance views north to the higher fells and to Morecambe Bay to the south. This is a smooth, more rounded landscape of rolling wooded hills with extensive areas of open moorland and rough grass, bracken and remnant heather contrasting with rich, green improved pasture enclosed by stone walls in the valleys. In places large intakes or 'allotments' on the valley sides weaken this contrast with semi-improved grassland, heath, mire and juniper scrub. Tarns, becks, small wetlands and mires are frequent occurrences. The diverse landcover supports a range of habitats but of particular note are the wetland sites, many of which are designated as SSSI. Ancient woodland characterises this LCT most of which was coppiced to serve industries such as iron smelting, gunpowder manufacture and bobbin-making for Lancashire's cotton mills. The settlement pattern is one of dispersed farms and hamlets with some good examples of large houses from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The main settlement is Hawkshead, an outstanding example of a late medieval, 17th and 18th century small market town, packed with historic buildings and intimate yards and spaces and designated as a Conservation Area. Building materials throughout the LCT are local slate and limestone, often with render and limewash, which creates a strong vernacular style.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE L – LOW FELL FRINGE

The Low Fell Fringe LCT is situated at the south edge of the English Lake District (to the north of Grange-over-Sands and Ulverston). It forms the lower edges of the adjacent Low Fell LCT (K) and is bordered to the south by a combination of Coastal Limestone (C) and Coastal Margins (B) LCTs.

The Low Fell Fringe LCT forms the transitional landscape between the higher land of the Low Fell to the north and the lower coastal LCT to the south. The varied underlying geology produces a rolling, undulating, hilly and plateau landscape, dissected by small

FIGURE 2.a.30 Landscape Character Type L – Low Fell Fringe

rivers, which is predominantly farmed. Farmland has an identifiable pattern of large fields bounded by stone walls on higher ground and hedges at lower levels with a strong presence of field boundary and in-field trees or clumps of trees. The small river valleys are often evident from some distance due to semi-natural woodland following their course. Ecological interest lies mainly in the wetlands and woodlands and some notable mosses are designated as SSSI. Settlement within the landscape is based on the dispersed pattern of former single ancient farms and a number of small nucleated villages, particularly along the Leven Valley around Haverthwaite and Backbarrow, where iron and gunpowder industries developed followed by the construction of the railway and the growth of this area as a key tourist route into the English Lake District. Stone used for building reflects the underlying geology with rubble slatestone, quarry waste, dressed sandstone and limestone but also the distinctive yellow Furness brickwork of the railway buildings between Lakeside and Haverthwaite.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE M – LOWLAND VALLEY

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

The Lowland Valleys carve through surrounding Low Fell and contain either a main river or lake. The topography varies from wide, flat, shallow valley bottoms to classic U-shaped valley sides with a strong sense of enclosure. Landcover is predominantly pastoral but with plantations, scrub and other, predominantly broadleaved, woodland present, particularly adjacent to the rivers or lakes. There is a defined pattern of field boundaries, mainly hedgerows which in some areas are replaced by fences, hedgerow trees and occasionally stone walls. Parkland is a key feature along valley sides and around lakeshores. The ecological character of this LCT is dominated by the habitats associated with the numerous rivers, becks and lakes with a rich variety of flora, locally important breeding birds and, in the case of Windermere, Arctic Char. Rusland Moss in the Rusland Valley is a National Nature Reserve. Planned enclosure, parkland and a number of large 18th and 19th century villas and country houses, many with extensive gardens, lend a managed appearance to the landscape. But the dispersed pattern of

FIGURE 2.a.31 Landscape Character Type M – Lowland Valley

single ancient farms still forms the basis of the settlement pattern seen today of isolated farmsteads, houses, small groups and hamlets. This is much modified, however, and although within one LCT these linear valleys contrast with each other in terms of historical development, character of buildings and settlements. Windermere combined with Bowness-on-Windermere is the largest urban settlement in the English Lake District and is principally a creation of railway tourism after the mid-19th century.

The east shore of Windermere in particular has a very distinctive character, with numerous grand houses which include fine examples of Georgian, Regency, Classical Revival, Victorian Gothic and Arts and Crafts architecture set within mature designed landscape and woodland.

ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT SPECIAL QUALITIES

The interaction of humanity with this spectacular landscape has left a legacy of superlative beauty, summarised in the descriptions of the Landscape Character Assessment, which is sustained by the agro-pastoral base and conservation measures, and is enjoyed by millions of visitors. The Lake District National Park Partnership has identified 13 'Special Qualities' arising from this interaction which it considers to reflect the essence of the whole place.

A WORLD CLASS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

- Extraordinary beauty and harmony arising from narrow, radiating valleys, steep fells and slender lakes. Each of the 13 valleys exhibit individual distinctiveness.
- A fusion between a natural landscape, distinctive communal farming system and fine examples of villas, picturesque planting and gardens.
- Grasmere displays a broad combination of attributes including farming, villas, planned landscape, National Trust property and is the key landscape associated with William Wordsworth.

FIGURE 2.a.32 Grasmere

COMPLEX GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

- Home to highest mountains and deepest lakes in England, and a history of active geomorphological processes.
- A rich mining and quarrying history including prehistoric stone axe production, copper, and slate has had a significant influence on the physical character of the area and local buildings reflect the use of local raw materials.
- Examples include copper mines and slate quarries at Coniston; Caldbeck Fells geological SSSI, the Central Fells Neolithic stone axe production sites.

FIGURE 2.a.33 Honister Hause, above Buttermere

RICH ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

- A landscape that reflects a long history of settlement, agriculture and industry, including 'ring garth' stone wall enclosures of common fields, and 'intakes', hay meadows and pollarded trees that are still in use today.
- Important prehistoric sites that include Neolithic stone circles, rock art, Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements.
- Examples include Swinside stone circle, Ravenglass and Hardknott Roman Forts, Shap Abbey and Force Crag mine.

FIGURE 2.a.34 Hardknott Roman Fort, Eskdale Valley

UNIQUE FARMING HERITAGE AND CONCENTRATION OF COMMON LAND

- An evolved pastoral system still in continuation today characterised by inbye including pastures and hay meadows, intake, outgang, and open fell land use. This includes the largest concentration of common land in the United Kingdom.
- Hefted grazing, collective management of land, traditional breeds including Herdwick sheep and hardy cattle, communal gathers, shepherds meets, agricultural shows, and local dialect create a unique heritage.
- Examples include Eskdale Show, Borrowdale Shepherds' Meet and Show; extensive Herdwick hefts on the Duddon, Seathwaite, Torver, Coniston Common; and Yew Tree Farm at Coniston with its traditional buildings, Herdwick sheep and thriving local meat business.

FIGURE 2.a.35 Herdwick sheep in Great Langdale

THE HIGH FELLS

- Fells, peaks, crags and passes define valleys, shed water, and shape communities. They are rich in wildlife and archaeological sites, and integral to the hill farming system.
- For centuries people have come to walk them, and they are an inspiration to numerous writers and painters including Wordsworth, Turner and Constable.
- Examples include Scafell and Great Gable; Striding Edge and Helvellyn; the Langdale Pikes; and Haystacks – Wainwright's favourite place.

FIGURE 2.a.36 Rugged fell top near Haystacks, Buttermere

WEALTH OF HABITATS AND WILDLIFE

- Habitats have been developing since the retreat of the glaciers 10,000 years ago, and almost 20 per cent of the English Lake District is designated for its biodiversity value.
- An abundance of freshwater habitats including lakes, rivers and tarns support a variety of species. Vegetation transitions from mountain top to valley bottom boasts diverse habitats and species.
- Examples of sites where key species are found include ospreys and vendace at Bassenthwaite Lake; Red Squirrels from Thirlmere to Borrowdale; juniper in Mosedale; blanket bog at Shap; and dormice in the Duddon Valley.

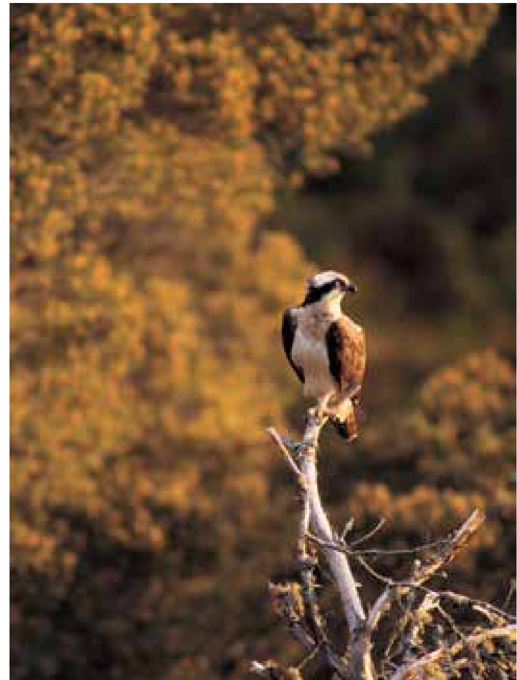


FIGURE 2.a.37 Osprey at Bassenthwaite Lake

MOSAIC OF LAKES, TARNS, RIVERS AND COAST

- Lakes, tarns, rivers and coast collectively contribute to the high quality scenery and natural resource which is so distinctively 'The English Lake District'.
- Becks and rivers have been harnessed to provide power to a variety of industries, and from the 19th century lakes have provided fresh water supplies to expanding cities in the region.
- Examples include Windermere which is home to the Freshwater Biological Association; Blea Tarn, Langdale; and the River Derwent, Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite Lake.

FIGURE 2.a.38 St John's Beck, Thirlmere Valley

EXTENSIVE SEMI-NATURAL WOODLANDS

- Semi-natural woodlands add texture, colour and variety to the landscape. Wood pasture, pollards and old coppice woodland contain one of the greatest concentrations of ancient trees in Europe and form a living record of past land use, form part of the rich cultural landscape.
- Woodlands have provided a source of raw materials for local industries for centuries. They are increasingly valued for carbon sequestration and storage, as a source for renewable woodfuel, and timber products.

FIGURE 2.a.39 Oak woodland in Borrowdale

- Examples include Borrowdale with its Yews and Atlantic Oak woods; the Keskadale oaks at Newlands; the Rusland woods and the bobbin mill at Stott Park, Finsthwaite, Coniston.

DISTINCTIVE BUILDINGS AND SETTLEMENT CHARACTER

- A distinctive settlement character comprising hamlets, villages and small towns which include a range of building types and styles.
- Characterised by vernacular buildings of a simple functional style, often rugged in appearance using local materials. Also home to fine examples of villa architecture.
- Examples include the traditional hamlet of Hartsop; Askham, Caldbeck and Troutbeck Conservation Areas with their links to farming; Belle Isle on Windermere; Claife Viewing Station; and Blackwell at Bowness.

FIGURE 2.a.40 The Bridge House, Ambleside

A SOURCE OF ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

- A distinctive pastoral landscape of harmonious beauty which has inspired generations of artists and writers, influenced the Picturesque and Romantic Movements and continues to inspire artists today.
- Has inspired influential changes in the relationship between humans and landscape, including recognising the value of landscape for spiritual refreshment and personal development.

- Examples include J. M. W. Turner's painting of the Coniston fells; Wordsworth's home at Dove Cottage – owned by the Wordsworth Trust; Words by the Water at Theatre by the Lake; Grizedale Arts; Aira Force; and Nibthwaite and South Coniston Water – inspiration for Arthur Ransome's Swallows and Amazons children's novels.

FIGURE 2.a.41 Daffodils at Glencoyne, Ullswater

A MODEL FOR PROTECTING CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

- Vulnerability to industrial and other threats gave rise to the idea that valued landscapes should be nurtured and protected. The English Lake District was the birth place of an innovative conservation movement committed to the defence of landscape and traditional land use.
- Led directly to creation of the National Trust and protection through acquisitions, the formal designation of protected landscapes (UK National Parks), and underpinned development of the category of World Heritage cultural landscape.

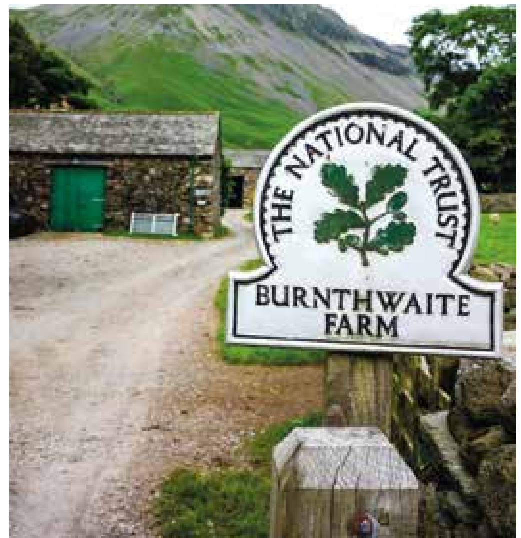


FIGURE 2.a.42 Burnthwaite Farm, Wasdale Head

- Examples of sites include Hilltop at Sawrey – home of Beatrix Potter; early National Trust acquisitions at Friars Crag, Keswick, and Gowbarrow Fell and Aira Force, Ullswater; Thirlmere and the successful campaign to prevent commercial afforestation in the Central Fells.

A LONG TRADITION OF TOURISM AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- Provides opportunities for a wide range of sporting and recreational activities on land and water. History of tourism can be traced back to period of the Picturesque Movement.
- Birth place of recreational rock climbing, and tradition of unrestricted access to the fells means the English Lake District has become a focus for recreational walking.

- Examples of sites include Napes Needle on Great Gable; Keswick – railway and Victorian hotel hospitality; Wainwright's walking routes; Windermere – lake cruises, sailing, open water swimming; Whinlatter – mountain biking; and youth hostels such as Black Sail.

FIGURE 2.a.43 Launch on Coniston

OPPORTUNITIES FOR QUIET ENJOYMENT

- Tranquillity of the fells, valleys and lakes gives a sense of space and freedom. They provide opportunities for spiritual refreshment – a release from the pressures of modern day life.
- There is a feeling of wilderness, offering personal challenges for some and impressive open views for everyone.
- Examples of places include the Great Moss below Scafell in the Central Fells – the most tranquil place in the English Lake District; Great Gable – gifted to the National Trust as a memorial to those who died fighting in the First World War; and Ullswater with its steamers and quiet locations such as Howtown.

FIGURE 2.a.44 Hartsop Dodd reflected in Brotherswater

2.a.2 THE AGRO-PASTORAL TRADITION

The LCT and the Special Qualities demonstrate the quality of the landscape as well as the high esteem in which it is held. This beauty of the English Lake District landscape results from the ways in which the agro-pastoral system, developed over the last millennium, has adapted to and managed the particular – and spectacular – environments created by nature. Population and resources became sufficient to establish a pattern of enclosed land (inbye land) and settlements in the fertile valley bottoms, surrounded by a boundary wall known as a ring garth. On the valley sides and the surrounding fells (uplands) communal grazing complemented the inbye land. This system has evolved through the centuries but still thrives in today's conditions. It has provided and sustained the extraordinary allure of the landscape which stimulated the interest of the Picturesque and Romantic Movements in the 18th and 19th centuries, leading to the conservation movement which began in the English Lake District and influenced practice elsewhere in the later 19th and 20th centuries.

VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF EARLY OCCUPATION

This living landscape preserves remains of earlier human occupation going back to about 12,000 BC. There are over 15,000 known archaeological sites in the English Lake District. A number of cave sites in the southern English Lake District have evidence for the earliest occupation in the late Upper Palaeolithic (c. 12,000 – 8,000 BC) and Mesolithic (c. 8,000 – 4,000 BC). The earliest farming cultures of the Neolithic (c. 4,000 – 2,000 BC) have left traces such as stone circles (for example at Castlerigg), ditched and banked enclosures, and stone axe factories such as Langdale Pike. From the following Bronze Age (c. 2,000 – 800 BC) remains of field systems, enclosures and ritual sites survive in the uplands. Following climatic deterioration from around 1,000 BC, Iron Age settlement sites are known from the valley bottoms, such as Glencoyne Park by Ullswater.

FIGURE 2.a.45 Neolithic (c. 4,000 – 2,000 BC) stone circle at Castlerigg, east of Keswick. The circle is positioned on a natural route of communication between the west coast and eastern England and also has magnificent views of the surrounding fells.

The Romans occupied the English Lake District in the early 2nd century AD. There are surviving remains of forts such as Ravenglass, Hardknott (Eskdale) and Ambleside together with some of the roads which linked them, as well as known sites of civilian settlements. After the end of the Roman period c. AD 410, continuing occupation is shown by the earthwork or stone remains of small huts on the fells which are evidence of early transhumance (the movement of flocks and shepherds from the valley bottoms to the uplands for the summer months).

FIGURE 2.a.46 Polished stone axes from the Langdale Neolithic (c. 4,000 – 2,000 BC) polished axe factories (a rough-out on the right and a polished example on the left). Stone axes from the English Lake District were traded or exchanged over an wide area extending from Scotland and Ireland to southern England.

FIGURE 2.a.47 Archaeological excavation of one of the huts within an Iron Age (c. 800 BC – 100 AD) enclosed settlement at Glencoyne Park, Ullswater. This site was occupied from the Bronze Age (2,000 – 800 BC) to the early medieval period (c. 400 – 1,092 AD) although this may not have been continuous.

FIGURE 2.a.48 The Roman fort at Hardknott (c. 120 – 390 AD). This site is unusual in having a constructed parade ground on its north eastern side. The remains of a bath house are also visible outside the walls of the fort.

FIGURE 2.a.49 Norse decorated hogback tombstones at St Mary's Church, Gosforth (10th century AD)

Other exceptional remains which can be seen include the fine group of decorated stone crosses dating from the Anglian (7th/8th centuries AD) and Norse (10th century AD) periods on the west coast. The crosses at Irton and Gosforth are the best examples and a number of decorated Norse 'hogback' tombstones also survive, with examples in the churches at Gosforth and Lowther.

A few small, heavily-defended hillforts in the English Lake District also survive from the early medieval period including the site at Shoulthwaite by Thirlmere (late 6th/early 7th centuries AD) and other possible examples at Castle How, Bassenthwaite and Castle Crag, Haweswater. A possible 'thing' mound (moot or meeting mound) of the Norse period can be seen at Fell Foot Farm in Little Langdale.

EXTANT REMAINS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AGRO-PASTORAL SYSTEM

FIGURE 2.a.50 The remains of part of the medieval ring garth wall in Great Langdale. This section of ring garth has fallen into disuse, probably in the early 20th century, but other parts have been rebuilt over centuries and are still functional.

