



Beatrix Potter's house and garden at Hill Top, Near Sawrey

A lush garden scene with a stone path, various plants, and a building in the background. The path is made of irregular grey stones and winds through a variety of greenery. In the foreground, there are tall, spiky purple flowers and clusters of bright yellow flowers. The background features a building with a textured, light-colored wall and a window with white trim. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and well-maintained.

SECTION 3

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Justification for Inscription

SECTION 3.1

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Synthesis, criteria, integrity, authenticity,
protection and management

3.1 SYNTHESIS, CRITERIA, INTEGRITY, AUTHENTICITY, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

3.1.a BRIEF SYNTHESIS

The English Lake District is a self-contained mountainous area in North West England of some 2,292 square kilometres. Its narrow, glaciated valleys radiating from the central massif with their steep hillsides and slender lakes exhibit an extraordinary beauty and harmony. This is the result of the Lake District's continuing distinctive agro-pastoral traditions based on local breeds of sheep including the Herdwick, on common fell-grazing and relatively independent farmers. These traditions have evolved under the influence of the physical constraints of its mountain setting. The stone-walled fields and rugged farm buildings in their spectacular natural background, form a harmonious beauty that has attracted visitors from the 18th century onwards. Picturesque and Romantic interest stimulated globally-significant social and cultural forces to appreciate and protect scenic landscapes. Distinguished villas, gardens and formal landscapes were added to augment its picturesque beauty. The Romantic engagement with the Lake District generated new ideas about the relationship between humanity and its environment, including the recognition of harmonious landscape beauty and the validity of emotional response by people to their landscapes. A third key development was the idea that landscape has a value, and that everyone has a right to appreciate and enjoy it. These ideas underpin the global movement of protected areas and the development of recreational experience within them.

The development in the Lake District of the idea of the universal value of scenic landscape, both in itself and in its capacity to nurture and uplift imagination, creativity and spirit, along with threats to the area, led directly to the development of a conservation movement which has had global influence. This influence includes the establishment of the international National Trust movement, the origin of the concept of legally-protected landscapes and the creation of the World Heritage cultural landscape category.

INTRODUCTION

The English Lake District is a small, roughly circular area of mountains and lakes in North West England, primarily formed about 500 million years ago by volcanic activity. It was subsequently eroded over millions of years and heavily glaciated during the last Ice Age.

It is a compact and distinctive area in which modest but dramatic mountain scenery is divided by a number of steep-sided narrow valleys radiating from the centre of the region, many containing long lakes. Within its overall unity of character, it is a diverse landscape full of contrasts, with a testing climate with high rainfall. Each valley has a distinct character resulting from variations in geology, natural vegetation and its history of human land use. Each valley therefore makes its own particular contribution to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Lake District (see Section 2.c and Volume 2). Figure 3.12 provides a summary of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value of each valley. Each valley is scored between zero and three for each attribute.



FIGURE 3.1 The Grasmere Valley looking north from Loughrigg Fell. This is one of the iconic views of scenic landscape beauty which were identified and celebrated in the 18th and 19th centuries. The character of the Grasmere Valley is underpinned by agro-pastoral farming and it has been modified in the 18th and 19th centuries by Picturesque gardens and landscaping. The Lake District office of the National Trust is located here and large parts of the valley are owned and protected by the Trust.

THE LANDSCAPE AND THE AGRO-PASTORAL SYSTEM

People have lived in the Lake District for around 14,000 years and evidence of this survives throughout the area. The roots of the current agro-pastoral system, the primary land use underlying the present character of the landscape, go back at least 1,000 years. Traditional Lake District farming is a distinctive and unrivalled example of a northern European upland agro-pastoral farming system based on the rearing of cattle and native breeds of sheep. It is closely adapted to the constraints of its spectacular mountain setting which it has shaped for over 1,000 years. The system is characterised by enclosed farmland on the valley floors (inbye) and lower valley sides (intakes), with open grazing on the uplands.

