

ULLSWATER

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Summary Description

2.c.11 THE ULLSWATER VALLEY



"I wandered lonely as a cloud, That floats on high o'er vales and hill, When all at once I saw a crowd, A host of golden daffodils; Beside the lake, beneath the trees, Fluttering and dancing in the breeze."

William Wordsworth, 'Daffodils' (1804)

DESCRIPTION AND DEVELOPMENT

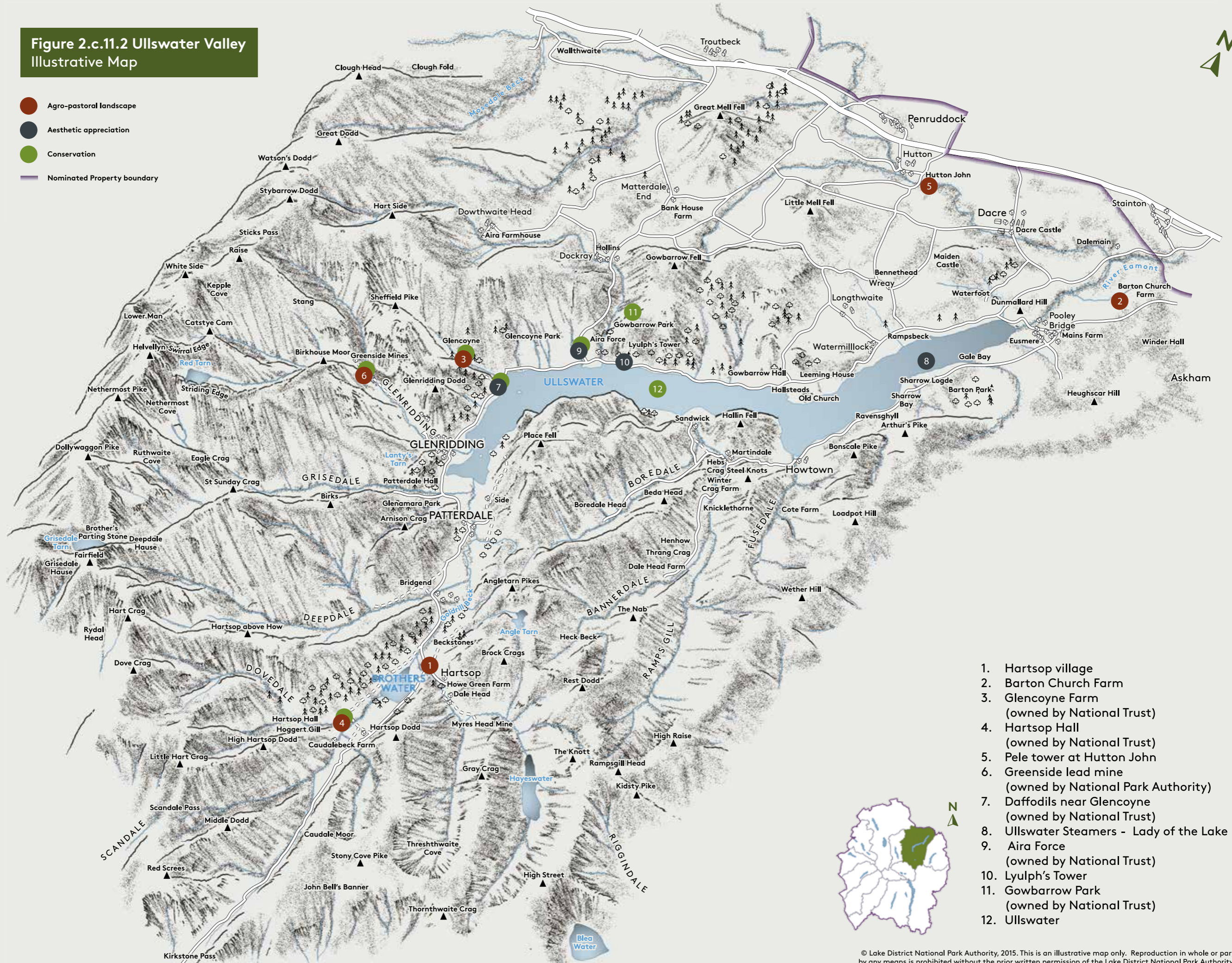
The Ullswater Valley carves a uniquely curved path running generally north-eastwards from the high central fells including Helvellyn and High Street and opens out eastwards into the expansive Eden Valley. The valley is visually dominated by the lake, second only to Windermere in size. Unlike most Lake District valleys the character of the landscape does not alter as the valley declines from the uplands to a substantial lowland river valley. But the west and east sides do have different characters. The east has a more enclosed, steep-sided, upland feel, whereas the north and west has a more open,