Separation of the valley bottoms, used variously though time for arable crops, growing hay, and protected winter grazing, from the open grazing on the higher ground is a key element of agriculture in the English Lake District. A number of surviving stone field walls in the bottoms of the English Lake District valleys are likely to have formed part of the medieval ring garth – the wall that separated the communal open field in the valley bottom from the grazing land on the surrounding slopes, which was the earliest stage of this division. Such walls certainly existed by 1216, as documented for Great Langdale (see Section 2.b.2 Great Langdale Case Study), and the division of the land may go back to the 12th or even 11th centuries.

The ring garth wall in Great Langdale has been identified on the ground as a result of documentary research coupled with archaeological field survey, while the early date of others has been surmised through comparison with the evidence from Langdale (See 2.b.2). There is another good example of a likely ring garth wall and earthen bank in the Watendlath valley, above Borrowdale.

Other medieval agricultural remains in the valleys include a number of agricultural terraces, with examples adjacent to the 14th century pele tower (fortified house) in Kentmere and on the land of the monastic grange which belonged to Shap Abbey in Wet Sleddale. Also visible in Wet Sleddale is a series of small rectangular fields, defined by lynchets and containing the remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation which are likely to be medieval in date. These indicate that arable agriculture may have taken place in the fells during short periods of warmer climate in the medieval period.

In some parts of the English Lake District, particularly in the wider valleys and around the edge of the mountain core where there was more land for arable agriculture, the modern field boundaries fossilise the strips which were farmed by individual tenants within the former open field of the medieval period. This pattern can be seen around villages on the limestone on the eastern side of the English Lake District, particularly at Askham and Helton. Another fine survival of this is the field system at Blindcrake, on the north western edge of the area and also located on limestone. Here strip fields, reflecting a medieval pattern, are arranged at right angles to a former Roman road (see Figure 2.a.51).

It is known from documentary sources that transhumance was practised in the English Lake District throughout much of the medieval period but gradually declined as different means of managing the upland grazing had developed. It had ended by the 16th century. Some of the shieling sites (summer-occupied sites) in the fells continued in use while others developed into more permanent farmsteads. The visible archaeological remains of such sites include the excavated farmstead at Stephenson Scale, in the Lickle Valley (Duddon), where a rectilinear wooden structure of the 10th or 11th century was replaced by a farm house with a stone foundation. The earthwork remains of a similar structure can also be seen on Askham Fell (Haweswater).

FIGURE 2.a.51 Strip fields at Blindcrake which have fossilized a medieval pattern. The field system is aligned at right angles to the route of a former Roman road which runs southwest to northeast.

The principal landowners of the English Lake District in the medieval period were based around the edges of the area. They included feudal lords living in what became towns around the periphery of the area, as well as in individual pele towers such as Kentmere Hall, Yewbarrow Hall in Longsleddale, Askham Hall, Isel Hall on the River Derwent, Muncaster Castle and Irton Hall.

Monastic houses were also large landowners from the 12th to 16th century.
The monasteries, some located in the English Lake District (Shap and Calder), or at a distance (Furness and Fountains), took an active interest in their estates and how they

FIGURE 2.a.52 Excavation of an early medieval farm house at Stephenson Scale in 1993. Here a wooden structure possibly of the 12th century AD was replaced by a stone building by the 14th century.

were farmed. Apart from substantial remains of the monasteries themselves at both Shap and Calder, other surviving features include Hawkshead Courthouse – a well-preserved building of the Furness Abbey grange (sheep farm) at Hawkshead, and the earthwork boundary of the Brotherilkeld farm in the Great Moss below Scafell, constructed by the monks of Furness Abbey. Other medieval earthwork boundaries which survive in the English Lake District defined the boundaries of deer parks.

Polite buildings (the homes of the upper classes and built to a higher standard of design), which can still be seen, are located around the periphery of the mountain core (e.g. Penrith Castle, Kendal Castle). This is true also of churches such as those of St Kentigern's, Caldbeck, St Michael's Church, Barton, both 12th century; St. Andrew's Church, Dacre, dating from the 12th/13th centuries and with four unique carved stone

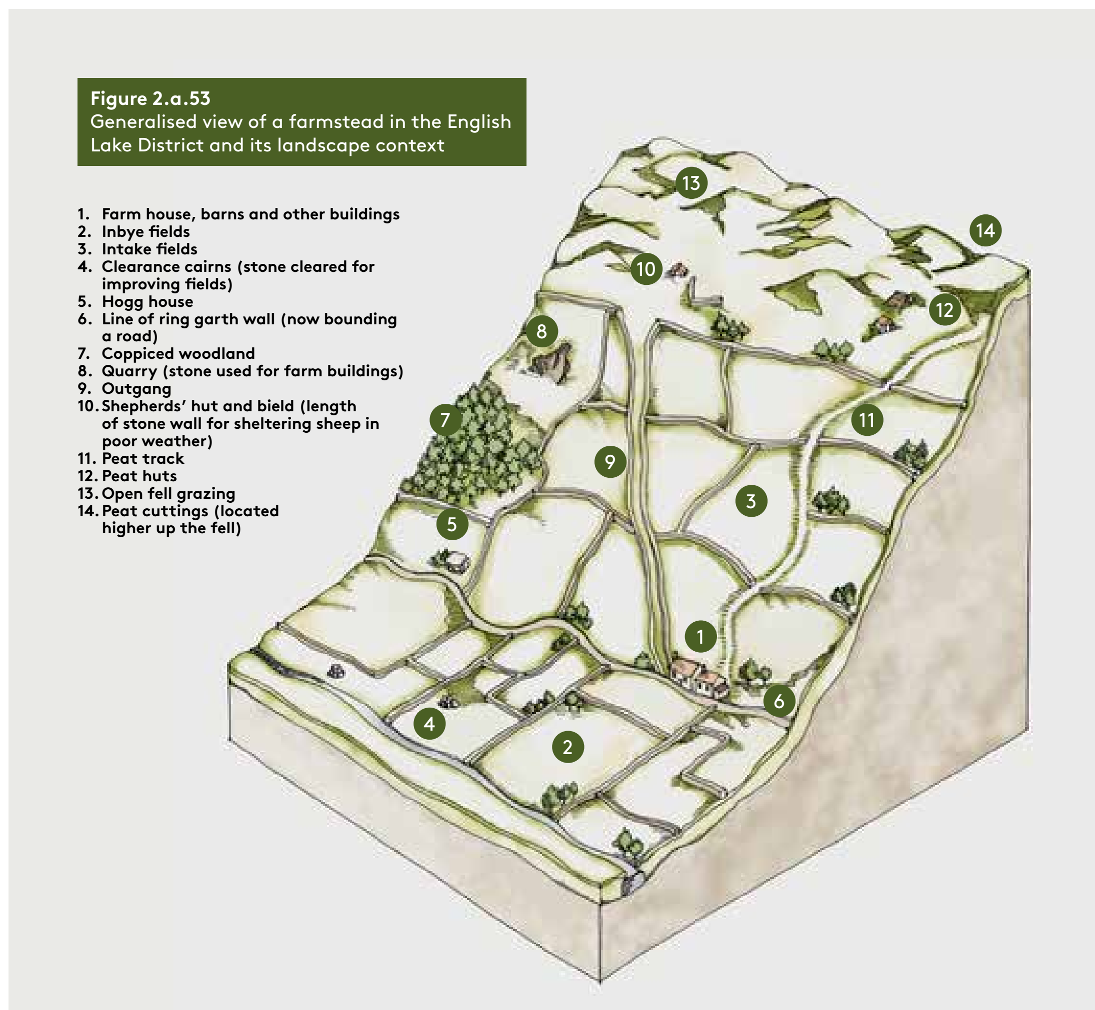


FIGURE 2.a.53 Generalised view of a English Lake District farmstead and its landscape context

FIGURE 2.a.54 St Michael's Church, Barton (Ullswater)

bears in the churchyard; St Oswald's, Grasmere dating from the 14th century. St Martin's Bowness, a large, very prominent church re-built in 1483 has an exceptional east window with medieval glass, some of which came from Cartmel Priory; this is probably the largest and best window in northern England.

The basic system of enclosed land in the valley bottoms, with open grazing on the valley sides and fells, evolved over time as more enclosed land was needed. This developed pattern of enclosed and common land remains a key element of the continuing agro-pastoral system of the Lake District. Changes in overall landownership in the 16th century and a legal judgement in 1625 giving security of tenure to tenant farmers, helped to lead to increased prosperity, encouraged the enclosure of more land for grazing and more building. These changes can be seen in the landscape and are an integral part of the continuing agro-pastoral system.

In the 16th and 17th centuries small irregular fields (intakes) were enclosed in many valleys on the outside of the ring garth. This pattern is still visible in many places such as Grasmere. In many valleys, too, larger, regular intakes, added in the 18th and 19th centuries, are prominent elements on the valley sides. Intakes are intended primarily for grazing. Often, between them, can be seen the walled lanes, known as outgangs, which lead from holdings on the valley floors to the common grazing on the fells and upper slopes of the valleys. These are another key element of the landscape, enabling stock to be moved between different areas.

FIGURE 2.a.55 Walled outgang near Miller Place, Lorton Vale (Buttermere)

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES OF THE AGRO-PASTORAL SYSTEM

As well as the enclosures in the valley bottoms, and the farmhouses and settlements of those farming the English Lake District, managing common land for communal grazing required the building of a vast infrastructure across the landscape. These extensive structures are a distinctive feature and one of the characteristics of the landscape.

On the fells structures include dry-stone-walls and pens where sheep from the commons can be gathered (collected), or sorted, and pinfolds, where strays can be placed for collection by the rightful owners. Common rights are also reflected in peat huts (also known as peat 'scales', reflecting the earliest Norse term for upland structures) found on some of the fells, for example on Boot Bank in Eskdale. These were used for storing peat cut as part of common rights.

DRYSTONE WALLS AND RELATED FEATURES

FIGURE 2.a.56 Stone walled inbye fields in the valley bottom at Wasdale Head

Drystone walls of the English Lake District are some of the most prominent features of the cultural landscape and are present in all of the valleys. They give shape and character to the landscape as well as performing many important practical functions. It is the walls which separate the enclosed from the common land and which create the field patterns which are so distinctive a feature of the valley bottoms and valley sides of the Lake District. Their style and character is affected to a great degree by the local geology of each valley, which to some extent also affects methods of construction.

Stone walls in the Lake District can have several other functions besides separating enclosed and unenclosed land. They provide a repository for stone cleared from the land to improve grazing or arable cultivation – in the western valleys of Wasdale, Eskdale and the Duddon the field walls are extremely wide in order to hold the extraordinarily large quantities of stone that had to be cleared from the land for cultivation. They are used to control the movement of stock – in the past to exclude grazing animals from arable fields and now to retain them within inbye fields – and they provide shelter for sheep in inclement weather.

The successful construction and maintenance of drystone walls requires a high level of knowledge and expertise which generally comes from long practice with local materials. It is a skill still highly-prized by the English Lake District farming community. Walling competitions are held at local agricultural shows and organised by the Friends of the English Lake District and the local branch of the Drystone Walling Association. Most walls are formed of two faces of laid stone, founded on large 'footing stones',

then infilled with 'hearting' of pebbles and smaller stones. The two outer faces of the wall, angled towards each other to meet at the top, are constructed with stones of diminishing size from bottom to top, held together with at least two rows of longer 'through stones', set at right angles, and more 'hearting'. The top of a drystone wall is finished off with larger 'cam' stones.

In the southern part of the English Lake District there was a tradition of using the heavy waste material from iron bloomery forges, known as 'mossers' or 'cam stones'. These can still be seen in the area around Backbarrow. In some parts of the area, particularly around Coniston and Hawkshead, but also in the Duddon Valley and in Loweswater, large interlocking slabs of slate are set vertically to form walls. These are known as 'shard fences' and the material for many of these came from the Brathay Quarries, just to the north of Hawkshead.

In the areas near the coast on the western side of the English Lake District, another type of field boundary known as a 'kest' is common. A low bank is constructed of cobbles and held together with layers of clay or turf, surmounted by a planted hedge. Hedges form field boundaries in the lower-lying areas of the English Lake District and substantial wrought iron railings, from the 19th and early 20th centuries, are often a feature of fields on large private estates.

FIGURE 2.a.57 Wall in the Duddon valley built from cobbles and boulders of volcanic rock

FIGURE 2.a.58 Fell top wall constructed from volcanic slate, Lingmoor, Langdale

FIGURE 2.a.59 Limestone wall, Scout Scar, near Kendal

FIGURE 2.a.60 Wall on Lowther Estate land near Helton (Haweswater), built in limestone with sandstone 'throughs' for stability

FIGURE 2.a.61 Shard fence (wall made from thin slate set on end) near Crummock Water (Buttermere)

FIGURE 2.a.62 Bee boles in a stone wall at Holme Ground, Tilberthwaite (Coniston)

FIGURE 2.a.63 Illustration from 'The Tale of Jemima Puddle-Duck' by Beatrix Potter (1908), showing a bee bole at her home, Hill Top Farm (Coniston), containing a small framed bee hive ©Frederick Warne & Co. 2015

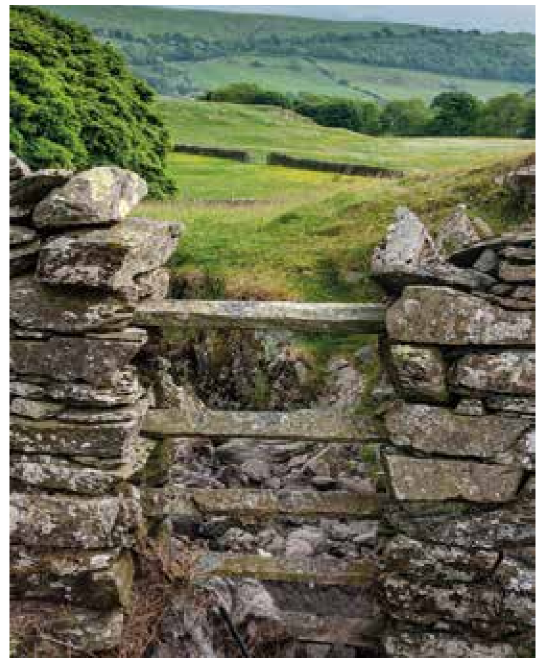


FIGURE 2.a.64 Water heck at Stephenson Ground in the Lickle Valley (Duddon), constructed using hexagonal basalt columns from a local quarry

Drystone walls in the English Lake District display a number of features which are both functional and distinctive, adding to the character of the landscape. These include stone gate 'stoops' with a series of holes for placing wooden poles and often furnished with a date of construction (many from the 18th century) and the initials of the farmer. Many gate stoops survive and have been re-used for fixing hangings for modern field gates. 'Hogg holes' are rectangular openings through walls, at ground level, to allow the passage of sheep from one field to another and blocked when required with slate shards or large boulders. Smaller openings at ground level, known as 'rabbit smoots' were accompanied by a trap on one side of the wall to catch small game and vermin. Bee shelters (known locally as 'bee boles') are a very distinctive feature of the English Lake District. More than half of the known examples in England are found here. Bee boles are rectilinear recesses in stone walls, often several in a row, which protected the straw beehives used before the introduction of the wooden-framed, self-standing beehive in the 19th century.

BUILDINGS

The agro-pastoral system was supported by many other structures which are an important contribution to the character and beauty of the landscape, as well as indicating different production priorities through time. While few, of these buildings are earlier than the later 17th century, many of them must be renewals of earlier buildings on the same sites. The intactness and integrity of the groups of buildings in each valley is very high while many preserve their original features. From the 18th century, the vernacular buildings of the English Lake District have been perceived as being especially harmonious.

FIGURE 2.a.65 Example of a typical English Lake District slate roofed building with crow foot gable

The materials used for all these agricultural buildings and farmhouses reflect the great variety of rock types across the Lake District including slates, sandstones, mudstones, granite and limestone, together with an abundance of river or glacial cobbles and boulders. This gives a distinctive character to buildings in different valleys of the Lake District since the majority of these structures used local materials because of the difficulties and costs of transport. Initially, the random rubble stone work was clay bonded, but by the latter part of the 17th century lime mortar was in general use. Lime roughcast was often applied to the exterior of the walls, followed by layers of limewash, to provide weather-proofing. In most cases, the distinctiveness of the buildings is sustained by maintenance with traditional materials.

In contrast, durable roof slates were only available where geology allows. Slate from the English Lake District varies in colour and durability depending on the geological source, but the best green slate comes from the Borrowdale Volcanic geology at Honister, Coniston, Tilberthwaite and Langdale. It had to be quarried, carefully dressed to shape and then transported to the new building.

FARMSTEADS

Farmhouses and their associated buildings are a distinctive and attractive feature in the landscape as well as essential parts of the agro-pastoral system. Use of indigenous materials anchors these buildings to the landscape, as does the careful way that they are sited. Of prime importance was shelter, so windy exposed positions were avoided, and a group of trees usually planted on the windward side. The dwellings tend to nestle into the valley sides, above the flood plain or frost pockets. Aspect was also vital. Ideally, the dwelling would be aligned to face the morning sun to obtain maximum solar gain for the living rooms, while the stairs, buttery and stores would be located at the cooler north facing rear. The unique physical nature of every valley sometimes made it difficult to achieve this ideal alignment.

FIGURE 2.a.66 View of stone-built field barns in the Martindale valley, east of Ullswater

A major consideration was a reliable water supply and every 17th century dwelling was built close to a spring, well or water course. In addition a dwelling needed good access to the arable valley bottom land, the wooded valley sides and the upper sheep pastures and commons. The combination of all these elements has produced an unmistakable impression, so admired, valued and cherished by writers, poets, and artists including Wordsworth and Ruskin.

For well over 200 years, the English Lake District farmsteads have been recognised, appreciated and illustrated as forming an integral component of the visual landscape. From the Romantic and Picturesque artists to the detailed line drawings of William Green; from the Victorian black and white photographs to the colour postcards, leaflets and calendars today, all show the farmstead giving scale and a tangible link with past agro-pastoral activities. Although other parts of Britain experienced the historical evolution of farmsteads, it is the dramatic, stunning mountain framework and backdrop that gives the English Lake District farms their unique identity. These farmsteads are vital in establishing the individually distinct character of the Lake District valleys and contribute in large measure to the landscape beauty of the area.

The resulting pattern of over 1,000 years of settlement evolution gives each of the Lake District valleys a distinct personality. The great variety of the underlying geology also creates a more intimate variation from valley to valley and fellside to fellside. The surface expression of the geology is seen in the character, colour and texture of the field walls and the standing buildings and structures.

THE FARMSTEAD'S CONTRIBUTION TO VISUAL ENJOYMENT OF THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT.