The key physical and social elements of this system survive. Customary tenure of farms has provided a high degree of independence for farmers; a system of communal stock management is underpinned by continuing customs and traditions; hardy breeds of sheep native to the English Lake District, particularly the Herdwick, are hefted to their own areas of fell. This continuing vitality of the Lake District's farming culture is a key part of its significance. The acknowledged scenic beauty of the Lake District is rooted in this vital interchange between its agro-pastoral system and the spectacular natural landscape of mountains, valleys and lakes.

Industry in the Lake District exploited the raw materials and opportunities provided by the landscape – minerals and stone, woodland, and water power, and, of course, wool. These have contributed to the special character of the Lake District through the production of local building materials and through the physical traces of their operation that can still be seen in the landscape. They have also influenced the distribution of woodland through the demand for fuel, particularly for charcoal manufacture. Some industries, such as slate quarrying, survive on a small scale; others, for example those based on woodland products, are being encouraged to develop again in order to maintain local cultural traditions and for the beneficial management of local woodland.

The English Lake District settlement pattern of individual farms with their distinctive farm houses and other buildings and small farming hamlets is complemented by larger villages, some of which expanded as a result of local industries including mining and quarrying (e.g. Coniston and Chapel Stile), and by small market towns for farming produce including Keswick and Ambleside. The Lake District also had strong links to larger market towns around its periphery, such as Penrith, Kendal and Cockermouth. The Lake District towns are integral and authentic elements of the cultural landscape and illustrate different facets of the evolution of settlement in the area as it responded to changing social, economic and cultural forces.

THE PICTURESQUE MOVEMENT

The spectacular English Lake District landscape of lake and mountain scenery and traditional farming was 'discovered' as a place of sublime and picturesque beauty in the mid-18th century. It quickly became the focus for visits by the English educated classes, inspired by guidebooks and travel accounts such as those by Thomas Gray (1775), Thomas West (1778) and William Gilpin (1786). Such writers were influenced by European movements including the Italian classical landscape tradition and the more 'naturalistic' Northern European style of the 17th and 18th centuries, as well as a vivid engagement with the scenery of the Swiss Alps. The influences were brought back to Britain by wealthy Englishmen undertaking the 'Grand Tour', designed to enrich their cultural education. The writers identified similar aspects of beauty in the Lake District.

Picturesque 'discovery' of the Lake District also stimulated the deliberate addition of features designed to improve, or better appreciate, its acknowledged beauty. These include villas, formal gardens, Picturesque tree planting, arboreta, modified waterfalls and viewing stations. The ensemble of villas and landscaped gardens down to the present day has a key role in the development and character of the English Lake District. Many survive today and have combined with the underlying agricultural land use pattern to form a complex cultural landscape of great depth and interest.

THE ROMANTIC MOVEMENT

Towards the end of 18th century, the English Lake District became a focus of greater interest. Around that time, the first stirrings of the artistic, literary and intellectual movement, now called the Romantic Movement, were becoming evident across Europe. Romanticism elevated emotion as an authentic source of aesthetic experience, placing emphasis on such feelings as apprehension, horror and terror, and awe – especially when confronted by the sublime beauty of nature. At the heart of the Romantic Movement was a strong belief and interest in the importance of nature and the human response to it: through the landscape individuals could discover their sense of self.

In Britain, the Romantic engagement with landscape and its influence, ideas and legacies is very prominent and comes disproportionately from the Lake District. Most crucially, it was the lifetime home of William Wordsworth, perhaps the central figure of the British Romantic movement in literature. The romantic appeal of this landscape was also celebrated by artists drawn to the area – J. M. W Turner, John Constable, Joseph Wright of Derby, Francis Towne and John Glover, among others. The English Lake District can therefore be considered in some respects to be a cradle of Romanticism.