FIGURE 2.c.11.1 The head of Ullswater from Gowbarrow Park

Figure 2.c.11.2 Ullswater Valley Illustrative Map

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



1. Hartsop village
2. Barton Church Farm
3. Glencoyne Farm (owned by National Trust)
4. Hartsop Hall (owned by National Trust)
5. Pele tower at Hutton John
6. Greenside lead mine (owned by National Park Authority)
7. Daffodils near Glencoyne (owned by National Trust)
8. Ullswater Steamers - Lady of the Lake
9. Aira Force (owned by National Trust)
10. Lyulph's Tower (owned by National Trust)
11. Gowbarrow Park (owned by National Trust)
12. Ullswater

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EXAMPLES OF KEY ATTRIBUTES: As shown on the Ullswater illustrative map



NO. 1 FIGURE 2.c.11.3 Hartsop Village



NO. 2 FIGURE 2.c.11.4 Barton Church Farm



NO. 3 FIGURE 2.c.11.5 Glencoyne Farm (owned by National Trust)



NO. 4 FIGURE 2.c.11.6 Hartsop Hall (owned by National Trust)



NO. 5 FIGURE 2.c.11.7 Pele Tower at Hutton John



NO. 6 FIGURE 2.c.11.8 Greenside lead mine (owned by National Park Authority)



NO. 7 FIGURE 2.c.11.9 Daffodils near Glencoyne



NO. 8 FIGURE 2.c.11.10 Ullswater Steamers – Lady of the Lake



NO. 9 FIGURE 2.c.11.11 Aira Force (owned by National Trust)



NO. 10 FIGURE 2.c.11.12 Lyulph's Tower



NO. 11 FIGURE 2.c.11.13 Gowbarrow Park (owned by National Trust)



NO. 12 FIGURE 2.c.11.14 Ullswater

lowland character because, the enclosing mountains are set further back from the lake and valley floor with a transitional landscape of lower fells. The lake itself can have a serene and gentle atmosphere one day followed by a dark and brooding countenance the next depending on weather and light conditions.

The west shoreline contains most of the settlement within the valley, the principal settlement being Glenridding, originally developed to house workers for what was once the largest lead mine in England and whose spoil tips dominate the valley leading up to Helvellyn. The rows of small, slate-built, terraced houses give way to grander houses and hotels, guest houses and shops associated with Victorian and present day tourism nearer the lake. Occasional villas continue along the lakeshore with associated parkland. Designed landscape, contrasting with the remote and rugged open fells with a transitional zone of gentle pastoral landscape and woodland, is a defining characteristic of the Ullswater Valley with the lake at its heart.

The valley exemplifies the fusion of an ancient farmed landscape with Picturesque landscape improvement including tree planting, villas and parkland, particularly on the western shore of Ullswater, but also on the eastern side. The landscape of Lyulph's Tower, Aira Force and Glencoyne Park is a key example. The Ullswater Valley also has extensive areas of native woodland, much of it in former medieval parkland on the western shore which contains important examples of veteran trees and forms part of the important cluster of ancient oak woodland in the valley. There are also good examples of surviving wood pasture which is also a significant link to historical woodland management practices including coppicing and pollarding.

The pattern of agriculture in the Ullswater valley varies according to the potential afforded by the topography and this is reflected in the character of the field systems and enclosures throughout the valley. On a broad scale, the better soils on the gentle slopes on the west shore between Gowbarrow Park and Pooley Bridge supported the development of extensive arable fields in the past which are now under pasture. On the opposite shore, the proximity of steep crags for much of its length has always reduced the opportunities for anything other than rough grazing, except for the small areas of flatter land at Sandwich and Howtown where fields have been created.

Herdwick farming features strongly in Ullswater today and the valley contains some of the most significant Herdwick farms, including Hartsop Hall and Glencoyne. Traditionally some of these have had the largest flocks in the area. The farm at Glencoyne is one of



FIGURE 2.c.11.15 The 17th century farm house at Glencoyne and the view north to the lower Ullswater valley

the largest current Herdwick farms in the Lake District due in part to its large area of enclosed land as well as open fell. In total there are 38 fell going flocks in the Ullswater valley area, as well as 12 Herdwick flocks and 14 Swaledale flocks registered with the relevant Sheep Breeders' Associations. The Common Land used for grazing covers one third of the valley area.

A number of long running agricultural shows are still held by the Ullswater farming community. These range from Shepherds' Meets, Sheep Shows and the Patterdale Dog Day and all strive to retain traditional formats.

The principal settlements in the Ullswater Valley are villages each with a distinctive character. Patterdale has a farming and industrial character; Glenridding an industrial one, and Glenruddock a farming character. Pooley Bridge at the northern end is an ancient settlement granted a market charter 1214. A number of small hamlets are located at key positions around the lake, including Sandwick and Howtown on the eastern shore, Dockray and Watermillock on the northern side and Hartsop at the southern end of the valley. The valley is rich in examples of early vernacular architecture and this is reflected in its 165 Listed Buildings, with a particular concentration in the hamlet of Hartsop. Wordsworth described Hartsop as "remarkable for its cottage architecture".