The history, evolution and physical character of English Lake District farmsteads is a classic example of human endeavour to settle and colonise an inhospitable, dramatic landscape. It demonstrates the specific interrelationship and interaction of people and the landscape which is at the heart of the proposal for World Heritage inscription of the English Lake District as a cultural landscape. In essence, the agro-pastoral patchwork illustrates phases of farmstead establishment, of a human, small-scale nature, with a nibbling away at the edges of woodlands, medieval hunting forests, commons and valley floor land. The limitations imposed by steep slopes, poor soils and a wet climate, within an inaccessible and remote area, dictated a piecemeal method of establishing farmsteads. This has involved a particularly close, intimate relationship between the farm and land, and the English Lake District landscape and cultural heritage is richer as a result.

"these humble dwellings remind the contemplative spectator of a production of Nature and may be said to have grown than been erected – to have risen, by means of their own, out of the native rock... such is their wildness and beauty".

William Wordsworth, 'Guide to the Lakes', (1835)

..."The exterior was – especially with the big trees that overhang the mossy slates, and the massive chimneys, sometimes round and sometimes square – a bit of garden... a humble courtyard formed by the outbuildings, made the homestead a most picturesque feature, absolutely in harmony with the landscape".

Collingwood, 1932

"The long low buildings with slate or stone roofs – the living quarters finished in roughcast and stark white in the summer sunshine – form one of the most characteristic features of the mountain valleys today, and symbolise more perfectly than anything else, all the processes that tamed the wilderness of the English Lake District". In referring to the contrast between the appearance of the white farmhouses and the stone barns, they say "...the result of this constant motif in the simple architecture of the countryside is one of the most distinctive elements in the personality of the English Lake District".

Millward and Robinson, 1970

> "the legacy of medieval colonisation and of centuries of pastoral farming continues to underpin the form and fabric of the English Lake District landscape today".
>
> Winchester, 2013

AN ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT HILL FARM: ITS COMPOSITION, LAYOUT AND FUNCTION

Today, the surviving character of English Lake District farmsteads is a legacy of the many different periods of evolution, and each building bears the evidence of its practicality and purpose. Geology and climate dictated the basic palette of building materials, and the specific nature of the agro-pastoral farming created a need for specific, functional farm buildings. There is no standard plan for English Lake District farmyards and the area exhibits a great variety from linear, to loose groups, to more organised arrangements. However, virtually all farmsteads have a collection of distinct, practical buildings to shelter animals, store fodder, and process crops. Although there are some earlier examples, the majority of farm buildings date from between 1750 and 1850.

Starting with the Farmhouse (1 on Figure 2.a.78): although place-names and locations were determined in the medieval period, its physical character generally reflects the way of life in the 17th century. This robust and low dwelling, of lime-washed roughcast over rubble, has its principal windows facing the sun, yet the main door is in a sheltered position, either on the gable end or along a cross passage through the structure. Typically, a thick, oak boarded door gives access to the firehouse and a separate master bedroom or parlour. Originally the dwelling had only one peat fire, with a smoke hood above, leading to a massive square or cylindrical, weather-proof stone chimney. In the rear wall of the firehouse a stone or oak stairway leads up to a loft. Today subdivided into bedrooms, it was originally a storage space for fleeces, firewood and grain, as well as a sleeping area for children.

FIGURE 2.a.67 Small 17th century farm with house and barn under one roof, Bridge End, Little Langdale

FIGURE 2.a.68 Dated lintel at Millbeck Farm, Bassenthwaite. Many farmhouses of the 16th to 18th centuries have lintels over the front door which record the building date and owner.

On the other side of the cross passage, with direct access from the house or closely adjacent to it, is a stone Outbuilding (2 on Figure 2.a.78). This rugged construction, about the same size as the dwelling, was built to shelter a few cows in a Cow House (or Byre), and provide an upper floor for the storage of hay, straw and grain. Prior to the early 20th century, arable crops were a mainstay of English Lake District agriculture. Until the late 18th century, due to the limited grazing in the inbye fields (in contrast to the present day), Lake District farmers kept a small number of cows in dark, cramped conditions in the Cow House. Internally, the cows were tethered to vertical poles, with the stall divisions ('Boskins') made of slate slabs. Above the Cow House is the Hay Loft, with a high level door for pitching hay from a cart. The plank floor has trapdoor flaps, to enable hay, straw or root crops to be dropped to the stalls below.

FIGURE 2.a.69 Farm at Keld Head, Heltondale, north of Haweswater

FIGURE 2.a.70 Town Head Farm, Grasmere

Any threshed grain was originally stored in large chests in the dwelling loft, but by the 18th century a larger storage area was needed in a dry, vermin free place. Normally, close to the house above a Cow House or Stable is a first floor Granary, reached by external stone steps. In some cases, the access to the upper granary was along a timber framed gallery creating what is known as a 'Spinning Gallery'. Similar galleries are also found on the frontages of 17th – 18th century farmhouses, but it is doubtful if they were ever used for hand spinning. On houses, a more practical use may have been for storage of fleeces, yarn or firewood. In the end part of this outbuilding, or as a small addition, is a Stable (Figure 2.a.78, 3), for two horses, perhaps formerly an Oxen House, reflecting a time when oxen pulled the ploughs.

At the far end of this outbuilding may be a small addition, a lean-to Pigsty (Figure 2.a.78, 4), or a freestanding very small outbuilding, combining shelter for pigs and hens, (known as a 'Hennery Piggery') or even with a privy. From the late 18th century, most farmers kept a few pigs for bacon, and the sty was always sited close to the farmhouse, as pigs were fed on waste food.

A farm with a greater acreage of arable land needed a separate single storey Threshing Barn (Figure 2.a.78, 5). A few good examples survive from the late 16th to early 17th centuries, with oak cruck frames dividing the barn into a series of bays. The central bay has wide double doors at the front, a single winnowing door at the rear, and between the two, a stone flagged floor to enable threshing to take place. The steep pitch of roof indicates that it was originally thatched with bracken, now covered in slates.

FIGURE 2.a.71 Yew Tree Farm, Coniston, with its famous spinning gallery

These threshing barns normally include a byre at one end for up to around ten cows.

A further freestanding stone and slate roofed building (Figure 2.a.78, 6) was added in the late 18th century, to provide extra storage and a larger, better lit and ventilated byre, with fodder storage above, marking the age of agricultural improvement. The expansion of local quarries, as well as the greater design input, enabled the new building to have a more formal appearance. Slate quarry waste was used for the main walls, with quoins and door surrounds using more precise, dressed sandstone blocks. The end bay may be an open fronted Cart Shed, with stone pillars, to protect wooden carts and implements from rain, but still allow for ventilation.

The most typical and largest farm building on an English Lake District farmstead is a two-storey Bank Barn (Figure 2.a.78, 7). This cleverly designed multi-functional building is laid out near the house, to be an integral part of the 18th and 19th century working farmstead. The wealthy families with significant land holdings such as the Flemings at Coniston and Rydal, and the Brownes at Troutbeck were the pioneers in the development of large bank barns in the late 17th century. The upper floor is accessed via a ramp or hillside, to a central threshing floor, with space for straw and threshed grain. A winnowing door, opposite the double entrance doors (which are protected against the weather with a slated canopy or 'pentice') allowed the necessary through draught to assist with separating grain from chaff. The majority of bank barns are therefore aligned towards the prevailing south westerly winds. The ground floor below is divided up into well-organised cattle stalls, feeding and manure passages, a separate stable and cart shed. The size of the bank barn reflects the wealth and prosperity of the owner and his land holding. The very large mid to late 19th century bank barns display quality stonework, whilst the sheer size of the roof would not have been possible without huge Baltic pine timbers being imported into the West Coast ports. In recognition of the bank barn's importance, many have the owner's initials and date on a stone over the upper winnowing door. With the first bank barn built in 1659 at Rydal and the last near Keswick in 1905, this is testimony to such a long-lasting, successful, practical design. The English Lake District contains more bank barns than any other part of the world, and they form one of the most distinctive 'trade marks' of the English Lake District landscape.

FIGURE 2.a.72 Piggery at High Birks farm, near Crosthwaite, east of Windermere

FIGURE 2.a.73 Re-used medieval wooden crucks in Fieldhead Barn, Outgate, near Hawkshead

FIGURE 2.a.74 An example of a peat storage hut above the village of Boot (Eskdale). Examples of inbye and intake fields and open fell can be seen in the distance.

FIGURE 2.a.75 Typical English Lake District bank barn at Town End, Troutbeck (Windermere)

FIGURE 2.a.76 Bank barn at Crook, east of Windermere

Although not part of the farmstead group, the stone field barns contribute to the setting and landscape character. The Hartsop Valley (Ullswater) has a number of good examples. Known as 'Hogg Houses', for sheltering young sheep on the ground floor, with hay storage above, these small barns may also have been used for other purposes. In Eskdale a series of high level stone 'Scales' were used for peat storage, before the peat was brought down to fuel domestic fires. In the Rusland Valley, with its long history of woodland industries, the 'Bark Booths' were used to store peeled oak bark, a valuable raw material in the tanning industry. In most central valleys, bracken was used for animal bedding, and was stored in the field barns.

Unlike the much more prosperous parts of southern England, the English Lake District was not at the forefront of agricultural innovation or the development of model farms. The acreages were not sufficient to enable large-scale food production in an efficient way. However, there are a few examples of well planned farmsteads. A particularly fine example of 1903 is at Long Rigg Farm, Eskdale, laid out by Lord Rea of Gatehouse, and a smaller one at Skelwith Fold of 1910.

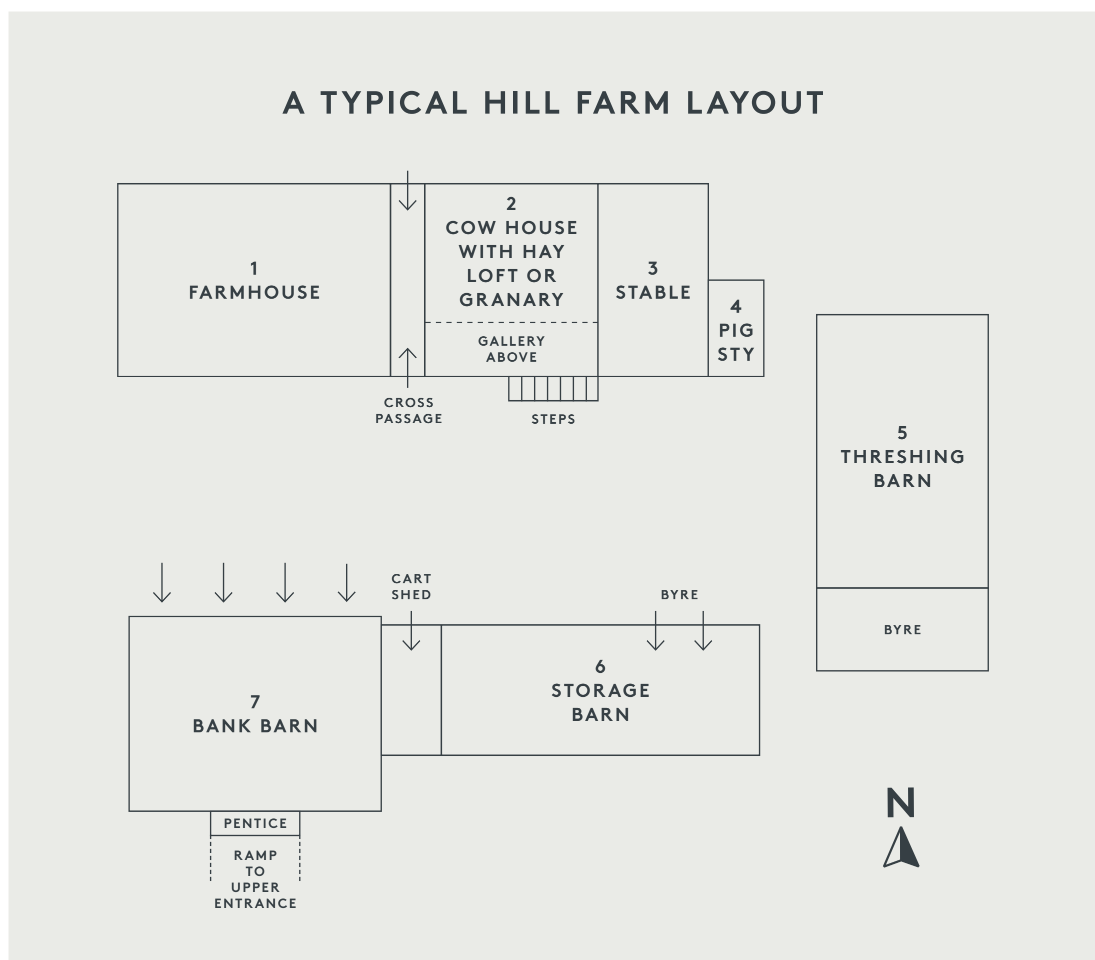
Finally, although each farmstead has its own identity, when the landscape is viewed as a whole, it is the vernacular farmhouse with its cluster of farm buildings which creates a lasting impression. These buildings encapsulate all the factors and processes that firmly anchor the farming people and their way of life, to the English Lake District landscape.

FARMSTEADS WITHIN THEIR LANDSCAPE SETTING

FIGURE 2.a.77 Hogg House in the fields to the east of Hartsop village (Ullswater)

There are great variations in the positioning and grouping of farmsteads throughout the English Lake District. In most cases, the siting of individual or groups of farmsteads was determined by the availability of land suitable for arable and pasture. Often, the farmsteads still exisiting and built in the 17th century or later, are on sites first occupied much earlier. In the central, linear valleys, good valley bottom land was in short supply, with a dominance of steep fellsides and large open commons on the high fells. Here, farmsteads would be strung out along the lower valley sides, facing south in order to catch maximum sunlight. In the flatter land of the fringes of the English Lake District, often on limestone, the much larger amount of arable land resulted in larger communal open field systems, with their characteristic 'farmstead villages'. The following examples illustrate the range and pattern of the disposition of farmsteads.

FIGURE 2.a.78 Diagram to show layout of a typical hill farm in the English Lake District



Demesne Vaccaries

Vaccaries were cattle farms which were part of larger estates and were integrated into them so that, for example, stock would be transferred from them to other demesne farms. They combined what would now be called dairy farming and stock-raising. Typically, they may have had around 40 milk/ breeding cows, plus their followers (young beasts up to about three years old) and a couple of bulls. Milk was sold but the young stock were kept until they matured into either breeding stock or oxen for farm work.

Originally, these cattle stock farms were generally located at valley heads on well drained land for cattle pastures under the overlord's or monastic control. One of the best examples is at Wasdale Head, established in the early 14th century. Here the four vaccaries were subdivided by the 16th century to become a community of 18 tenanted farms. Air photos of Wasdale Head show the extent of this pastoral area, but also the later open field arable system, divided up by later boulder stone walls (see Figure 2.c.6.1). There are similar examples in Eskdale (Brotherilkeld), Borrowdale (Stonethwaite), Ennerdale (Gillerthwaite) and Buttermere (Gaitsgarth).

FIGURE 2.a.79 View of the site of the medieval vaccary at Gaitsgarth at the head of Buttermere. The extensive grazing land can be seen around the modern farm. Archaeological excavation in advance of construction of a new barn identified the remains of a medieval long house.

Early Medieval Open Field Cultivation (the fringes of the mountain core)

This system required the farms to be in close proximity with each other, to enable common cultivation of the field strips. The English Lake District has two very fine examples of this period, both are on well drained soils, with fairly level land, and both are on the edge of the area. At Askham (Haweswater), south of Penrith, the individual farmsteads were carefully laid out by the overlord, around a series of linear village greens, creating an almost continuous frontage of farms and outbuildings facing the village greens. Behind each farm lay the formal communal arable strips, mainly for

FIGURE 2.a.80 The fossilized medieval field system at Blindcrake, on the north west edge of the English Lake District in the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley

oats, barley, perhaps wheat and later root crops. Later enclosure by walls and hedges has fossilised this early medieval layout. The original medieval farmhouses have been subsequently rebuilt in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Blindcrake, north of Cockermouth, has the finest surviving early medieval open field system in the English Lake District. Here, the farms were very evenly and regularly spaced along a single main street, and this pattern remains remarkably intact. The land behind the farms formed the extensive open field systems (or 'Townfields'), with back lane access, and gently curving 'S' or 'C' shapes to the strips, indicating medieval oxen ploughing, and there is much evidence of early, very wide ridge and furrow, for the arable crops. Today the majority of the field strips survive, mainly with thorn hedges and a few stone walls, but what makes this unique is that the present day land ownership still perpetuates the fragmented, complex field strip pattern. As in Askham, at Blindcrake the original farmsteads have been rebuilt in situ since the 17th century.

Valley-Side Farmsteads (the narrow valleys within the mountain core)

FIGURE 2.a.81 View of the field system in Great Langdale. The valley bottom was farmed as an open, common field in the medieval period.

These farmsteads were carefully located at the junction of the lower valley pastures and arable land, and the fellside common grazings above. A good water supply and a southerly aspect were also vital considerations when siting a medieval farm. Great Langdale is often cited as the classic examples of an English Lake District valley farming landscape, with its string of farmsteads along the valley road from Chapel Stile to Mickleden. Each has a stream nearby, and trees for shelter; all face south, and have easy access to the valley bottom fields or 'inbye land' and a funnelling access to the upper pastures or 'intakes'. A rare survivor at Langdale is the 'Head Dyke' or 'Ring Garth', a substantial boulder wall of the late 13th century, which delineated the boundary of the medieval open field in the Manor of Baysbrown. The view up the valley to the Langdale Pikes with its string of farmsteads is perhaps the most photographed view in the English Lake District, but is still basically a medieval layout.

At Troutbeck (Windermere), the farmsteads were in the hands of statesmen with some wealth and independence, and are grouped and spread on a south east facing fellside, along an early drovers road and beside a series of springs. But unlike Langdale, at Troutbeck, the farmsteads became a medieval settlement, adjoining a deer park, and stretching for almost three kilometres from Town End to Town Head. This linear arrangement enables each farmer to have access to the undulating lower pastures alongside the river, as well as easy access to the upper grazing commons, known locally as 'The Hundreds'. No medieval buildings survive, but later rebuilding in situ has left a fine legacy of the best collection of 17th and 18th century farms and barns in the English Lake District.

The Vale of Grasmere also has a valley side layout, with a ring of farmsteads on a spring line and at the junction of valley bottom arable and pastures, and fellside commons above. Overall, this very distinct geographical area, so often viewed from its amphitheatre of popular fells, has been strongly influenced by the medieval period. What is now the village of Grasmere was once a small cluster of farms near the fine medieval parish church, known as Churchtown.