Romantic writing brought to the forefront the central concept of the relationship of humans and nature and vice versa. Both Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge are now considered to be key originators of environmental thinking. Wordsworth's 'Guide through the District of the Lakes' presents landscape as the product of generations of human culture and draws attention to the aspects of this culture which have disappeared or are on the verge of extinction. This is a key concept in the conservation of cultural heritage globally and was an important influence on John Ruskin and later conservationists.

Wordsworth's views on the aesthetics of landscape and its management were linked to the emerging idea of the legitimacy of wider public interest and participation in the Lake District. Like Wordsworth, John Ruskin, another internationally-influential Lake District voice from later in the 19th century, also drew inspiration from the landscape. A pioneer environmentalist, geologist and naturalist as well as an accomplished artist and writer on art and architecture and a social commentator. Ruskin discovered his 'ruling passion' – a love of landscape – in this region.

Ruskin introduced the idea of trusteeship for preserving historic buildings which was later extended to natural beauty and resources. Respect for historic places and landscapes and their associated spiritual or intangible legacy is central to the conservation of today's cultural landscapes such as the English Lake District. This includes a responsibility for ensuring sustainable land use and economic survival.

The writings of Wordsworth, Ruskin and others on the significance of landscape and the need to protect it had great influence on contemporaries in the United States and beyond and the influence of their writing on the pioneers of national parks in North America, such as John Muir is well documented.

Another result of Picturesque and Romantic interest in the Lake District was the development of a significant early tradition of cultural tourism. This brought viewing stations, hotels, museums and recreational activities designed to enhance experience

of the Picturesque beauty of the area. The number of visitors to the Lake District greatly increased following the arrival of the railway at Windermere in 1847 and Keswick in 1865. This continued through the 20th and into the 21st century and its legacy can be seen in the form and design of the larger Lake District settlements, principally Windermere, Ambleside and Keswick, which developed and expanded to accommodate the visitors.

BIRTHPLACE OF INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION MOVEMENTS

Recognition of the special character of the Lake District through the engagement of these two aesthetic and artistic approaches led to moves to protect it more robustly. This process has been a major stimulus for three different approaches to landscape conservation:

- a. Preservation through ownership by public/charitable bodies (National Trust model);
- b. Preservation by designation and national or local government regulation
e.g. UK National Parks (The Protected Landscapes model of a protected area);
- c. International protection (The World Heritage Cultural Landscape model).

The extraordinary beauty of the English Lake District and early concerns over its protection and management led in the later 19th century to the development of a conservation movement that has had global impact.

The Picturesque interest in the English Lake District from the mid-18th century was accompanied by a recognition by a small number of new landowners and guidebook writers that the innate natural beauty of the Lake District could be damaged by inappropriate development, and that this could be prevented by direct action in terms of ownership and management. These pioneer initiatives were driven by wealthy individuals who desired to protect the beauty of the Lake District landscape. Later, others were inspired by a sense of the value of the traditional, farmed landscape and the local farming community; some, like Beatrix Potter, purchased farms in order to preserve the system of agro-pastoralism.

By the late 19th century, awareness of the significance of this landscape and its farming culture was infused with an appreciation of its vulnerability. As threats – notably railways, reservoirs and commercial afforestation – increased during the 19th and 20th centuries, the response was a series of hard fought conservation battles. These, although sometimes unsuccessful, began a chain of events which established the English Lake District as the birth-place of an innovative conservation movement committed to the defence of its landscape and community.

One strand of this movement led directly to the creation of the National Trust in 1895 and protection of the Lake District agro-pastoral landscape through the acquisition of key farms (the National Trust is responsible for over 90 hill farms in 2015, and owns over 20 per cent of the whole area), open fell and historic houses. The National Trust is a charity which promotes a model of conservation through responsible and inalienable land ownership in the public interest that has been applied in many other countries. In the Lake District, Ruskin had a direct and personal influence on the key founding members of the National Trust in the 1890s. He provided a way of looking at the world – blending social and environmental responsibility – that made the establishment of

the National Trust (and ultimately the National Park) possible. The National Trust is probably the most influential and enduring outcome of his writings and teachings. The subsequent, more universal influence of this concept makes it an outstanding contribution to conservation.