Today, Hartsop is a fine collection of farmsteads constructed from local slate and positioned along the western end of an ancient route from the Kirkstone-Patterdale road up on to High Street. Most of the buildings date from the 'Statesmen' period of the 17th and 18th centuries and are classic examples of English Lake District vernacular. With the exception of a few houses which were added during the 20th century and which are clearly in the style of the period, the settlement still looks much as it did when developed during the 17th and 18th centuries.



FIGURE 2.c.11.16 The inbye fields in Hartsop and Deepdale. The tarn of Brotherswater can be seen on the left.

Some of the earliest villas built by the wealthy to appreciate the landscape were developed from modest 'cottages' such as Goldrill Cottage and Gillside Cottage both near Patterdale and both occupied, in the first decade of the 19th century, by friends of the Wordsworths.

Ullswater has benefited from the Conservation Movement. Its electricity supply along the southern and eastern shoreline of Ullswater, between Sandwick Bay and Glenridding, was buried below ground in order to protect the views previously appreciated by Wordsworth and Turner. There have also been conservation battles to protect the lake from effluent from disused mines and from water extraction to serve the population of Manchester; the latter battle was ultimately lost, but provisions made to reduce the impact of the works on the area's special qualities. The National Trust is now one of the main landowners around Ullswater, first acquiring Gowbarrow Park in 1906 following a public appeal to safeguard it from proposed house building. This property included the scene of daffodils recorded by Dorothy Wordsworth and later by William in his famous poem and also the picturesque waterfall of Aira Force. The National Trust went on to purchase many of the farms and now owns 5,402 hectares of land. The Lake District National Park Authority now owns Glenridding Common and Ullswater lake bed. Conservation in the valley is still very active. The Environment Agency, Natural England and the Lake District National Park Authority are working together to decommission the remote Hayeswater Reservoir built in 1906 and return it to its natural state as a tarn with enhanced wildlife value and views that would be recognised by Wordsworth.

Evidence of the earliest settlement in the valley is restricted to funerary and other monuments, dating from the Neolithic and early Bronze Age periods. Settlement evidence per se appears in the later prehistoric period, and there is an important series of enclosed hut-circle settlements and two Iron Age hillforts at Maiden Castle and Dunmallard Hill. The relatively high number of these later prehistoric settlements around Ullswater suggests a higher density of occupation here than in the other English Lake District valley areas. This may in part be due to the importance of Ullswater as a route of communication and the good agricultural soils around the lower lake. Perhaps for the same reason, the Romans constructed marching camps and a fort at Troutbeck, just to the northwest of Ullswater, together with roads to connect these with forts at Penrith and Ambleside. Romano-British period farmsteads can also be found at the foot of High Hartsop Dodd and Heck beck above the head of Upper Bannerdale. Often with several phases of occupation these sites present the possibility that there is perhaps at least some continuity in settlement or population from the prehistoric period into the Roman and subsequent periods.

Place-name evidence suggests a mixture of linguistic influences consisting of Old English, Old Norse and even (possibly) some Celtic names used to describe natural features such as 'uille', meaning elbow, referring to the curve of Ullswater lake. However, it is the Old English place-names that predominate suggesting that the early medieval population was connected more closely to the Anglian kingdom of Northumbria, rather than with the Scandinavian settlement along the coastal areas. Based on the place-name evidence it is likely that pre-Conquest (pre 1066) settlements did exist at Sandwick, Borwick and Watermillock. Archaeological evidence of early settlement is present at Cross Dormant, Deepdale, Deepdale Bridge, Glenamara Park, Glencoyndale, Old Kirk Watermillock, and High Hartsop Dod; although some of these were abandoned long before the Norman conquest in the late 11th century.

Evidence based on church foundation dates suggests that settlement in the Ullswater Valley area spread out from the north east, first occupying Barton and the relatively level

areas to the north of Pooley Bridge. This early settlement perhaps extended all the way to Barton Park and Thwaite Hill on the east of Ullswater, and to Gowbarrow Hall and Watermillock on the west side. Martindale was perhaps then settled, long with the other isolated settlements along the south east side at Sandwick and Howtown. There are other archaeological remains of abandoned settlements of unknown date.