Farmsteads created from the enclosure of fells, commons and waste

FIGURE 2.a.82 Farm and intakes on the northern edge of the Caldbeck Fells, near Fellside (Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley)

There are many examples of the carving out the upper commons/wastes throughout the medieval period from Norse to Tudor times. To the north of the Skiddaw Massif, is a distinctive horseshoe ring of farmsteads around the northern edges of the Caldbeck Fells, in the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley, at an altitude between 240 and 300 metres. The place names of these farmsteads are very revealing. Running clockwise the farmsteads include Orthwaite, Lowthwaite, Longlands, Greenhead, Branthwaite, Fellside, Nether Row, and Hudscales. The present day buildings on these farmsteads date mainly from the 17th century, with some particularly good examples of vernacular architecture, in this comparatively remote area.

In the south western part of the English Lake District, north of Broughton-in-Furness, is a very distinctive group of farmsteads in the Lickle Valley. Following a formal agreement between the Abbot of Furness and squatters in 1509, a series of permanent steadings was established by carving out small, irregular fields from the monastic commons, and building a basic, humble farmstead or 'Ground'. Each ground is named after the original family – Hartley, Pickthall, Stainton, Hobkin, Carter, Jackson and Stephenson. A similar pattern of grounds can be found near Hawkshead, established after another agreement with Furness Abbey in 1532. Here are surnames such as Walker, Thompson, Keen, Roger and Sawrey. Most of the grounds now have 17th century farmhouses, apart from Stephenson Ground with its original cruck farmhouse, now a small barn. This part of the Lickle Valley is dominated by its late medieval origins, which are reflected in the tiny, odd shaped walled fields and the very narrow winding access lanes. It feels a remote area, even though it is only a few miles to Broughton.

Farmsteads on the coastal plain

Finally, in discussing farmstead patterns, it is worth mentioning the western coastal strip of the English Lake District. The area was occupied in prehistoric, Roman and medieval times and it contains high quality agricultural land, eminently suitable for arable or pasture. However, whilst there are distinct nucleated settlements such as Silecroft, Bootle, Ravenglass and Gosforth, the farmsteads are fairly evenly scattered in the narrow strip between the sea and the abrupt edge to Black Combe and the Western Fells. In many places the fellsides are just too steep to enable the more typical enclosure and colonisation of the wastes, with the result that these upper, windswept moors and fells have a very distinctive open rough grassland character. They do however contain much evidence of prehistoric settlement.

FIGURE 2.a.83 Moor Green Farm below Black Combe (Duddon Valley)

INDUSTRY

The landscape also contained industrial elements, evidence of which can still be seen. Some industries responded directly to the needs of, and complemented the agro-pastoral system. Others responded to the geological resources of the English Lake District and co-existed with farming.

Cloth-making from wool produced by sheep in the English Lake District was a major medieval industry and there are visible archaeological remains of potash kilns and fulling mills. Potash was used to produce soap for cleaning fleeces as part of the fulling process and was produced by burning bracken and brushwood in simple stone-lined bowl-shaped kilns. These can be found in many parts of the English Lake District including woodland and open fell. They are often located at the upper end of outgangs (the walled routes which were used to take stock from the valleys to the open fell) and a good example can be found by the group of peat huts on Boot Bank in Eskdale. There are also concentrations of potash kilns in the woods on the limestone in the eastern English Lake District (e.g. Roudsea Wood, Whitbarrow Woods and Cunswick Scar), close to the medieval wool producing centre of Kendal. The archaeological remains of medieval fulling mills can be seen at Stickle Ghyll in Langdale and at by Sourmilk Gill in Easedale. The towns of the English Lake District contain many later mills of various functions.

Building materials were quarried all over the English Lake District, mainly for local use, but slate quarrying is now the only working extractive industry though on a much smaller scale than in the past. There are working slate quarries at Honister, Elterwater, Brandy Crag and Bursting Stone on Coniston Old Man and Broughton Moor, south of Coniston. Small quantities of slate are also taken from the Brathay quarry.

Metal ores were also exploited. Medieval bloomeries (unpowered iron smelting sites) are often visible as mounds of slag (waste material from the smelting process), sometimes with building foundations, with concentrations around Coniston and in

Eskdale. Good examples include sites at Colwith, on the River Brathay; Water Park, Springs and Harrison Coppice on the shores of Coniston Water; and Scale Gill and Low Birker in Eskdale. Early Medieval lead smelting sites have been identified near Calebreak and Linewath on the eastern edge of the Caldbeck Fells. Remains of copper and graphite mining survive in areas such as Coniston and Seathwaite.

Woodland industries were also important, both for charcoal for fuel, and for manufacture. There are many examples of charcoal pitsteads (platforms) on which coppiced wood was burnt and converted to charcoal, dating to the 17th century and later. The remains of an earlier, medieval process of charcoal production were recently identified at Barkhouse Bank in the Rusland Valley: shallow pits were filled with cut-up mature timber, which was covered and converted to charcoal. These pits were contemporary with bloomeries in the period 1280 to 1410 and probably produced fuel for iron smelting. Similar shallow pits have been recorded elsewhere in the English Lake District (e.g. Ennerdale) and are likely to be widespread in areas of former native woodland.

The landscape also contains a number of industrial buildings, such as bobbin mills, which produced a wide range of timber artefacts up to the mid-20th century. With many bobbin mills located in the area, and the ease of transporting tons of bobbins direct to the Lancashire cotton mills, Staveley (Windermere), became the centre of bobbin production in the whole of the English Lake District in the later 19th century. Buildings which reflect this important period include Staveley Woodturning works, especially the coppice store, and two of the best stone terraces in the English Lake District, Gowan Terrace and Danes Terrace.

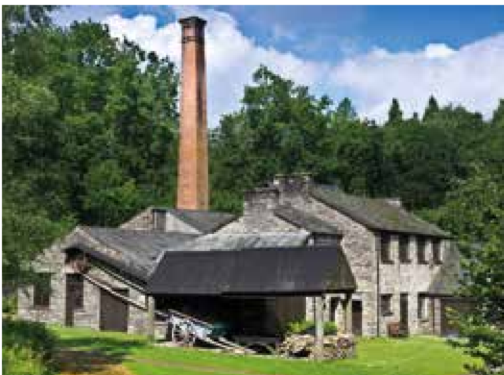


FIGURE 2.a.84 Stott Park Bobbin Mill (Coniston). Built in 1835, the mill operated until 1971. In 1974 the site was bought by English Heritage and is now open to the public as a working museum.

The Lake District woods are still used for producing charcoal, swill baskets and other timber products, and this helps to maintain the coppice management of woodland. However, this is small-scale and more at the level of craft industry. There is still commercial production of softwood timber from both Forestry Commission woods (including Grizedale and Whinlatter) and private woodland (e.g. the Graythwaite Estate on the west side of Windermere). This is on a much smaller scale than in the past.

TOWNS AND SETTLEMENTS

Market towns and larger villages are an integral component of the English Lake District, through their contribution to the overall landscape character, their evidence for the socio-economic development of the area and their role in support of agro-pastoralism. Since around the 12th century, the Lake District also relied on the four surrounding market towns of Kendal, Penrith, Cockermouth and Ulverston. Although tourism is responsible for much of the urban development since the 19th century, the nine main settlements (Map Figure 2a.85) still provide a variety of local services and a range of housing. They share a common theme of evolution from medieval origins, through

to Victorian tourist-related developments, but still retain their individual identity and distinctiveness. As with more rural parts of the English Lake District, very few buildings survive from before the 'great rebuilding' in stone after 1600, but many of these settlements retain much of their medieval street plan, with later additions such as new market places.

The period after 1600 marked a time of gathering prosperity, reflected in the change from timber framed structures to more permanent stone and slate roofed structures. The developing rural economy of trades and industries demanded a better transport system to cope with wheeled vehicles, especially with the turnpike roads, as well as the lakes becoming key arteries for moving heavy, bulky products. In the towns and main settlements, new developments both consolidated the early street layout and also introduced town planning and new market places. Significantly, a new urban and industrial style emerged with classical town houses, villas, large water-powered mills and workers' terraced housing, all using more standardised building materials from the area.

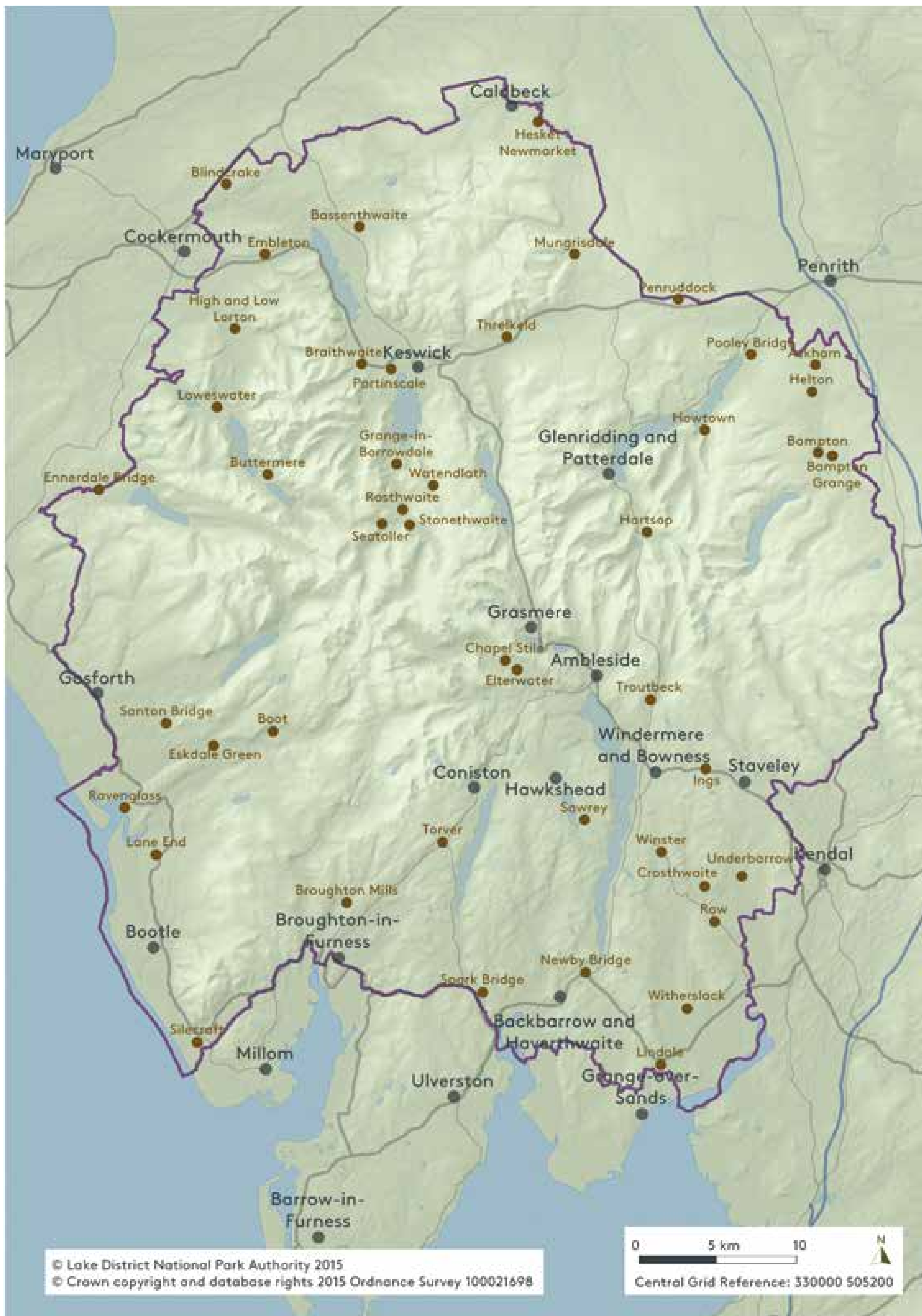
These settlements are inextricably linked to the Lake District landscape – their development, prosperity and appearance reflect key factors such as geology, topography, local building materials and the availability of local agricultural, mineral, or woodland resources. In particular, the abundant supply of water power from the radiating pattern of rivers enabled industries to flourish. As with more rural vernacular buildings, the settlements are well anchored to their landscape setting. However, they are not merely a collection of vernacular buildings, but have an urban, more formal style whether in a planned or less regular layout.

The Lake District has three main market/service centres, Keswick, Ambleside and Windermere/Bowness. Today Keswick is a bustling market town with a very strong identity, set within an amphitheatre of high fells. Ambleside is a smaller town in a central location, with encircling fells, and road access in all directions. Indeed it has been a significant nodal point since Roman occupation. Its position at the head of Windermere enhances its importance. Windermere/Bowness is by far the largest town in the nominated Property, the original historic trading centre of Bowness having coalesced with the Victorian creation of Windermere during the 20th century. Historically and today, the town is a very important transport node for road, railway and lake travel.

The other main settlements include Broughton-in-Furness, Staveley, Caldbeck, Coniston, Ravenglass and Hawkshead, all of historic interest and visited by tourists, but still providing a vital service role to the nearby agricultural/rural areas. All these settlements have had strong links to their local area, with the development of crafts, industries and trade, all reliant on local resources and water power. They formed transport nodes, originally for packhorse routes, followed by road improvements, and later accessibility to a railway was crucial in determining whether a settlement evolved or stagnated.

Many of the early packhorse routes survive in the English Lake District fells. In many cases they cross rivers and becks on carefully constructed, single span stone bridges known as packhorse bridges, which add greatly to the picturesque qualities of the landscape. These are largely undated but are likely to have been constructed in the 17th and 18th centuries, replacing earlier, medieval structures.

FIGURE 2.a.85 The principal settlements and villages in the English Lake District



THE AGRO-PASTORAL SYSTEM TODAY

Agro-pastoral farming in the English Lake District is a vibrant working system which has persisted and evolved for over 1,000 years. It continues to evolve and will do so into the future. It retains its essential cultural elements of farming tradition and practice, dialect and family lineage which have been passed on over the generations and which define its distinctive character. Through time it has adapted and changed in response to the wider economic context. While sheep have remained central to the system for centuries, their economic role has changed. From the 12th to late 18th centuries, wool was the primary product, but then mutton became more important as demand for English Lake District wool declined. In the late 19th century, production switched more to lamb as a result of a change in tastes following the arrival of New Zealand lamb.

Such changes have continued in the 20th century. In the 19th century it was common for fell farms to have up to 20 per cent of their land in cultivation, to provide cereals for domestic consumption and animal feed including for horses. This began to reduce from the mid-19th century with the improvement of communications and the wider transport of foodstuffs.

Arable agriculture is now limited to more productive fields on the fringes of the area. Another change has been the introduction of mechanization and easier access to the fells using vehicles such as quad bikes. Further changes include the use of big bale silage and the strengthening of relationships between lowland farmers and hill farmers for winter grazing which has become more prevalent since the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in 2001, but which existed earlier as well.

Nonetheless, the ancient landscape of vernacular buildings, walled fields and open fell farmed in traditional ways by a long-established farming population still characterizes what is distinctive about the English Lake District and its farming. The fact that the system continually adapts to meet new market needs and economic circumstances is evidence of this strength.

ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT SHEEP BREEDS

The Lake District is today overwhelmingly a landscape of sheep farming. The sheep and shepherds of past and present have created and currently sustain the unique cultural landscape of the English Lake District. The 'mountain sheep' of this landscape are a central element of the historical and present day landscape and there are three main indigenous breeds.

The Herdwick Sheep The word 'Herdwick' can be traced back to the 12th century and actually means the pasture where the sheep are kept, probably derived from the old Norse 'Herd-vic' (sheep farm). In the Lake District the word was used well into the 17th century to describe small sheep farms, but by the 18th century it was firmly attached to the breed itself. The earliest serious description of Herdwick sheep by expert agricultural writers was that provided by J. Bailey and G. Culley in their report produced in the 1790s for the Board of Agriculture 'A General View of the Agriculture of the County of Cumberland'.

Research suggests that the Herdwick (and Rough Fell) may originate from common ancestors of Swedish, Finnish and Icelandic sheep and there is a connection between

FIGURE 2.a.86 Herdwick ewes in Borrowdale

FIGURE 2.a.87 Herdwick sheep, Glencoyne, Ullswater

the Herdwick and the Norse settlers. It also suggests that there may have been some historical association between the original Pin-Tail ancestoral population of Texel Island, off the coast of the Netherlands, and the sheep population in Northern England. The unique feature of the primitive genome in the Herdwick suggests the continued existence of rare gene pools. These are relics of the first migrations originating from the earliest occurrence of domesticated sheep. The Herdwick population is likely to have remained relatively isolated and continues to reflect old indigenous populations.

Herdwick sheep are regarded as a supreme example of a breed that is adapted to particular climatic and geomorphologic conditions. The National Sheep Association 'British Sheep' (9th edition, 1998) says about the Herdwick: "They are essentially a high hill breed and are

THE HERDWICK SHEEP BREEDERS ASSOCIATION HISTORY

In 1844 West Cumberland Fells Dales Sheep Association was formed to facilitate the sale or hiring of fell tups (rams) by sheep farmers. Shows and sales were organised in the region between the Derwent and Duddon rivers.

Twenty years later in 1864 a new institution was created – the Fell Dales Association for the Improvement of Herdwick Sheep. This included the formation of rules which ensured that the Herdwick sheep entered into shows were fit to live and thrive in the mountains.

In 1899 Canon H. D. Rawnsley, one of the founders of the National Trust attempted the formation of a Herdwick Sheep Association, however it was not until 1916 that the Herdwick Sheep Breeders Association was formed. In the first flock books, published in 1920 and 1921, 201 flocks were registered.

In 2011 the Herdwick Sheep Breeders Association Ltd was formed as a Mutual Society.