Another strand of conservation action to emerge from experience in the Lake District was the formal designation and protection of lived-in, working landscapes at both national and international levels. The Lake District was at the origin of UK national parks in 1949, and strongly influenced the idea of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Category V protected areas: Protected Landscapes and Seascapes. A third strand is the part played by the English Lake District in the creation of the World Heritage cultural landscape category in 1992.

The English Lake District thus directly inspired the idea of the universal value of scenic and cultural landscape transcending traditional property rights. It is probably the single most influential place in developing thinking about the value of lived-in, working landscapes and their conservation.

THREE INTERTWINING AND INTERDEPENDENT THEMES

The case for Outstanding Universal Value for the Lake District is therefore based on a combination of attributes falling under three intertwining and interdependent themes:

1. A landscape of exceptional beauty, shaped by persistent and distinctive agro-pastoral traditions which give it special character;
2. A landscape which has inspired artistic and literary movements and generated ideas about landscapes that have had global influence and left their physical mark;
3. A landscape which has been the catalyst for key developments in the national and international protection of landscapes.

3.1.b CRITERIA UNDER WHICH INSCRIPTION IS PROPOSED (AND JUSTIFICATION FOR INSCRIPTION UNDER THESE CRITERIA)

The English Lake District is a prime exemplar of several of the cultural landscape categories that are defined in UNESCO's Operational Guidelines. Overall it displays organic evolution which is continuing and it has elements that have been designed and created intentionally. It is a place associated with universally-important ideas about the relationship of humans with landscape and about models of landscape conservation.

The criteria which are proposed for inscribing the English Lake District reflect the three themes of the landscape which have been identified above:

- A landscape of exceptional beauty, shaped by persistent and distinctive agro-pastoral traditions which give it special character;
- A landscape which has inspired artistic and literary movements and generated ideas about landscapes that have had global influence and left their physical mark;

- A landscape which has been the catalyst for key developments in the national and international protection of landscapes.

These three themes are interdependent and intertwined. It is their 'combination' that gives the Lake District its Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural landscape. Since the Outstanding Universal Value of the proposed site lies in a 'combination' of the three themes that have been identified, it is neither possible nor desirable to attempt to match each theme to an individual criterion. Rather, aspects of the combined three themes can be seen to satisfy various criteria, so that relating the character of the Lake District to the criteria set out in the Operational Guidelines is not straightforward.

It is considered that the inter-related themes of the English Lake District landscape well reflect three criteria; the candidate site is therefore proposed as a cultural landscape of Outstanding Universal Value under Criteria (ii), (v) and (vi).