FIGURE 2.c.11.17 The side valleys of Boredale and Bannerdale from Hallin Fell

There is no written evidence for the Ullswater valley area during the 11th and 12th centuries, and only a handful of documentation for the 13th and 14th centuries. Historical sources refer to a number of land uses and in some cases evidence of this is visible in the landscape today, or can be extrapolated from 19th century Ordnance Survey maps. The Ullswater Valley has some fine examples of medieval fortified buildings, some of which survive relatively intact, and some of which have been incorporated within later structures. These include Dacre Castle, a 14th century tower house which was originally surrounded by a moat; a pele tower at Hutton John also of the 14th century; and the mansion at Dalemain where the remains of a medieval building, possibly comprising a hall with towers at each end dating from the late 15th/early 16th century, survive behind the Georgian frontage which was added in 1747.

The Ullswater shoreline seems to have been a favoured location for medieval and later deer parks, with two straddling Lyulph Tower and Aira Force, and a third called Swinburn's Park adjacent to Gowbarrow Hall. The date of their enclosure is not clear. Similarly the house at Dalemain appears to have had a deer park attached, although its date too is unknown. A designed landscape attached to Dacre Castle is called 'Park' and this could also be evidence of a former deer park.



FIGURE 2.c.11.18 The garden and parkland at Dalemain

The documentary evidence suggests that from the 12th century many upland demesnes were farmed as cattle ranches or vaccaries on behalf of the Lord of the Manor. One vaccary was located in Dovedale and is referred to in a complaint dated 1255 against Gilbert de Lancaster for allowing his cattle and that of his tenants from the Hartshop demesne to roam free in the forest belonging to Roger de Lancaster. The wall now enclosing the head of the valley

in Dovedale is likely to have been built in the 12th or 13th century to enclose an area for use as a cattle pasture. This wall abuts the ring garth suggesting that the enclosure of the valley head post dates the enclosure of the valley bottom. By the 14th century many vaccaries in the Lake District may have been let to farming tenants rather than being managed directly by the Lord of the Manor. There is no direct evidence for this tenancy in Hartshop, but the remains of a medieval longhouse within the demesne may be evidence of this or that the Lord had some assistance in managing the demesne farm.

Other possible ring garths exist around the inbye at Watermillock and Bennethead, although these have not been confirmed by field survey. There are still others at Sandwick and Howton, with intake extensions added later along the shoreline north-east of Howton. Evidence of other medieval farming practices can be obtained from the surviving field patterns. The road from Pooley Bridge to Penrith quite clearly shows an unaltered probably 11 or 12th century pattern. Evidence for the enclosure of former medieval common fields can be seen in the existing pattern of walls around the villages of Hartsop, Patterdale, Pooley Bridge and around Sandwick on the eastern shore. However, the pattern of medieval intakes on the fell side of the open fields, so common in other Lake District valleys, is restricted here to the smaller side valleys such as Grisedale and Boredale.

Late 16th and 17th century farms are distributed throughout the valley in hamlets (e.g. Hartsop and Sandwyck) and individually. The location of such farms is generally between the inbye and intakes, on the edge of the former medieval common field. Farming at this time was increasingly dominated by sheep rearing to supply the burgeoning wool trade and this required increased enclosure and stinting of the fellsides. The earliest evidence of enclosure by agreement dates to 1574, but other private enclosures tend to be later in the 17th century or early 18th century. There was some additional enclosure apparently dating to this period and associated with development and consolidation of larger farm units. During the 18th century more intakes appeared on the higher fellsides, often enclosing quite marginal areas that required extensive improvement. The large, regular fields resulting from Parliamentary enclosure can be seen in and around Watermillock and Matteredale.



FIGURE 2.c.11.19 A view of a waterwheel at the Greenside lead mine (early 20th century)

Industry made a larger impact on the landscape from the 18th century when large-scale lead mining began and reached peaks of production in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The lead mine at Greenside was the largest and most significant in the Lake District was at Greenside which operated from the 1820s until 1961. The impact of the mine on the valley was significant resulting in increased populations and large scale infrastructure associated with the mine. Slate mining also took place at Caudale Moor from before the mid-18th century to the 1930s.

Unlike some of the other major valleys in the Lake District, early tourist interest in Ullswater did not lead to the threat (as then perceived) of a railway link into the valley, but when Penrith obtained a railway station in 1846 the valley was made more accessible. West suggested no formal viewing stations around this lake in his 'Guide to the Lakes' but did suggest the best places from which to appreciate the views. These were formalised and added to by Peter Crosthwaite on his tourist map of 1783. Long before the first villas were built, gentry houses of long standing stood within a few miles of the lower lake at Dalemain, Dacre and Hutton John, but only Watermillock House, the seat of the Robinson family, enjoyed lake views and even here (according to Dorothy Wordsworth) only from the first-floor rooms. With the added maps produced by Crosthwaite and the organised firing of a canon from a boat in order to enjoy the echoes, visitor numbers increased. Early villas included Lyulph's Tower, one of the best examples in the Lake District. Conventional villas began to be constructed during the 1790s, although a number replaced earlier buildings on the same site, such as Eusemere Hall. Some of the earliest villas developed from modest 'cottages' such as Goldrill Cottage and Gillside Cottage both in Patterdale and both occupied in the first decade of the 19th century, by friends of the Wordsworths. Early commentators regretted the poor accommodation encountered by travellers to Ullswater. Clarke's 'Survey of the Lakes' (1787) noted that the Sun Inn had boats for hire, but lacked a dining room fit for gentlemen, while the little inn at Patterdale was simpler still.