FIGURE 2.a.88 Swaledale sheep on Torver High Common, Coniston

FIGURE 2.a.89 A Rough Fell Sheep

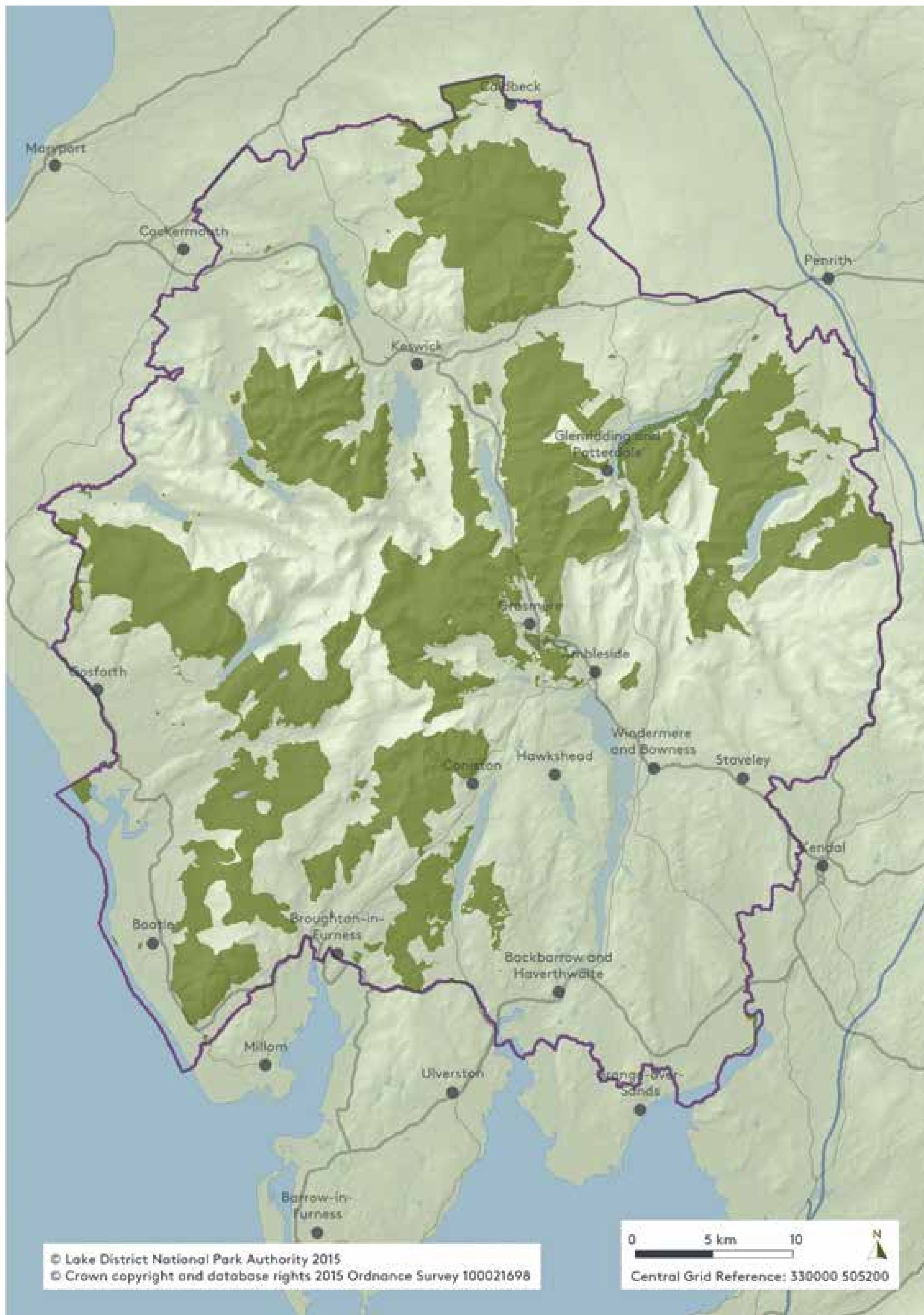
widely thought to be the hardiest British Breed, exceptionally suited to their terrain". Today, there are around 50,000 Herdwick sheep kept commercially on around 120 farms in the English Lake District. Of the total population of Herdwick sheep owned by members of the Herdwick Sheep Breeders Association, 95 per cent are concentrated within a radius of 23 kilometres of the breed's mean centre in the English Lake District. They are now concentrated primarily in the western and central parts of the English Lake District National Park. These include the fells and valleys of Borrowdale, Buttermere, Ennerdale, Wasdale, Eskdale, the Duddon Valley, Coniston, the Langdales and the Helvellyn area around Ullswater and Thirlmere. Much of this land is unfenced fell grazing including large areas of common land. The sheep learn through shepherding and grazing with their mothers where on the open fell their farm's grazing area is – known locally as the 'heaf'. This is a complex system which depends strongly on succeeding generations of female sheep being taught where on the fell they should be grazing. This is so important that it is often the case that Herdwick farms have 'landlord's' flocks – i.e. a nucleus of female breeding sheep which are heafed to the parts of the fell relevant to that farm, with this flock forming the basis of the farm's sheep enterprise. Typically this would amount to around a third of the overall flock but numbers vary between farms.

The **Swaledale** is widely distributed across the upland areas of Northern England and in the eastern English Lake District. This sheep also grazes the high fells and is now a crucial part of the English Lake District pastoral system. **The Rough Fell** sheep is the final breed of importance to the English Lake District, with a range in the south of the English Lake District.

MANAGEMENT OF THE UPLAND PASTURES

A very distinctive feature of the English Lake District agro-pastoral system is the continued thriving of communal grazing managed through traditional methods. The nominated Property has one of the largest areas of unenclosed land (organised as a number of commons) of any farming landscape in Western Europe (Figure 2.a.90). Common land is land which can have a variety of owners but on which others have specific rights, for example for grazing stock. There can be a number of commoners with such rights on a particular common. An English Lake District hill farm typically combines

FIGURE 2.a.90 Distribution of Common Land in the English Lake District



Nominated Property boundary
Registered Common Land

Registered Common Land © Natural England 2015

a number of valley bottom fields owned or rented by the farm with grazing rights for a number of sheep (or sometimes horses or cattle) on the common land. The areas of common land that go with the farm are known as 'heafs'. The practical complexities of multiple shepherds managing so many sheep on such large mountain areas of land are extremely challenging. The cultural response from the farming communities was to develop systems of management that were binding on all, and policed by communal authorities and social norms for the current operation of this process.

To avoid the possibility of individuals pursuing their own interests at the expense of the community, a system evolved whereby the numbers of sheep each grazier can put on the commons is set by tradition and linked to the grazing capacity of the inbye, or privately farmed land. These grazing rights are tied to the farm holding not the farmer, and are inherited through generations.

To gather sheep from across extensive areas of fell and moorland a system of communal fell gathering was developed which exists to this day. Farmers of any common co-ordinate the gathering of their flock with neighbours so that the whole common is gathered simultaneously for shearing, clipping, lambing, and tupping (see section on the Lake District Hill Farming Year).

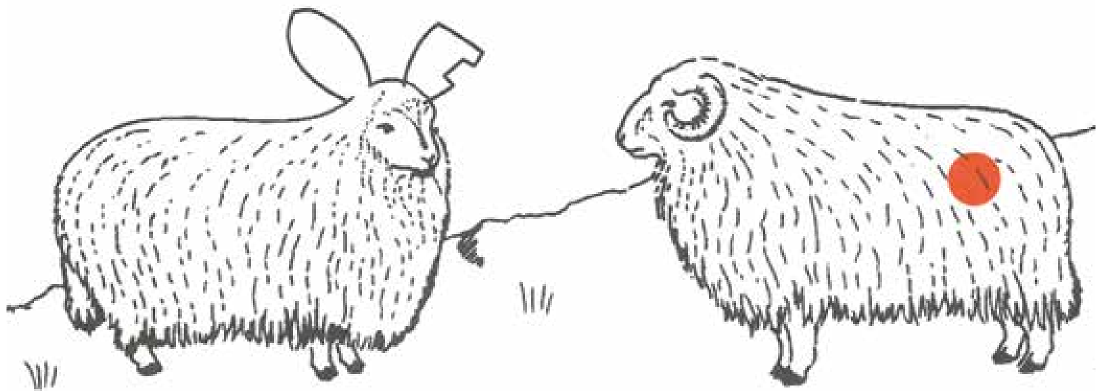


FIGURE 2.a.91 Lug and smit marks for Turner Hall Farm, Seathwaite, Duddon Valley (from 'Lakeland Shepherds Guide' 2005)

FIGURE 2.a.92 Herdwick hoggs in Buttermere

To prevent sheep simply straying (as most sheep naturally would) across vast open areas, sheep were encouraged through shepherding and selective breeding over many centuries to develop an instinct for holding to a particular piece of land (hefting or heafing) and not straying into neighbouring land grazed by other flocks. This 'heafing' instinct is sustained by ongoing traditional management, with lambs being introduced to the fell in such a way that they too learn to be heafed, as described above in the case of the Herdwicks.

SHEEP FARMING ON THE OPEN FELLS OF CUMBRIA

Guidelines for sound husbandry practice:

1. Recognise that the fells are divided into a number of grazing areas or 'heafs' occupied by particular stocks of sheep.
2. Shepherds should co-operate with each other in respecting traditional 'heafing' boundaries and to recognise that some movement of boundaries is inevitable.
3. Breed flock replacements from the resident flock and ensure that the lambs are allowed to graze the fells with their mothers (for a period to include at least two gathers).
4. Maintain the traditional fleece and ear marks for each stock of sheep.
5. Ensure that the flock stays with the farm in order to maintain the system of 'heafs' and 'heafed' flocks with their unique identification marks.
6. Transfer ownership of a fell flock during the autumn breeding sales (mid-September to mid-October) when surplus sheep can be conveniently sold.
7. Do not turn out unheafed sheep on the fell. Fell sheep removed off the farm should not return to any fell.
8. Grazing rights on common land must not be exceeded and, in any case, the level of stocking should be such that lambing rates and sheep losses are considered reasonable by the local hill farming community.
9. The husbandry of flocks on high fells should be practised by shepherds and sheep farmers who have had the experience of farming in the English Lake District or similar conditions.
10. Shepherds should co-operate at gathering times, promptly exchanging strays (or held by arrangement) and notifying each other when problems arise on the fell.
11. Ensure the continued hardiness and proper development of mature ewes by not tupping shearlings wintered on the high fell.
12. Maintain at least three consecutive generations of breeding ewes mated to hill tups, using breeds appropriate to English Lake District conditions.
13. Adopt a sound flock health programme in order to avoid the spread of disease (e.g. treatment to prevent 'scab'). Clear the fells by mutual agreement.
14. Do not allow entire lambs on the fell after the end of September.

Sheep identification is an important aspect of management of open, common land where flocks graze alongside each other. For this purpose, English Lake District hill sheep are still marked in ways which have links back to the Norse influence of the 10th century. The most common method is through 'smit' marks – daubs of colour applied to the fleece along with distinctive cuts to the ears (lug marks) – the combination being unique to individual farms. Smit was traditionally made from thick grease coloured with haematite or graphite. Haematite was readily available in the English Lake District and graphite was obtained from the unique source at Seathwaite at the southern end of Borrowdale (see 2.c.9). Today smit marks are made with proprietary marking fluids of different colours, capable of being readily scoured from the wool. The marks are commonly 'strokes' or 'pops' and sometimes letters or shapes such as crosses, swords or bugle horns.

Ears are given various incisions particular to individual farms. These ear marks are still in widespread use, despite recent legislation requiring sheep to have ear tags. Horns are sometimes branded also. These sheep marks are passed down through the generations and remain virtually unchanged over time. Young lambs are given their flock marks before going to the fell with their mothers.

These wool and earmarks are recorded in the Shepherds' Guides. The first one for the Lake District was produced in 1817 and there has been one more or less every 25 years since then.

This communal pastoral system could not work unless everyone conformed to the rules, and it therefore evolved through many centuries to include both formal censure through devices like manorial courts and social and cultural norms being enforced within the community. The identity of farmers in the English Lake District was, and is, bound up with the links between families and particular farms and this has underpinned a stable framework of English Lake District communities. There is a high degree of continuity of family succession and in many cases generations of the same family have held farms for up to 400 years. This has resulted in an inter-changeability of farm names and family surnames, and the passing on of first names from father to sons over many generations. As a result, the farming community that has developed in the Lake District has a powerful sense of place and identity, and a linked communal tradition of maintaining the Lake District landscape. In this, the individual is secondary to the whole community, and the survival of this tradition into the present day is an important continuity of a key element of pre-modern societies.

The collaborative management of common land by commoners continues unbroken and is characterised by custom and practice or 'good neighbourhood'. Through the practical communal actions of gathering, marking sheep, collating shepherds' guides and clipping days the collective management of common land, commoning, has continued unbroken for over 700 years and in the last 30 years there has been a resurgence in formal governance. A number of Commoners' Associations were formed to address management issues, for example on Caldbeck Common using powers under the Commons Act 1908, and in Eskdale (1945) and Borrowdale (1954), but these were exceptions.

Following the Commons Registration Act 1965, neither the land owner nor other commoners can require a commoner to adjust their level of grazing to ensure

FIGURE 2.a.93 Traditional sheep shearing, Stool End Farm, Great Langdale

sustainable use. However, other private and public law affecting commons can result in complexity and uncertainty. The State can, for instance, limit grazing if the common is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and there is no consent for grazing. Since 1976 economic instruments have been the key driver influencing commoners in the English Lake District and the governance of common land. Payments per head of livestock owned by a farmer encouraged increased stock levels on common land and by 1990 a strong concern existed that increased sheep numbers were negatively affecting the special qualities of the Property.

Today grazing management is strongly influenced by agri-environment schemes administered by Natural England on behalf of Defra, and funded from by the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union. The English Lake District Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) was established in 1993 with the first commons coming into schemes in 1995 and the scheme closed to new entrants in 2004, with the final agreements expiring in 2014. Most of the nominated Property is currently under the Uplands Entry Level Scheme (UELS) which pays farmers to maintain traditional farming systems and associated landscape features including hefted native breed flocks. Many commons are also in the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) which pays additional sums to deliver ecological recovery of habitats and associated species.

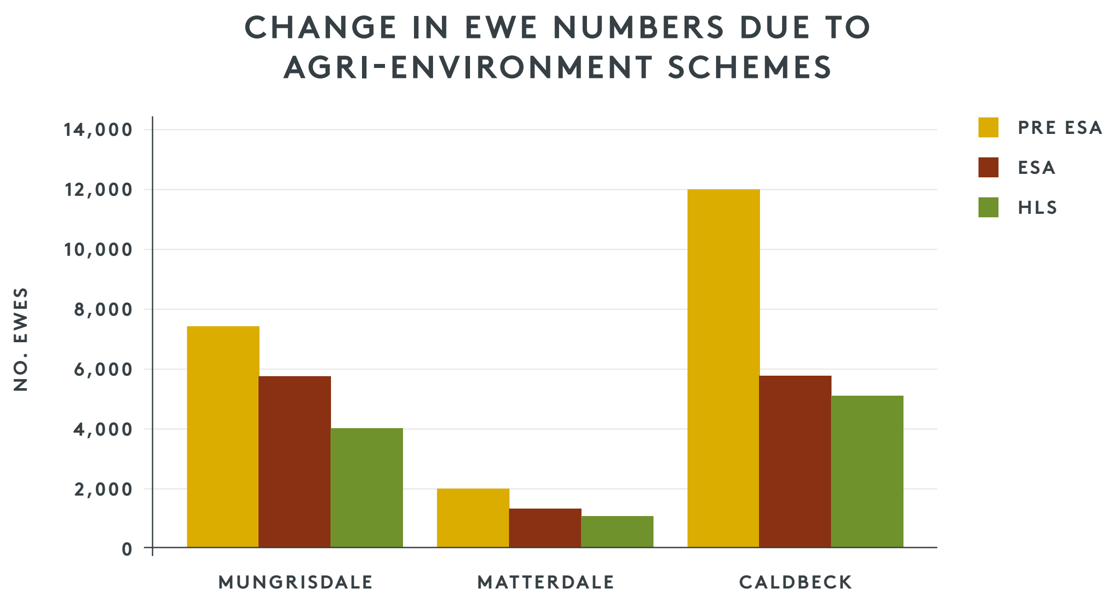
These agri-environment schemes have been the key driver in establishing new Commoners' Associations and formalising and reinvigorating existing ones. This is because only one person can sign an agreement with Natural England yet there are multiple beneficiaries. Commoners' Associations were therefore formed to allow the chairman to sign on behalf of the commoners who were bound to Natural England's terms through an internal agreement. Often the land owner was a signatory as well. The Commoners' Association has to deliver the management prescriptions agreed with Natural England through the scheme and in return receives a set annual payment. This money is distributed in accordance with the internal agreement and subject to compliance with the terms of the scheme and the internal agreement. Agreeing the distribution of the money is often a challenging process, requiring consensus between the active commoners and can take 12 to 18 months.

Internal agreements are legal deeds that bind successors in title. They are extensive documents that cover the range of situations that may arise during a 10 year period such as changes in tenancies and sale of farms. They also set out the constitution for the Association, how breaches are to be dealt with and rules for grazing. This provides the association with leverage as payments can be withheld if commoners breach rules.

The role of Commoners' Associations has therefore changed. Instead of being focused solely on maintaining good neighbourhood through rules on day to day livestock management, the Commoners' Association has taken on a role of delivering other ecosystem services. These include ecological restoration of vegetation through the management of sheep levels, and in some cases the establishment of woodland and the provision of cleaner water.

The National Park has 81,000 hectares of common land and approximately 35 Commoners' Associations. In 2011 90 per cent of Common Land units over 100 hectares and over 95 per cent of common land by area were party to an agri-environment scheme. As a result of this the stocking levels on common land have significantly decreased from 1995.

FIGURE 2.a.94 The effect of agri-environmental schemes on numbers of grazing ewes on commons in the north/north-east of the Property.



An additional economic instrument is Defra's Pillar 1 support (Single Payment Scheme and now Basic Payment Scheme) which pays commoners for a notional area of the common depending on the proportion of rights they have on the common. It replaced the previous headage-based payments so removing the incentive to graze as many sheep as possible. Recent changes to the schemes may also affect commons management.

An important development in governance at the Cumbria-wide scale occurred more recently, prompted in part by the risk to continued grazing of common land after the 2001 Foot and Mouth epidemic. Large numbers of fell sheep were slaughtered, and there was a need to provide additional support to commoners and associations. A Federation of Cumbrian Commoners was established in 2003. It is an active organisation with over 500 commoner members. Its aim is to support commoners and encourage best practice. It also works with government, agencies and non-governmental organisations to ensure appropriate provision for commons in schemes and policies. In recent years, since the Commons Act 2006, the Federation is exploring with commoners the establishment of a Commons Council which would be a statutory body run by commoners to manage common rights and vegetation on common land. The governance structures for

common land will continue to evolve and develop to support the management of this asset that is essential to the English Lake District's agro-pastoralism.

SHEPHERDS' MEETS AND VALLEY SHOWS

In order to sustain this system of communal efforts and collective endeavour, a system of shepherds' 'meets' and valley shows has evolved and still continue. These are partly functional and partly social and are an extremely important vehicle for the continuation of English Lake District farming heritage.