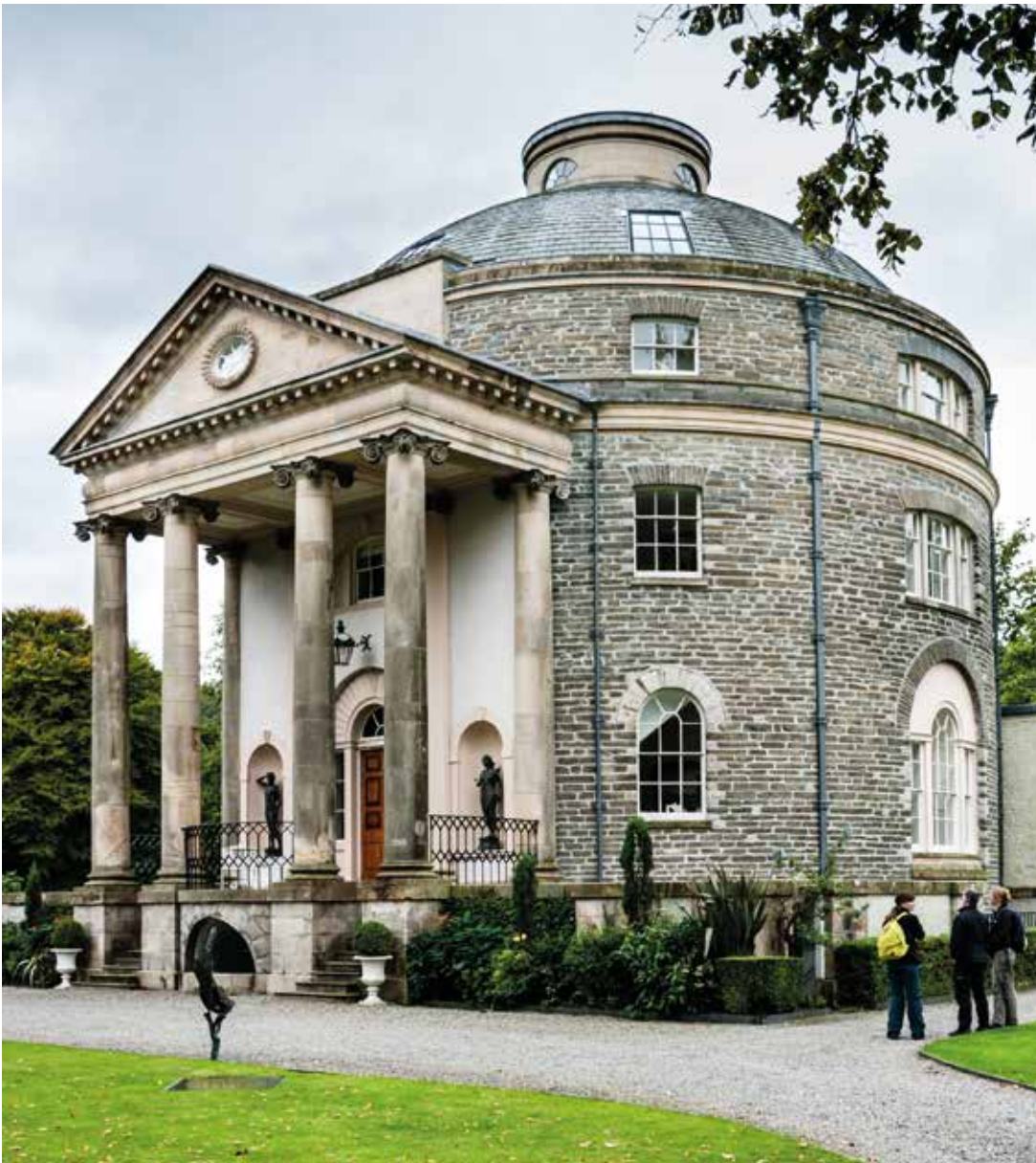


FIGURE 3.2 Belle Isle, built in 1774, has iconic status as both the first house in the Lake District to be built for Picturesque reasons and is also the first cylindrical building of the Picturesque in England. It lies at the heart of a landscape that was substantially modified in the 18th and 19th centuries in order to enhance its landscape beauty.

CRITERION (ii) “Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design”.

The harmonious beauty of the English Lake District is rooted in the vital interaction between an agro-pastoral land use system and the spectacular natural landscape of mountains, valleys and lakes. In the 18th century the quality of the landscape was recognised and celebrated by the Picturesque Movement, based on ideas related to both Italian and Northern European styles of landscape painting. These ideas were applied to the English Lake District in the form of villas and designed features intended further to augment its beauty. The Picturesque values of landscape appreciation were subsequently transformed by Romantic engagement with the English Lake District into a deeper and more balanced appreciation of the significance of landscape, local society and place. This in turn inspired the development of a number of powerful ideas and values including a new relationship between humans and landscape based on emotional engagement, and the universal value of scenic and cultural landscape which transcends traditional property rights. In the English Lake District these values led directly to practical conservation initiatives to protect its scenic and cultural qualities which continue today. These values and initiatives, including the concept of protected areas, have been widely adopted and have had global impact as an important stimulus for landscape conservation.