Early visitors to the valley included John Marshall, flax-spinner of Leeds, and his wife Jane who rented Watermillock House, formerly the seat of the Robinsons, for the first of a number of summer visits from 1810. Their stays here were to have significant impacts on the valley and the wider Lake District as they purchased larger quantities of land and houses for their extended family and built Hallsteads as their main residence. Their friendship with the Wordsworths was also to have an impact on the way they designed and managed their estate.

The valley had strong associations with the Wordsworths in particular. They were frequent visitors and in 1806 Wordsworth himself purchased a plot of land at the southern end of the lake with the intention of building a house, but the project was abandoned. Most famously, on 15 April 1802, William and Dorothy Wordsworth saw daffodils by the lakeshore in Glencoyne Wood at the southern end of the lake. The encounter is described in detail in a celebrated entry in Dorothy's Grasmere Journal and went on to inspire Wordsworth to write his most famous poem. 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud'. Ullswater is also the setting for one of the most celebrated passages in Wordsworth's autobiographical poem 'The Prelude' and featured in his A 'Guide Through the District of the Lakes'. Lyulph's Tower, and Aira Force, on the western side of the lake, are celebrated in Wordsworth's poem 'The Somnambulist'. At Grisedale Tarn, there is the Brothers' Parting Stone which marks the place where, in September 1800, Wordsworth (accompanied by his sister) bade farewell to his brother John. This event was to inspire his poem and his 'Elegiac Verses in Memory of my Brother, John Wordsworth'. Wordsworth's description in 'Musings Near Aquapedante', one of the Memorials of a Tour of Italy, 1837, gives a visionary sketch of the view eastwards from Helvellyn's summit. In 1802, a walk along Barton Fell in a despondent mood, inspired Wordsworth to write 'Resolution and Independence'. In his Guide, Wordsworth described in detail a walk through nearby Martindale in 1805 with Dorothy and his friend Charles Luff.

This secluded valley remains little changed from Wordsworth's day, and buildings, including the church and Dale Head farm, still exist.

Joseph Wright of Derby (1734-97) was one of the greatest British painters of the 18th century. He visited the Lake District in the summers of 1793-4. Ullswater is one of a small number of Lakes paintings he completed in the mid-1790s. Ullswater is also the subject of paintings by J. M. W. Turner who produced a water colour of Ullswater with Patterdale Old Hall in 1797 he. His sketchbook also contains seven consecutive views of Ullswater, taken along the western shore of the lake, and one of Aira Force. A watercolour of Ullswater was derived from these sketches and John Ruskin enthused about this work.



FIGURE 2.c.11.20 'Ullswater' by Joseph Wright of Derby (c. 1795)

There has been relatively little landscape change here during the 20th century with an unaltered enclosure pattern for the last hundred years. The only new boundaries to be erected are fences alongside collapsed walls and field drains. However, there has been a continued decline in the number of separate farms with a consequent decline in the rural labour force. As a consequence, many walls, buildings and other features in the landscape that are no longer in agricultural use have fallen into decay. While the number of farms has declined, the valley's easy accessibility has resulted in new activities such as outdoor education and recreation centres and this has provided new uses for the large houses and villas such as Hallsteads and Patterdale Hall.

QUALITIES

Ullswater exhibits attributes of all three identified themes of Outstanding Universal Value. The predominant activity in the valley is agro-pastoral farming and the typical field pattern of inbye and surrounding intakes on the adjacent fells is present, particularly in the side valleys of Hartsop, Deepdale, Grisedale, Boredale and Martindale. Ullswater is one of the key Herdwick farming areas in the Lake District and there are extensive areas of Common Land on the high fell land. The valley contains a very large number of early farm buildings, some dating from the 16th century but most of 17th to 19th century date. The group of early farms clustered in the village of Hartsop is outstanding, and other settlements in the valley also have an agricultural character.

There is extensive and important evidence for early land use in the Ullswater Valley. Of particular importance are the relatively high number of enclosed Romano-British settlements in the valley, indicating a very long history of relatively permanent settlement and agriculture. The valley also has a Neolithic stone circle, Roman marching camps and a fort, and significant medieval churches and pele towers. Rich lead veins are present in the rocks in the southern part of Ullswater and in the past the valley was an important centre of lead mining with the main workings at Greenside which operated from the 18th century until 1961. The settlement of Glenridding owes its size and character to the need for housing for miners.