FIGURE 2.a.95 Judging of Herdwick tups at the Eskdale Show

The tradition of shepherds' meets developed as a way of returning stray sheep to their owners before the era of telephones and motorised transport. Each fell area held shepherds' meets twice a year – in July for clipping time and in November for tupping. Stray sheep were gathered together to be identified and claimed by their owners and the meets are also great social occasions. Shepherds' meets today generally take the form of a traditional agricultural show or social occasion. They are still used for returning stray sheep and for example, stray sheep are advertised for two weeks in the local paper before Stoneside Meet and, if not claimed, are sold to cover expenses.

The timing and location of the shepherds' meets were set by tradition so that they were known to all concerned in an age and a landscape which prevented easy communication. At the summer shows shepherds could competitively show their sheep and effectively advertise their breeding value for potential customers. At the autumn ewe and ram sales, male and female breeding stock were sold on to other farmers. Rams were also rented out or lent, being returned the next spring after being 'wintered'. The returns were made at spring fairs, including the Keswick Tup Fair, which is held for this purpose on the Thursday after the third Wednesday each May.

Agricultural shows are still a crucial part of the nominated Property agro-pastoral system. They play an important role in the ongoing health and survival of the important local sheep breeds of the English Lake District – Herdwicks, Rough Fells and Swaledales. The strongly-contested competitions at the shows are an incentive for the local farming community to demonstrate the health and purity of their sheep and are occasions where animals are compared, bought and sold to improve individual flocks.

The majority of the agricultural shows have classes for hill sheep. The Westmorland County Agricultural Show, Kendal (2nd Thursday in September), usually has good turnouts of the three hill breeds as well as many lowland breeds. The Eskdale Show on the last Saturday in September is the most important of all the Herdwick Shows, but there are good turnouts of Herdwick sheep particularly at Ennerdale (last Wednesday in August), Loweswater (first Sunday in September) and Borrowdale Shepherds' Meet and Show (third Sunday in September). There are classes for Rough Fells at the following Hawkshead Show and for Swaledales at Hesket Newmarket and Mungrisdale.

THE CALENDAR OF ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT SHEPHERDS' MEETS

Skiddaw Range: 1st Monday in December and 1st Monday after 20th July.

Buttermere: Shepherd's Meeting and Show on 3rd Saturday in October, Shepherd's Meeting on last Saturday in November.

Stoneside: 2nd Saturday in November for Meet and Show.

Walna Scar: Summer meet on the Friday nearest to 21st July. Shepherds' Meet and show on 1st Saturday in November.

Troutbeck, Windermere: Meet Thursday nearest 20th November.

Mardale: Meet on the Saturday nearest 20th November.

Dockray and Matterdale: Valley meeting and dinner held on the first Thursday after 22nd November.

Borrowdale: Show on the third Sunday in September at Yew Tree Farm, Rosthwaite.

THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT HILL FARMING YEAR

Interview with Anthony Hartley (AH) of Turner Hall Farm on 28 September 2015, by National Park Authority staff (NP)

NP: Would you mind talking a bit about how you came to be at Turner Hall farm?

AH: Well I'm actually the fourth generation of my family. My great-grandfather was originally from Eskdale and then he farmed on Birker Moor at a farm called Birkerthwaite. And he moved from there to Turner Hall and then my grandfather farmed it after him and then my father, Tyson Hartley, he farmed it and then I'm the next generation. So I've never lived anywhere else, I've been obviously born and brought up here and continued at Turner Hall since then. Yes so that's our whole history really. Today, I have 950 Herdwick ewes and 250 Swaledales. But they run together on the fell, they are managed very similar really, but probably the Swaledales aren't quite as hard as the Herdwicks so its different stages through the year when they might need a little bit more preferential treatment.

FIGURE 2.a.96 Anthony Hartley repairing a stone wall at Turner Hall Farm, Duddon Valley

NP: And what are the kind of things that you're doing here today that your great-grandfather would recognise?

AH: Running a fell flock, in very similar, traditions as there was before. You know they run very much the same as they were at that stage. But obviously a lot less probably sheep on the hills now to what there was when he was farming.

NP: Can you describe the farming year?

NOVEMBER

AH: I always think the new season starts at tupping where you know if you don't get your sheep in lamb you don't have a lamb for the season ahead so that's where I always think the year starts really.

NP: So which month are we?

AH: November. Personally, with our fell sheep, we don't let them off with the rams until about 28 November, which is possibly quite late compared to farms lower down. But because of that, you know, they probably lamb around 24 April. And we hope spring has arrived by then, or on its way, because if we lamb much earlier the grass in the meadows hasn't grown if it's a late spring. When we move them out of the meadows on to the fell, we hope that the fell is starting grow. So it's not usually 'til late May or early June before the fell starts to green up and the grass starts to grow, so you really governed by the weather and the late springs in the valleys.

NP: In November at the tupping season, I think that you continue the tradition of sewing patches on the young ewes?

AH: Clouts as we call them. Yes we do, that's the gimmer shearlings. Yes we don't put the gimmer shearlings to the tup. So we traditionally stitch the clouts on the shearlings so they can go back out on to the open fell and be kept from the tup. So that they are barren for the next year so they can grow on a bit until the next summer. They get a bit bigger and stronger. But with a lot of the environmental schemes, a lot of the shearlings are taken off the fells and sent away to lowland farms and are wintered away. Personally I don't think that does them any favours in the long term because they've been away two winters, they go away a lamb and then as a shearling, but they really don't know what winter's about and then they come back on to the fells.

DECEMBER – MARCH

AH: After tupping they stay in around a month providing tupping's gone well, just to check that they're all covered. They go back out late December, around Christmas time, and they'll stay there until late February when we bring them in to be scanned and to check which are having twins. The singles will go back out on to the fell and the twins will stay on the inbye so we can look after them a little bit better. We hand feed them and the singles will go back out on the fell and have no hand-feed at all. This is just my personal flock, and they will come in in April a few days before they lamb, and then they'll stay probably three weeks, and then go back out on to the intakes and then on to the fell.

APRIL/MAY

AH: In early April our ewe lambs, which have been away for the winter, will come back from dairy farms where we send them to, where they spent the winter from late October to 'til early April. So they should be strong enough to come back and go out on the fells for the summer and spend the rest of their life out there really. Then the lambs with their mothers will go out late May and start the season on the fell and the lambs will start to get hefted on the fell as we call it, with the mothers, and the hogs that have been away they'll go back out on to the fell and they'll go back on to the same area of fell where they were the year before. With their natural instinct.

HEFTING

NP: The hefting is natural, you don't need to shepherd them?

AH: Not if they've been there before, no.

NP: And is the Herdwick particularly prone to hefting?

AH: They are, they are very good at that, yes. It's important that sheep are bred on the farm and do the same system each year for them to be hefted on the farm. They need to move on to the Common at different times of the year to get stabilised on there. It's amazing the system how you only need to spend a few weeks there and they go back to the same area each time we brought them back in, you know what I mean, it's amazing.

NP: You say it's just a few weeks?

AH: It's just like you going back home. It'll all be taught by their mothers, you know, the lambs will go with the mothers and they'll just move around on an area. They won't just stay on the same bit and my sheep move to different areas of the Common at different times of the year. They'll go out on to the higher parts in the summer when the weather's hopefully nice and then in the winter they'll move down to sheltered parts or if the weather's coming bad. So they do move around the Common within the year, with the seasons they change.

NP: Do the twins heft as well as?

AH: They don't, because they're not on there quite as long. So that's spoiled a lot of hefting systems because twins have increased with the reduction in numbers of sheep and especially off wintering because the sheep get in better condition so they produce more lambs.

NP: Yes.

AH: And so they produce more lambs so they stay down off the Common and they're not as hefted as the others so on a lot of commons its caused a lot of movement, you know, sheep have moved more and they're not as stable on one area because they don't spend enough time there. So what you really want on a hill farm is a ewe with one strong lamb, she takes away and she spends the season on the hill. That's the traditional way to heft a sheep. Traditionally a sheep, if it's out in the

winter, all winter, on the Common and it survives and rears a lamb – I think that's called success isn't it that. If they live out there, living off their wits and just off what they've grazed I think that's quite an achievement really. You know, a true hill sheep spends the whole year on the fell which with a lot of environmental schemes is pretty rare these days.

COLOUR CHANGES IN HERDWICKS

NP: Can you explain how the Herdwicks change colour through their lives?

AH: Most of the Herdwick lambs are born totally black and as they go through the first year the heads will become whiter. Then as they go into the autumn or into the winter they go pretty brown and that's what we call a hogg. They develop from a lamb into a hogg when they are away at winter and then they come back and then they're sheared and they come lighter. Not them all, but some of them, grow lighter as they grow older a bit like we do as we get older! And as they grow every year older they'll come a little bit lighter or they'll change colour to a grey colour rather than a black or even to quite white some of them.

MAY TO SEPTEMBER

NP: So we've got to the summer, you've got the lambs out on the fell.

AH: Yes they're all out on the fells, the twins will stay on the inbye and on the intakes because with our fell particularly, the grass isn't good enough to maintain the ewe with its two lambs, not until the lambs can graze themselves a bit. So the twins don't go back on to the fell until possibly August, until the lambs can graze and look after themselves a bit really. The ewe, you know, she can't milk them on her own and maintain them really, they don't grow very well so we have to keep them down. So all the singles are back up there, we gather them in in early July. They're all sheared, we try to get them done in early/middle July, and then they go straight back out on to the fell again until the middle of September. And then we bring them back in to separate the lambs from mothers.

OCTOBER

The lambs will come down on to the intakes or on to the inbye and we'll sort the older ewes off, as we call the draft ewes, which is probably most of them. We probably keep them until they've had two to three crops of lambs, which they are either five or six years old at that stage. And then they're sold in early October mainly. Some people do different things, I sell mine off and they go to the lowlands to be bred to breed cross lambs.

NP: And it's the sales this week.

AH: It is, yes. Yes the tup sales on Tuesday and then the ewes' sale is next Tuesday so it's the main sales for the autumn really for everyone.

SHOWS AND SHEPHERDS' MEETS

NP: And you've just had the Eskdale show, the main Herdwick show. And you won?

AH: Yes. It was a shearing ram that I won with, it won the championship. And then after that we had the female classes and I actually won three out of the four female classes. A second in the other and the ewe won the female champion and then the two animals came together, the female, the ewe won the overall. So she was the one they picked for the best sheep in the show. I was very pleased, yes. I got 11 firsts and five seconds and one third.

NP: And that aspect of Herdwick breeding is important?

AH: It is. It's an opportunity for everyone to show off the best stock that they have on the farm. And possibly if you can do that and do well at the shows, when it comes to the ram sales people might want to buy a ram off you to try and breed some sheep equally as good as the one you won, the same breeding as you won with so you can benefit your sales.

NP: It's important for the breed as well – to move rams around the valleys?

AH: That's right, yes change bloodlines. So everyone can keep it moving around but it's becoming more and more difficult to find new bloodlines because, you know the Herdwicks are mainly in the middle of the Lakes and the central Lakes and with farms getting smaller there are less people breeding rams, so the bloodlines are becoming closer which is quite difficult really, to get new blood in there.

NP: And winning at the shows is very prestigious isn't it?

AH: That's right, yes. It makes you feel good, yes. I've think I've been to Eskdale show every year that I can remember. Yes. I don't think I've ever missed it that I can remember.

NP: And Eskdale is the main one for the Herdwick's so there are other shows that are important for Herdwick's?

AH: There are, yes. There's a good show at Borrowdale. That was held the Sunday before. That's probably the next largest or it might even be the largest number of sheep. But that's like what we call a shepherds' meet where people are only allowed to show in your own area and I think it's all the valleys that meet the head of Borrowdale are allowed to show there. So you know I'm not allowed, they banned me from there!

NP: But you have your own shepherds' meets here don't you?

AH: We do, yes. The Walna Scar one and the Stoneside shepherds' meet. At the Walna Scar one you are allowed to show if you farm all around the Coniston fells really, I think as far as Tilberthwaite in Coniston, down as far as Ulpha and the Stoneside one if you live in Eskdale, Ulpha, Waberthwaite, Bootle. That's the area for that one. And round to Millom. But traditionally the shepherds' meets were for returning stray sheep and they'd have this get together. They had one in mid-summer and one in late November or early November. Before vehicles, people would look after the stray sheep which was probably an odd one and keep them somewhere so you would look after it until the shepherds meet was on and you'd probably walk them to the shepherds meet with a dog, you know and it was quite a social thing. They'd have a few beers and a get together and that's how it all started really.

Because before Land Rovers and trailers of course there was no other way other than walk your sheep, along, for a long way really. Quite a lot of miles from one valley to another.

NP: But the traditions still carry on?

AH: They do, yes.

COMMON LAND

NP: That leads on to another aspect of farming which is extremely important in the English Lake District and that's the Common Land Management.

AH: It is.

NP: And your grazing land is on I think the largest Common in the English Lake District?

AH: That's right. Yes, I mean we were talking about stray sheep and shepherds meets, I mean it's very important that everyone looks after everyone else's sheep because it's a shared Common. Everybody has rights to graze it and it's possible that the sheep can mix up so you know one of your sheep could stray to anyone's part of the Common really if it wanted to. So it's a big important thing is that is for people to look after everyone's flock you know. It's a communal thing really is a Common.

NP: Is the Common system in good fettle?

AH: Yes, I think it is. I mean personally on our Common everyone's pretty good and people look after things. Because it's important that people do things together, they gather together to get all the sheep off the Common at similar times so they can all be treated or sheared or whatever. Most people have to try and work together, which is important. It's a communal thing.

MARKINGS

AH Every farm in the area, well I'll say graze the Common or go out on to the fell, have a smit an earmark that goes with the farm and it stays with the farm for life. If the ewe leaves the farm the mark and earmark stays with it. And that's very important because even though you've put plastic tags in, they've all got to have one in each ear now so the tags fall out but the earmark never changes. So the earmark's put when the lambs very young, a week to 10 days old, and it stays in the ear for the rest of its life. This is Turner Hall earmark. And it's what cropped and under 'K' bit it's called and its crop is a piece cut off the end of the ear with shears and the 'K' bit is a little square and we've got a pair of what they call K bitters which have been with the farm I think for a few generations. Everyone will have their own little devices that they do their ears with, with the farm and they'll be a historic feature on the farm. Yes. That's tradition that.

NP: So these markings haven't changed for generations?

AH: That's a fact, they haven't changed for generations, yes.

NP: The flock goes back quite a few years doesn't it?

AH: Oh yes, hundreds of years. Yes.

NP: Did we finish the farming year?

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER

AH: We've got the autumn sales, we're nearly there again aren't we. The autumn sales are early October, so at that point all the sheep that you're keeping for the next breeding year are all either dipped for the prevention of scab and ticks – most people do them early October or late September, So that's an important time of year really, everyone treats their sheep then. And then we're back round to November again, back to the tupping season. So we gather them off the fells probably four to five times a year. Which is a lot of work.

NP: So how many people work on the farm with you then?

AH: I've got one full time worker, whose been with us for 22 years, Andrew, who lives in Langdale and that's all really we manage ourselves. When I was young going to school we probably had three or four people work on the farm then.

NP: So what's changed, is it quad bikes and ease of getting around or costs?

AH: Quad bikes are wonderful things because it enables us to get up on to the fell, two of us. We mainly gather the fell, just two of us really. One of us goes on the bike and the other walks and we swap over the next time we gather, you know. Of course we couldn't manage without the dogs, you need the dogs. We probably just take two each when we go. They're wonderful are dogs.

2.a.3 THE PICTURESQUE AND ROMANTIC APPRECIATION OF LANDSCAPE BEAUTY

From the mid-18th century the English Lake District became increasingly known and valued for the harmonious beauty of its natural landscape which had been shaped by a distinctive local tradition of pastoral farming. The English Lake District struck a chord with both the Picturesque and the subsequent Romantic Movements. This generated literary and artistic interpretations and encouraged many people to visit the area. These included people of wealth with the means to purchase land in the English Lake District in order to enhance it or to settle there. The aesthetic, and later tourist interest thus led to modifications of the landscape to enhance its quality, to enable visitors to appreciate its beauty, and to accommodate those who were encouraged by their interest in the English Lake District. These changes now form an important part of the nominated Property's landscape and are valued both for their historic interest and their contribution to the scenic beauty of the area.

THE RYDAL HALL BELVEDERE AND PARKLAND

The earliest and very precocious intervention in the English Lake District landscape to enhance its harmonious beauty is Rydal Hall, with its gardens, parkland and belvedere in the Grasmere, Rydal and Ambleside Valley. In 1668-9, long before the development of a

FIGURE 2.a.97 The lower falls in Rydal Park and Sir Daniel Fleming's 'grotto' with viewing house

FIGURE 2.a.98 The picturesque view of the lower falls at Rydal from the window of the viewing house

formal Picturesque aesthetic, on the east side of Rydal Old Hall, Daniel le Fleming created a 'grotto' around a small waterfall on Rydal Beck. There are good views of the grotto from the contemporary bridge over the beck, including the small belvedere or summer house which was constructed with a window designed to provide the best frame for a beautiful view of the falls. This belvedere is thought to be the earliest known example of a viewing station in England, pre-dating the Picturesque Movement by nearly a century. Other Picturesque constructions in the garden include a single span bridge over the Rydal Beck and a game larder. The parkland surrounding the hall was planted with a mixture of native and imported other trees and now forms mature, open parkland. In 1909 the landscape gardener Thomas Mawson created a terraced garden in front of the hall, recently restored, and a series of formal garden areas to the south of the mansion.