The interaction between agro-pastoral farming and the natural features of the English Lake District has produced a landscape of great harmonious beauty which in the 18th century attracted the interest of the Picturesque Movement.

The high esteem of the Picturesque Movement for the Lake District was influenced by aesthetic values derived from both the Italian classical landscape tradition and the more ‘naturalistic’ Northern European style of the 18th century. By the end of the 18th century the increasing knowledge and popularity of the Lake District, combined with the nationalistic impulses stimulated by political developments in Europe, led to the area being increasingly regarded as a ‘landscape of nation’.

The interchange of the aesthetic values of the Picturesque with the English Lake District landscape was given physical form from as early as 1688 in physical additions and improvements which have added further significance and value to the cultural landscape. This was followed in the 18th and 19th centuries by the construction of villas and the creation of landscape gardens by wealthy incomers to the area interested primarily in the qualities of scenic landscape.

The English Lake District was at the heart of the English version of Romanticism, taking inspiration both from the area’s scenic landscape beauty and its farming culture. The key ideas derived from this Romantic engagement with the Lake District included a new relationship between humans and landscape based on emotion; the possibility of a sustainable relationship between humans and landscape; the value of landscape

for restoring the human spirit; and the universal, intrinsic value of scenic and cultural landscape which transcends traditional notions of property. The idea of the 'harmony' of humanity and nature identified by Wordsworth in Lake District agro-pastoralism is today considered as a significant early expression of what is now universally called environmental thinking.

John Ruskin, an internationally-influential Lake District voice from later in the 19th century, followed Wordsworth in drawing inspiration from the landscape. Ruskin was a very powerful influence on a range of subjects including the development of socialism, architecture, the Arts and Crafts movement, the emergence of environmentalism and a diverse range of other significant thinkers at the time and after his death. Ruskin's ideas on the conservation of ancient monuments and buildings, which emphasised the importance of the associated 'cultural context', also extended to landscape.

CRITERION (v) "Be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change."

Land use in the English Lake District derives from a long history of agro-pastoralism. The landscape which has developed is now also a focus for land management for conservation purposes. This landscape is an unrivalled example of a northern European upland agro-pastoral system based on the rearing of cattle and native breeds of sheep, shaped and adapted for over 1,000 years to its spectacular mountain environment. This land use continues today in the face of social, economic and environmental pressures. From the late 18th century a new land use developed in parts of the English Lake District, designed to augment its beauty through the addition of villas and designed landscapes.

Conservation land management in the English Lake District developed directly from the early conservation initiatives of the 18th and 19th centuries. The primary aims have traditionally been and continue to be to maintain the scenic and harmonious beauty of the cultural landscape; to support and maintain traditional agro-pastoral farming; and to provide access and opportunities for people to enjoy the special qualities of the area and have developed in recent times to include enhancement and resilience of the natural environment.

Together these surviving attributes of land use form a distinctive cultural landscape which is outstanding in its harmonious beauty, quality, integrity and on-going utility and its demonstration of human interaction with the environment. The English Lake District and its current land use and management exemplify the practical application of the powerful ideas about the value of landscape which originated here and which directly stimulated a landscape conservation movement of global importance.

The writings of Wordsworth, Ruskin and others about the significance of landscape and the need to protect it had great influence on contemporaries in the United States and beyond, and the influence of their writing on the pioneers of national parks in North America, including John Muir, is well documented. The conservation movement which developed in the Lake District, and the values upon which it is based, have had global influence as the basis for the concept of protected landscapes at an international level and for the development of the globally-important conservation initiatives described under Criterion (vi).