Ullswater, with its beautiful sinuous lake, was of major importance as a source of aesthetic inspiration from the very earliest period of the Picturesque interest in the English Lake District. Ease of access into the valley from the route between Penrith and Keswick helped to attract the first tourists and the valley features in guidebooks including that of Thomas West, who identified a number of viewing stations around the lake. The beauty of the lake and its mountain backdrop stimulated the construction of a number of villas and designed landscapes including the early and important Lyulph's Tower and Aira Force.

Romantic interest in Ullswater was also strong and it was the location that inspired some of the best-known poetry of the period – William Wordsworth's 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud' and parts of 'The Prelude'. A number of important artists were also attracted to Ullswater, including J. M. W. Turner and John Glover.

The landscape importance of Ullswater was acknowledged very early in the life of the National Trust with the purchase in 1906 of Gowbarrow Park and in 1913 of Stybarrow Crag, the former through a prominent public appeal and donations. Over the 20th century the National Trust gradually acquired further key properties, including iconic farms such as Glencoyne, and now owns and manages a large portion of the valley. Ullswater was also the scene of a hard-fought and successful battle in the 1960s to prevent the Manchester Corporation from damaging abstraction of water from the lake.

Ullswater is thus rich in attributes for all the three themes of Outstanding Universal Value for the English Lake District.

FIGURE 2.c.11.21 The contribution of the Ullswater Valley to the cultural landscape themes identified

























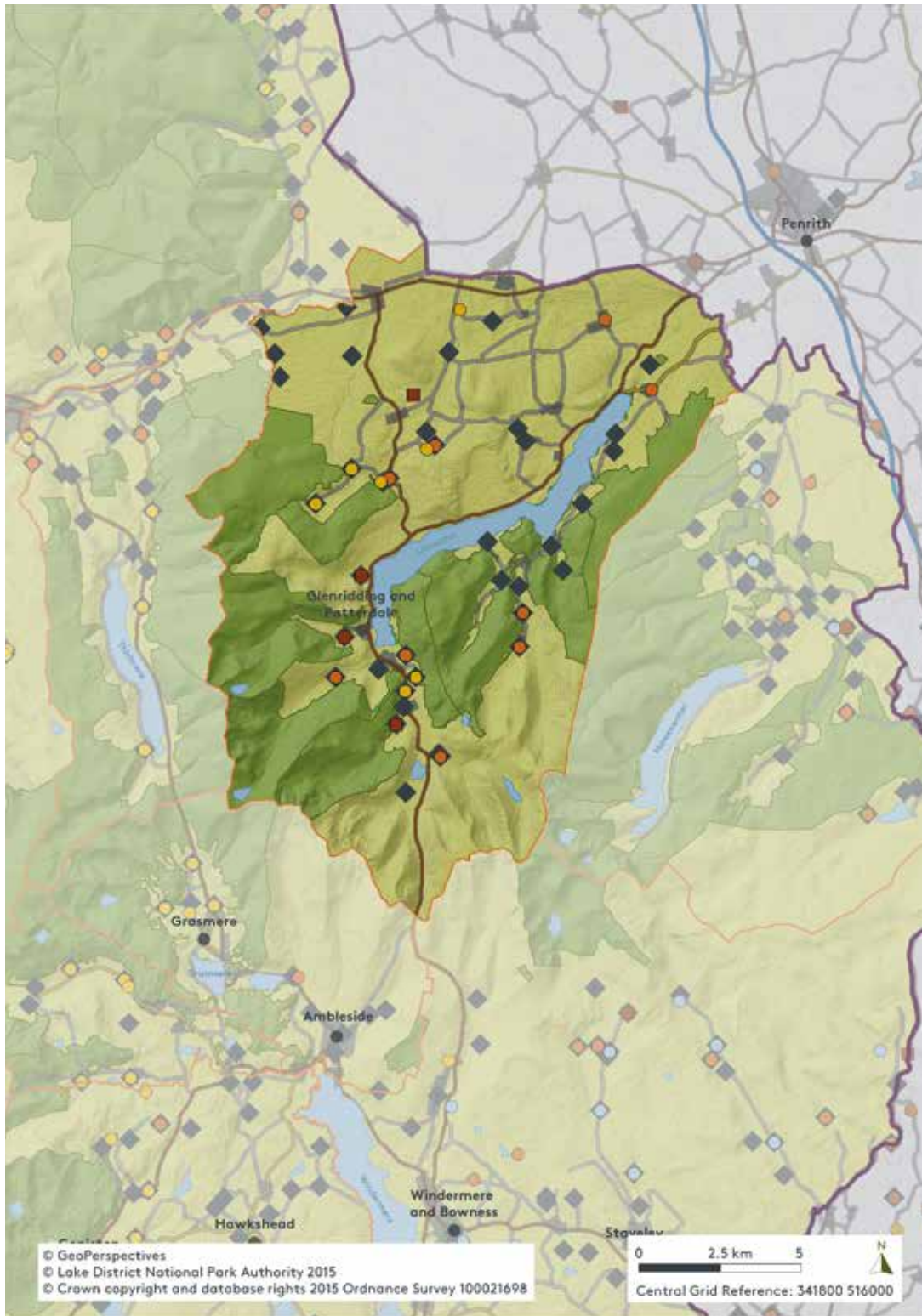
ULLSWATER		
THEME	COMPONENTS OF ATTRIBUTES	SIGNIFICANCE
Continuity of traditional agro-pastoralism and local industry in a spectacular mountain landscape	Extraordinary beauty and harmony	
	Evidence of pre-medieval settlement and agriculture	
	Distinctive early field system	
	Medieval buildings (e.g.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