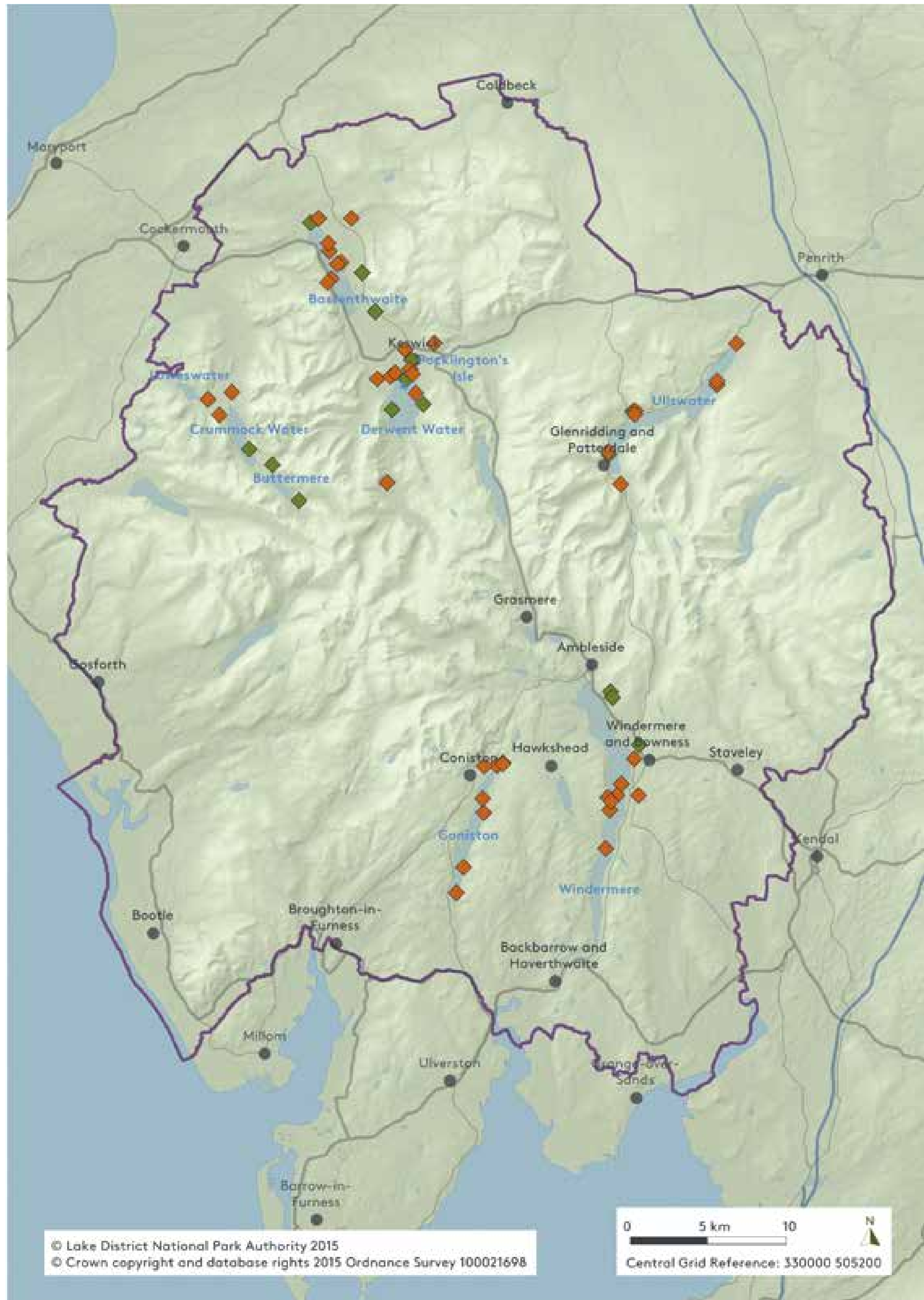
VIEWING STATIONS

The initial Picturesque interest in the English Lake District centred on tours following the popular guidebooks of the period, of which Thomas West's 'Guide to the Lakes' (1778) was one of the best known. West defined a series of viewing stations around the major lakes of Derwent Water, Windermere, Bassenthwaite, Ullswater and Coniston and these were supplemented by Peter Crosthwaite, the owner of a museum in Keswick, who published a set of maps for visiting tourists in the 1780s and 1790s.

A recent study (in 2009) of the condition of West's stations has concluded that the qualities of the scenery which attracted visitors in the 19th century are still largely intact but that there has been some loss of detail in the visible landscape because of forestry plantation, tree growth and later development, particularly in popular areas such as Windermere (see Sections 4 and 6). Many of West's stations are on land now owned by the National Trust – particularly around Derwent Water and Windermere – and these can still be visited in order to enjoy the scenic views.

Claife Station on Windermere is the only example of a viewing station to incorporate a building. It was built c. 1794 – 99 and enlarged by the Curwen family after 1800. The Station and its grounds are depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890, appearing much as it is today, with the exception of a small building to the north west, which is now lost, and the addition of the car park and new access routes to the south. The site is owned by the National Trust and is currently the subject of an extensive project of conservation and improvements including information for visitors.

FIGURE 2.a.99 Map of Picturesque viewing stations in the English Lake District



Nominated Property boundary

West's Viewing Stations   Crosthwaite's Viewing Stations

West's viewing stations © Lake District National Park Authority and Historic England 2009
Attribute data for Crosthwaite's viewing stations supplied by Martin and Jean Norgate, Armitt Museum 2013

FIGURE 2.a.100 Claife Station, owned by the National Trust and recently conserved

VILLAS

The English Lake District is one of the best surviving examples of a rural landscape that was valued for its picturesque qualities and subsequently 'improved' with the addition of villas and landscape gardens. Even after the Picturesque aesthetic ideal had faded, independent villa-type houses continued to be built up to the early 20th century to accommodate the middle and upper classes who wished to visit or even live in the English Lake District.

These buildings now form an important part of the nominated Property's landscape and are valued both for their historic interest and their contribution to the scenic beauty of the area. Villas and landscape gardens are concentrated in those parts of the English Lake District which afforded views of lakes and mountains most prized for their Picturesque qualities. These were principally around the northern end of Windermere, the Vale of Grasmere, Ullswater and around Derwent Water.

The earliest villas include the extraordinary cylindrical house on Belle Isle, Windermere, and the turreted Gothic structure of Lyulph's Tower on Ullswater. The English Lake District villas built between 1770 and about 1810 were almost all classical in inspiration and in accordance with contemporary aesthetic theory they aimed to ornament a landscape conceived in the Arcadian terms of classical pastoral. An example of this style is Belmount, near Hawkshead, a conventional Palladian villa with a view over Esthwaite Water. In the 1840s there was a marked shift away from the rendered villas of earlier years in favour of rugged local slate. Wray Castle (Coniston), built 1840-47 in the Gothic style, is one of the first indicators of this change.

FIGURE 2.a.101 The pavilion at Derwent Bay, built by Lord Wiliam Gordon in c. 1790

Quite apart from scale and form, the villa stands apart from its vernacular neighbours by virtue of its relationship to the landscape. All villas are responses to the available views, favouring lakes and distant mountains in their outlook, and seeking a moderately elevated site to secure them. Most were approached by a carriage drive and formed the centrepiece of a small estate comprising a mixture of garden and woodland threaded by paths, and – to support a milk cow – an area of pasture, a cow byre and a hay-barn. Some had more extensive parkland and a few (such as Wray Castle) were further augmented by farmholdings. A stable and coach-house, usually placed at a discreet distance, were a necessity, as was, in most cases, a walled kitchen garden. Where the grounds included lake shore, a boat-house was obligatory. The total impact of the villa on the landscape of the central part of the nominated Property is immense, and in the most favoured areas – between Bowness and Grasmere for example – villa estates formed a nearly continuous sequence across the land.

From about 1890 the Arts and Crafts movement began to influence villa design and a magnificent group of houses were built on the shores of Windermere to designs by celebrated architects including C. F. A. Voysey and M. H. Baillie-Scott. Examples include Voysey's greatest house, Broadleys, and Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott's best house, Blackwell, which along with Voysey's, Moor Crag, are iconic designs of international stature. From about 1890 a new set of architectural influences, rooted in vernacular forms (though not always those of the English Lake District) can be detected in the English Lake District villa. As a result the Lake District not only has many Arts and Crafts-style houses, it also has notable works by Dan Gibson, a Windermere architect and briefly partner of Thomas Mawson, who designed gardens for a number of villas.

FIGURE 2.a.102 The Arts and Crafts house at Blackwell (Windermere), designed by Hugh Baillie Scott

Some villas, including Wray Castle, Allan Bank (briefly Wordsworth's, and later Canon Rawnsley's home) and Wasdale Hall, have been acquired by the National Trust. Some were converted into hotels but many were acquired or leased by institutions associated with the outdoor movement: the Youth Hostel Association, the Outward Bound Association, the Holiday Fellowship Trust and a variety of educational and diocesan authorities have all, in various ways, aimed to make the English Lake District accessible to the widest possible community. Through such owners and occupiers the villas continue to play an important role in the English Lake District.

LANDSCAPE GARDENS AND PARKLAND

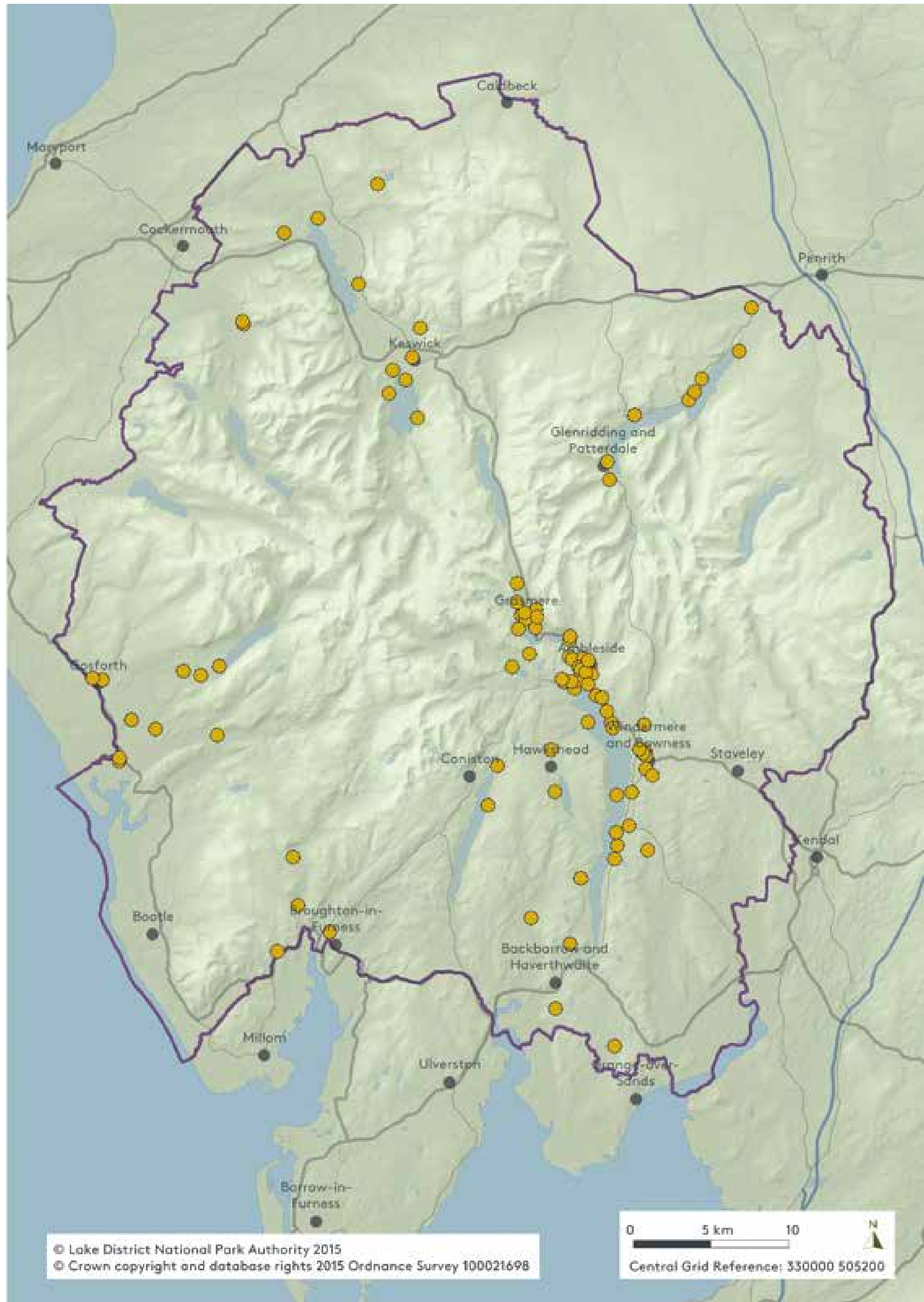
FIGURE 2.a.103 The main waterfall and bridge at Aira Force, Ullswater

FIGURE 2.a.104 The gardens at Graythwaite Hall on the west side of Windermere, designed by Thomas Mawson between 1899 and 1912.

The English Lake District villas were accompanied by landscape gardens, Picturesque-style tree planting, pineta, arboreta and water features including modified waterfalls, all designed to enhance the Arcadian quality of the landscape. William Wordsworth influenced the design of some of the landscape gardens in the early 19th century and at the end of the century some significant examples were designed by Thomas Mawson, a native of the area who became one of the greatest landscape designers of his age, see box below.

Ornamental parkland covers 2,110 hectares of the English Lake District National Park and comprises mainly late 18th and 19th century designed landscapes, representing the efforts of numerous wealthy landowners to enhance the natural beauties of the landscape and the vistas across it. This did not generally involve hard landscaping, but rather the enhancement of the countryside with the scattered planting of trees in the agriculture landscape and the beautification of existing features. This process, known as ferme ornée, not only allowed those with fewer means to create ornamental landscapes, but encouraged followers of the Picturesque Movement to perfect their concept of ideal beauty. In some areas, for example around Ullswater and Windermere, the designed landscapes do not relate to a specific house or park, but are an enhancement of the vistas around the lakes. This practice of informal planting and landscape enhancement is difficult to map,

FIGURE 2.a.105 Distribution of villas in the English Lake District



and so the total area recorded is an underestimate of the total area of ornamental parkland, particularly around lakes such as Windermere and Derwent Water. Elsewhere, however, landowners have created pleasure grounds around their own villas and country houses. The character of ornamental parklands varied according to the tastes of the owners, although generally they used exotic species, created vistas and eye catchers and managed the surrounding land to create fine swards.

THOMAS MAWSON

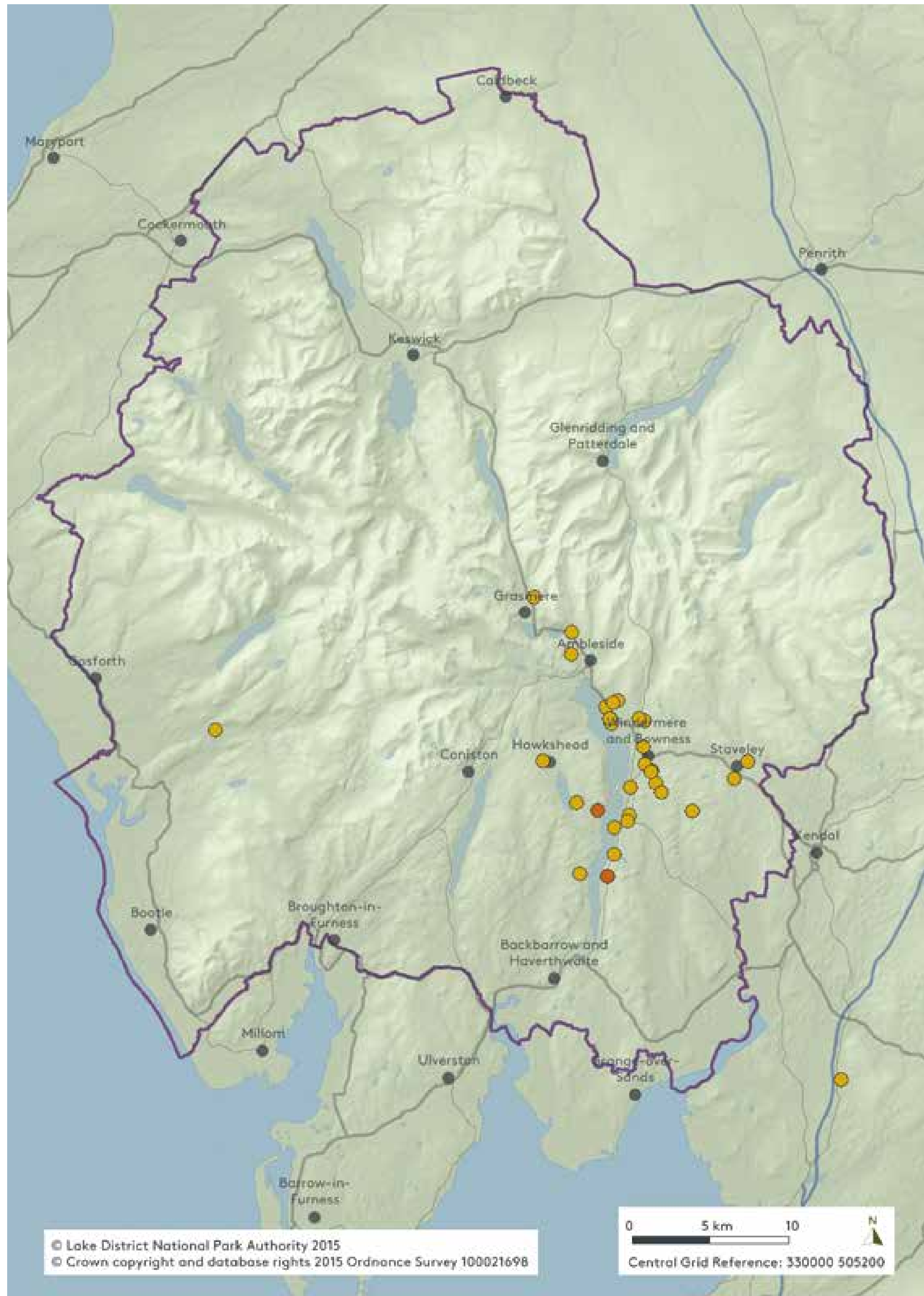
Thomas Hayton Mawson (1861 – 1933) was one of the most sought-after garden and landscape designers of the late 19th/early 20th centuries. He was born in Lancashire and built his early reputation on a series of commissions for landscape gardens in the English Lake District. After establishing a nursery with his brothers in Windermere in 1885, Mawson was able to take advantage of an increase in the construction of villas and landscape gardens by wealthy incomers to the English Lake District in the late 19th century. Many of the incomers were rich industrialists from cities and towns of the north of England, who were looking for rural retreats from which they could commute to their businesses by train. This period also coincided with the development of the Arts and Crafts movement and with John Ruskin's attempted revival of rural arts and crafts in the English Lake District.

Mawson's first major commission, for a garden at Bryerswood on the western shore of Windermere, was arranged through an introduction by Ruskin's cousin, Jan Severn. Further commissions quickly followed for landscape gardens around Windermere including Langdale Chase; Moor Crag; Graithwaite Hall; Brockhole (now owned by the National Park Authority); and Blackwell. Many of Mawson's commissions were for landscape gardens to complement important Arts and Crafts houses including those at Moor Crag (by C. F. A Voysey) and Blackwell (H. M. Baillie-Scott). The house at Brockhole was also designed in Arts and Crafts style by the talented young architect Dan Gibson, who formed a partnership with Mawson in 1897. Mawson also worked closely with a prominent English Lake District building company owned by the Pattinson family of Windermere.