The living cultural landscape of the English Lake District is an outstanding example of the "combined works of man and nature" that has persisted for around 1,000 years, adapting to social, economic and environmental pressures. At its root this exceptional landscape has been shaped by a tradition of agro-pastoral farming and local industry, as a complex and resilient response to the challenges of its marginal upland environment. The distinctive agro-pastoral system of the Lake District is underpinned by a customary historic form of farm tenure which has evolved, possibly from early medieval, Norse times, to provide a higher degree of independence and security for farmers than in most other Northern European landscapes. 'Landlord flocks' of native 'hefted' sheep tied to the farms that are part of the tenure, provide continuity which is rare elsewhere, and allow communal shepherding without fences and walls on the largest area of common grazing in Northern Europe. The system is now managed through commoners' associations which regulate traditional rights and ways of farming, of sheep, native to the English Lake District.

The landscape is a remarkable reflection of this agro-pastoral system and its gradual evolution over centuries. This includes the pattern of stone-walled fields for grain and hay in the valley bottoms (inbye), the stock enclosures on the fellsides (intakes) and open fell grazing, as well as the disposition of farm houses and buildings built in a distinctive vernacular style, woodlands and individual trees. These are all testimony to what Wordsworth saw as a proud and independent community of 'statesmen'.

The continuing vitality of this farming culture is a key part of the Lake District's quality and significance. Key facets include the pattern of family farm tenure with relatively high owner-occupancy; the transfer of knowledge and skills over generations; shepherds' guides and breed societies; shepherds' meets at which stray sheep are returned to owners; agricultural shows; and the survival of local dialect, remnant language, family names, local place-knowledge and traditions. These qualities contribute to the very high authenticity and integrity of the distinctive agro-pastoral system that has shaped the English Lake District landscape and clearly demonstrate the continuing vitality of that landscape.

A further feature of traditional land use has been the development of industries based on the minerals and stone, woodland, water power and agricultural products which were available locally.

The landscape of extraordinarily harmonious beauty that was 'discovered' in the Lake District in the mid-18th century was the product of centuries of this persistent, distinctive, agro-pastoral farming, combined with small-scale industry. Picturesque interest led to the development of a new land use, relatively limited in physical extent,

but of great social and cultural importance. This new use focussed on embellishing the perceived beauty of the area with the addition of villas, gardens and other improvements particularly in specific areas considered to be of great scenic beauty (the head of Windermere, the Vale of Grasmere, Derwent Water and the west side of Ullswater).

The accumulation of villas and their surrounding gardens and 'improved' landscape in these areas gradually transformed the dominant land use and visual appearance and character in some valleys. The more ordered layout of formal architecture, exotic trees and vegetation overlaid the landscape of farms and fields that developed over much longer periods of time reflecting functional and not aesthetic principles. The ensemble of villas and landscape gardens in the Lake District is important as a group. Significant early 19th century villas and gardens display design principles advocated by Wordsworth, while the late 19th century group of fine Arts and Crafts villas on Windermere include designs by Voysey and Baillie Scott.

The tradition of cultural tourism which developed from the second half of the 18th century has also had a significant physical impact on the landscape. The early stages of this can still be seen in the survival of 18th century hotels in settlements including Ambleside and Grasmere. It is even more clearly shown in the expansion of the larger Lake District settlements including Keswick, and Bowness/Windermere, with their distinctive 19th century hotel and villa developments which followed the arrival of the railway. From the late 19th century, the Lake District became a destination for walking holidays, especially for people working in the factories and mills of Lancashire to the south, often stimulated by Wordsworth's poetry and a desire to experience the landscape which inspired it.

Traditional land use in the English Lake District is thus an integration of a long-lived system of agro-pastoralism and industry with later landscape changes resulting from the recognition and celebration of the harmonious beauty of the area, including access to it, all of which is today protected by models of conservation which it inspired. As such, it is an outstanding example of a traditional land use which has evolved in order to survive and prosper. It has done so because the appreciation of its beauty resulted in physical changes to the landscape now integral to that landscape.

CRITERION (vi) "Be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance."