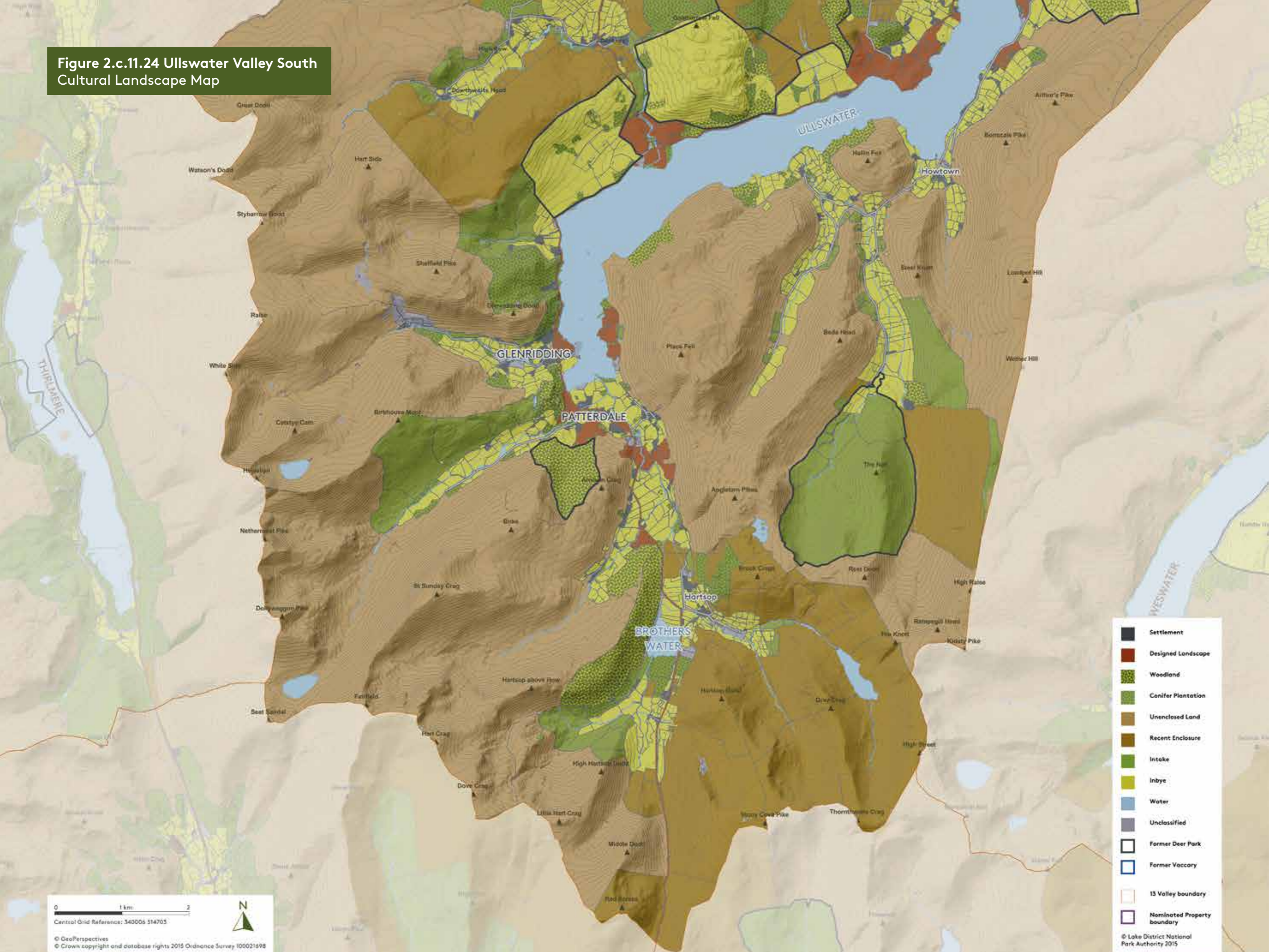
FIGURE 2.c.11.22 Shepherds' flocks and native sheep breeds in the Ullswater Valley