After 1900, demand for Mawson's skills in landscape gardening and design led to work abroad and he went on to open offices in London and Vancouver. Major commissions included the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, landscape schemes for the Canadian cities of Vancouver and Calgary and a city plan for Athens, Greece (including designs for the gardens of the royal palace).

Mawson's approach to gardening was in line with the concern for natural features that had imbued William Wordsworth's ideas. He wrote that the landscape architect should "have a care for the natural features having sufficient interest to warrant their preservation [and] bring them into harmony with the general composition…", thus highlighting the importance of the relationship between cultural and natural in the English Lake District landscape, which lies at the heart of its acknowledged beauty.

FIGURE 2.a.106 Map of Thomas Mawson's commissions in the English Lake District



Nominated Property boundary

Mawson Gardens - existing

Mawson Gardens - no longer existing

Mawson Garden attributes taken from Waymark J 2009 Thomas Mawson - Life, gardens and landscapes

2.a.4 LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

The aesthetic appreciation of the English Lake District developed an interest in, and momentum for, its conservation. This aimed not just to protect scenic qualities but also, from the late 19th century, to support the traditional agro-pastoral system which was recognised as an essential means of maintaining the consonant beauty of the Lake District.

Both the successes and failures of the conservation movement in the Lake District can be seen in the present landscape of the nominated Property. The successes can be easily taken for granted as they are evidenced by the absence of development and the maintenance of the essential character of the area. The visitor to the area today will see a landscape which has been substantially protected from adverse development and can experience the qualities of harmonious beauty of the natural and farmed landscape which have been celebrated for over two hundred years. Even where conservation battles were lost, such as that over Thirlmere Reservoir, the effect of much of the ensuing development has been mitigated through measures designed to reduce visual impact. This process continues today and is seen particularly in the move to replace conifer plantations with native trees.

CONCERNS OVER TREE FELLING AND EARLY LAND PURCHASES

FIGURE 2.a.107 Brandlehow Woods, Borrowdale

The earliest concern for conserving the scenic qualities of the English Lake District landscape can be traced back to tree-felling the mid-18th century and the detrimental effect of this on the perceived Arcadian character of lakes such as Derwent Water (see Section 2.b.7). John Marshall, a friend of Wordsworth, eventually purchased land around the heads of six of the lakes of Ullswater, Derwent Water, Coniston, Loweswater, Buttermere and Crummock Water. Much of this land has ended up in the ownership of the National Trust which has helped to secure both its scenic character and public access.

RAILWAYS

The objections to railway development in the English Lake District are documented in Section 2.b.5, beginning with William Wordsworth's objections to the Kendal to Windermere railway in the 1840s and to the later proposals for an extension to Grasmere. The success of such protests is shown by the fact that the routes through the central English Lake District from Windermere to Keswick and along the western side of Derwent Water are free from railway development which would have necessarily included substantial infrastructure to cope with the steep slopes and height gains in both areas.

RESERVOIRS

The construction of the reservoirs at Thirlmere and Haweswater (Sections 2.b.5; 2.c.10; 2.c.12, and Volume 2 Sections 10.2.6 and 12.2.6) undoubtedly had major detrimental effects on the English Lake District landscape, both visually and on its cultural heritage. In both cases two interconnected natural lakes, smaller than the resulting reservoir, were inundated by the construction of a dam. Landscape detail in the valley bottoms was lost and the erosive effects of water draw-down can often be seen in periods of drought. In the case of Thirlmere, in the early 20th century the slopes surrounding the reservoir were planted with non-native trees – including larch, spruce and fir – in contravention of the stipulations of the parliamentary legislation which had authorised the reservoir (see Section 2.b.8). This is now being addressed by the current owner, United Utilities Ltd, through felling of conifers and replanting with native tree species. The views around the lake have been opened up and the visual amenity partly to some extent restored. At Haweswater a major conservation project also includes encouragement of native tree species on the land around the reservoir.

FIGURE 2.a.108 The dam at Thirlmere

However, other proposals for water abstraction from other lakes in the Lake District in the 20th century were successfully countered by protests and were either prevented or limited so that their scenic beauty was not damaged (Section 2.b.5). Water is currently taken from the lakes of Ullswater, Ennerdale, Wastwater, Crummock Water and Windermere but in such a way as to prevent any visible effects. In the early 1960s a new reservoir was successfully prevented in the Winster valley as was a proposed new water pipeline from Haweswater through to the valley of Longsleddale and the tranquillity of these areas has been preserved.

COMMERCIAL AFFORESTATION

The successful battle by the Friends of the English Lake District and others in the 1930s to limit the ambitions of the Government's Forestry Commission to create extensive conifer plantations in the English Lake District was key to preserving the scenic quality of the central mountain area and its value as Herdwick pasture (Section 2.b.5). The boundary from which conifer planting was excluded, agreed in 1936, has been adhered to with the result that areas which were under threat at that time, including upper Eskdale and Dunnerdale, remain as open fell (Figure 2.b.80).

The persistent criticism of the Forestry Commission's conifer plantations in the English Lake District, and in particular the functional geometric layout of forests like Ennerdale and Dodd Wood on the eastern shore of Bassenthwaite, led in part to the Commission employing its first landscape architect Sylvia Crowe (later Dame) in 1963. Whilst she advised on the reshaping of several English Lake District Forestry Commission woodlands such as Grizedale and Ennerdale, it is her work at Dodd Wood which is of

FIGURE 2.a.109 Forestry Commission plantations at Thornthwaite, west of Bassenthwaite Lake

particular note. Her proposals for this highly visible woodland and others across the United Kingdom were central in establishing the foundations of modern forest landscaping both in the UK and in the United States, where her work influenced the landscape management guidelines developed by the US Forest Service.

Examples of the ongoing restructuring of non-native woodland are the removal of regular block of conifers from National Trust land in Seathwaite, Borrowdale (adjacent to the famous Borrowdale yews) and large-scale conversion of Forestry Commission conifers to native woodland in the upper Duddon valley, supported by grant from the Friends of the English Lake District. Similar action has seen the removal of Forestry Commission conifer plantation from the prominent limestone crag of Whitbarrow in the southern English Lake District. Some of the larger Forestry Commission woodlands remain – for example at Grizedale and Whinlatter – and still produce commercial timber. However, their use is being heavily diversified into recreational activities including mountain biking, while Grizedale also hosts a well-known outdoor sculpture trail. In Ennerdale, which was planted in the 1920s, timber is still produced but management is now directed by the Wild Ennerdale project which places an emphasis on natural processes while preserving the cultural heritage of the valley including its rich archaeology.

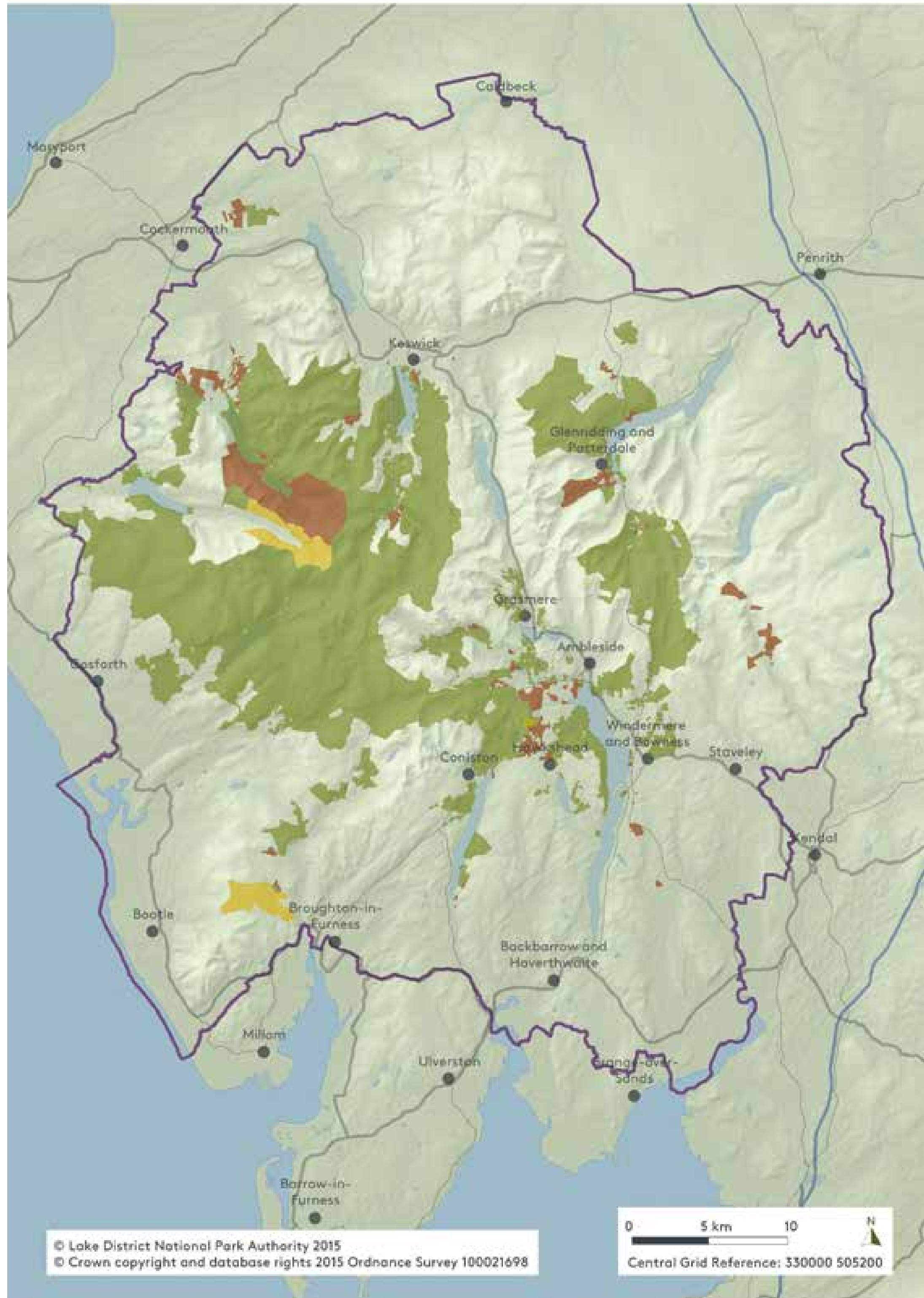
PRIVATE OWNERSHIP FOR CONSERVATION

Much of the present character of the agro-pastoral landscape results from land purchase to preserve scenic beauty or the farming system A large number of farms, mostly now owned by the National Trust and farmed traditionally were specifically purchased to preserve the system of agro-pastoralism which maintained the much-valued form of the English Lake District landscape (Section 2.b.5). Mrs Heelis (Beatrix Potter), for example, left 14 farms and 4,000 acres of land to the National Trust. This process of acquisition has been important in helping to maintain both the character and integrity of the agro-pastoral landscape.

OWNERSHIP BY THE NATIONAL TRUST AND OTHER BODIES

The National Trust owns 44,578 hectares (123,500 acres) of land in the English Lake District which is over 20 per cent of the National Park area. This property includes most of the central mountains and almost all the major valley heads; six of the main lakes and much of their shoreline; extensive areas of native woodland; over 90 farms; and important archaeological sites and historic buildings. The work of the National Trust focuses on conservation of this important land holding, thus ensuring the continued conservation of this agro-pastoral landscape.

FIGURE 2.a.110 Map of National Trust land holdings in the English Lake District



Nominated Property boundary

Inalienable Land   Leasehold Land   Covenanted Land

Inalienable, Leasehold and Covenanted Land data © National Trust 2015

Other key trusts in the English Lake District include the Wordsworth Trust and Brantwood Trust, which respectively protect the legacies of William Wordsworth and John Ruskin, and conserve and manage their residences at Dove Cottage and Brantwood.

Natural England looks after nine National Nature Reserves in the nominated Property while a further 44 are owned and managed by Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Six ancient monuments, including Stott Park Bobbin Mill are in Guardianship and under the care of English Heritage and the National Trust.

THE LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Since 1951, the Lake District National Park Authority has played a significant role in conserving the special qualities of the English Lake District in the face of ever increasing pressure for new development.

The Lake District National Park Authority has also been responsible for the maintenance of many archaeological sites and historic buildings through grants, conservation projects and planning control, including the designation and management of 23 Conservation Areas in major settlements in the English Lake District. This, combined with major conservation projects in towns including Ambleside and Keswick, has helped to maintain the historic character of the urban areas of the English Lake District. Key archaeological sites including the Duddon Iron Furnace, Ravenglass Roman fort and the bobbin mill at the Howk, Caldbeck, have been conserved and opened for display to visitors. In recent years an extensive campaign by the English Lake District Archaeology Volunteer Network, run by the Lake District National Park Authority, has cleared bracken and vegetation from a larger number of scheduled archaeological sites on the open fell land, making them visible to visitors.

The extensive rights of way network in the Lake District, which includes packhorse routes, mining tracks and other historic routeways, comes under heavy pressure from visitors which can cause erosion. Footpaths and other rights of way have seen millions of pounds worth of investment in recent years through the Fix the Fells project, grant-aided by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Erosion problems have been tackled, in some cases with innovative techniques such as the use of Herdwick wool to underpin paths in areas of peat – and this has enhanced visitor experience in the English Lake District in terms of both visual amenity and ease of access.

2.a.5 CONTEMPORARY APPRECIATION OF THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT: TOURISM AND VISITATION

Following the publicity given to the Lake District from the mid-18th century onwards many visitors were attracted to the area (see Section 2.b.3). Coaching inns and other facilities were developed to accommodate these early tourists, particularly in the areas that were easier to access by road and offered the best Arcadian experiences – Keswick and Derwent Water, Grasmere and Ambleside, and Windermere. Many of the hotels developed then are still in use today.

FIGURE 2.a.111 The harbour at Bowness with The Old England Hotel beyond

The arrival of the railways from the mid-19th century made it possible for many more people to visit the Lake District, including working people from the industrial cities and towns of North West England. The railways and tourism had a dramatic effect on some settlements and a smaller effect on others. Hardly anywhere in the English Lake District escaped changes which are mostly still visible.

The town of Windermere, grew rapidly in the second half of the 19th century at the terminus of the line from Oxenholme (Kendal) to the lake. An influx of visitors were enthused by the attraction of nearby Bowness and the lake, and wealthy industrialists from south Lancashire built homes here.

Windermere is a fine example, nationally, of a completely new Victorian tourist town, with virtually all the houses, terraces, public buildings, tourist accommodation and places of worship built from the local grey slate-stone left exposed rather than being rendered. This creates a remarkable consistency throughout the town. Bowness (now part of Windermere) also saw a significant injection of similar architecture. The Windermere Hotel, next to the station, and The Old England Hotel on the lake frontage at Bowness are good examples. As the industrialists also used architects from their home area and were the key players on the social structure of the town, Windermere/Bowness became in effect "Manchester by the lake". The styles of these large houses include Victorian Gothic, Italianate, Jacobean, Tudor revival and in particular, the late Victorian and Edwardian Arts and Crafts style (vernacular revival). The railway also widened the palette of materials, by making available other building stones such as Lancashire/Yorkshire sandstone and Welsh roofing slate. The town is unique in that virtually all the buildings in Windermere and Bowness for 150 years following the arrival of the railway were constructed by one company – Pattinsons.

FIGURE 2.a.112 St Mary's Church, Ambleside

FIGURE 2.a.113 The Gondola on Coniston Water. Originally built for the Furness Railway Company in 1859 to carry tourists, the Gondola was restored in the 1970s and is now owned and operated by the National Trust

The increased use of the motor car in the mid-20th century encouraged large housing developments, leading to the coalescence of the two settlements.

A steamboat service started in 1845 from Windermere to Waterhead, and within two years Windermere station became a bustling arrival point. A regular coach service linked the station to Ambleside. A new Victorian quarter was laid out on the western lower lying land in a formal way and the well-preserved long stone terrace, built for tourist accommodation, on Compston Road is an excellent example of railway influence. Nearby is the very prominent St. Mary's Parish Church, designed by George Gilbert Scott and built in 1854, to accommodate the growing resident and tourist population. The rebuilt Market Hall and adjacent Queen's Hotel are prominent Victorian buildings.

In 1859 a railway branch line was opened to Coniston. The Furness Railway was at the forefront nationally of promoting tourism and later that year the steam launch Gondola began service on Coniston Water. Coniston now became both a busy industrial town and a tourist centre with a significant amount of new development including houses, shops, public buildings, hotels and guest houses, as well as a range of railway terminus buildings. The railway buildings have gone, but the Victorian buildings lining the Main Street and the long stone workers terraces at Cat Bank and Days Bank are excellent reminders of Coniston as a prosperous Victorian creation.

The railway route through Keswick to Workington, completed in 1865, gave rise to a remarkable transformation and expansion of the former to accommodate a growing population of new tourists. In contrast to the historic medieval core, and the scatter of mills along the river, a completely new grid-iron layout was imposed on the eastern side of Keswick, including the Station Road and streets such as Helvellyn, Blencathra, Skiddaw, Wordsworth and Southey. These streets consisted of tall, confident, ornate Victorian guest houses and hotels, with some public buildings and corner shops. Built over a period of about 30 years, they give this part of the town a unique character.

By the end of the 19th century a small but important movement became established. Walking holidays for working people, often inspired by the poetry of Wordsworth, were facilitated through organisations including the Cooperative Holiday Association (CHA) and the Holiday Fellowship (HF). Both organisations built accommodation in the English Lake District, some of which is still used for visitor accommodation, and HF Holidays continues to lease the villa at Monk Coniston from the National Trust.

FIGURE 2.a.114 The villas Monk Coniston, owned by the National Trust and leased to HF Holidays

FIGURE 2.a.115 The house at High Close, Grasmere. Owned by the National Trust and leased to the Youth Hostel Association

FIGURE 2.a.116 Eskdale Youth Hostel, purpose-built to a design by John Dower, one of the founding fathers of United Kingdom National Parks

From the 1930s the fledgling Youth Hostel Association (YHA) also began to establish hostels in the Lake District and the area still has the greatest concentration of YHA facilities in the UK. The English Lake District was also one of the first areas where sport climbing developed in the late 19th century and this continues to attract climbers to the area today.

Smaller scale, more dispersed forms of tourism developed in the Lake District after World War Two has become a crucial part of the English Lake District economy, alongside agro-pastoral farming. It is a prominent component of the modern landscape, including small hotels and guest houses, campsites, shops, museums and leisure facilities, sometimes concentrated as in the town of Bowness.

The increasing popularity of the English Lake District has helped to reinforce the demands for its conservation. The inherent stimulating beauty of the area with its characteristic culture and farming regime is still appreciated by its inhabitants and its visitors every year.