- Nominated Property boundary
- Valley boundary
- Registered Common Land
- ◆ Fell-going Flocks
- Flocks registered with Breed Associations:
- Herdwick
- Rough Fell
- Swaledale
- Multiple Breeds

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

Figure 2.c.11.24 Ullswater Valley South Cultural Landscape Map



- Settlement
 - Designed Landscape
 - Woodland
 - Conifer Plantation
 - Unclosed Land
 - Recent Enclosure
 - Intake
 - Inbye
 - Water
 - Unclassified
 - Former Deer Park
 - Former Vaccary
 - 13 Valley boundary
 - Nominated Property boundary
- © Lake District National Park Authority 2015

0 1 km 2
 Central Grid Reference: 340006 514703
 © GeoPerspectives
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← FOLD OUT MAP

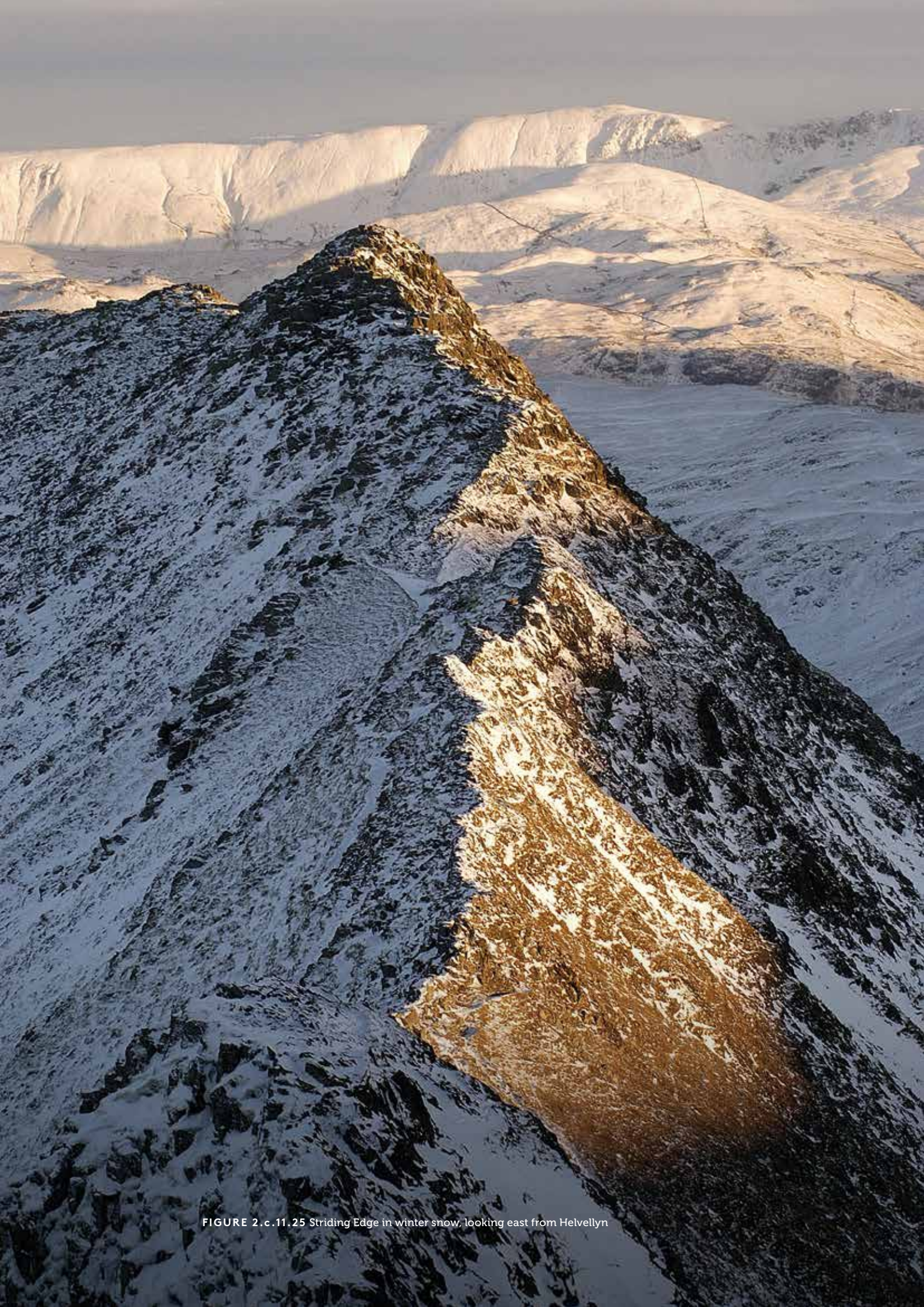


FIGURE 2.c.11.25 Striding Edge in winter snow, looking east from Helvellyn