A number of ideas of universal significance are directly and tangibly associated with the English Lake District. These are the recognition of harmonious landscape beauty through the Picturesque Movement; a new relationship between people and landscape built around an emotional response to it, derived initially from Romantic engagement; the idea that landscape has a value and that everyone has a right to appreciate and enjoy it; and the need to protect and manage landscape. Three conservation models of international significance for the establishment of the international conservation movement have developed in the Lake District:

the origin of the National Trust movement; the origin of the concept of legally-protected cultural landscapes including national parks; and influence on the creation of the World Heritage cultural landscape category.

These interrelated ideas all emerged from a human response to the Lake District landscape. Many have left their physical mark contributing to the harmonious beauty of a natural landscape modified by a persisting agro-pastoral system (and supported in many cases by conservation initiatives): villas and Picturesque and later landscape improvements; the extent of, and quality of land management within, the National Trust property in the English Lake District; the absence of railways and other modern industrial developments as a result of the success of the conservation movement. All these ideas that have derived from the interaction between people and landscape are manifest in the English Lake District today.

The key ideas of universal significance which are associated directly with the Lake District landscape are:

1. THE RECOGNITION OF HARMONIOUS LANDSCAPE BEAUTY THROUGH THE PICTURESQUE MOVEMENT

The English Lake District's spectacular lake and mountain scenery and traditional farming, was 'discovered' as a place of sublime and picturesque beauty in the mid-18th century and quickly became the focus for visits by the English educated classes. William Gilpin elaborated a self-conscious idea of landscape which challenged visitors to 'appreciate it' in particular ways which were different to the European aesthetics which had stimulated the initial interest.



FIGURE 3.3 Judging of Herdwick tups at the Eskdale show. Eskdale hosts the premier annual Herdwick show on the last Saturday in September and the Herdwick Tup show in May, each year. The competition between Herdwick farmers to produce high quality tups is an important part of maintaining the health and survival of this native Lake District breed.

The Picturesque 'discovery' of the Lake District stimulated the deliberate addition of features designed to improve, or better appreciate its acknowledged beauty. These include villas, formal gardens, Picturesque tree planting, arboreta, modified waterfalls and viewing stations. This ensemble of villas and landscape gardens has a key role in the development and character of the Lake District cultural landscape. Its cultural significance includes the early influence of Wordsworth on the design of both villas and gardens and the building of significant Arts and Crafts style villas at the end of the 19th century.

2. A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEOPLE AND LANDSCAPE BUILT AROUND AN EMOTIONAL RESPONSE TO IT, DERIVED INITIALLY FROM ROMANTIC ENGAGEMENT

Romanticism elevated emotion as an authentic source of aesthetic experience, placing emphasis on such feelings as apprehension, horror and terror, and awe – especially when confronted by the sublime beauty of nature. In Britain, the Romantic engagement with landscape and its influence, ideas and legacies, was- stimulated disproportionately by the Lake District landscape and its farming society, and included new ideas centred on notions of democracy and individual rights.

In his writing and poetry, which were inspired by Lake District landscape and farming society, William Wordsworth introduced new ideas including the psychological complexity of the human mind; the emergence of personality formed through childhood experience; human relationship with a world that is no longer safe and ordered; and the potential harmonious co-existence of man and nature. The revolutionary and innovative qualities and universal importance of these ideas in the 18th century are now less easy to appreciate given today's widespread acceptance of such principles.

Some of Wordsworth's thinking established the philosophical basis for the early conservation movement that developed in the Lake District. His idea of the 'harmony' of man and nature, based on his observations of Lake District agro-pastoralism, is now considered as a significant early expression of environmental thinking. Wordsworth emphasised that landscape was the product of generations of human culture and drew attention to the aspects of this culture which had disappeared or were on the verge of extinction. This is a key concept in the conservation of cultural heritage globally and was an important influence on later conservationists including John Ruskin.

3. THE IDEA THAT LANDSCAPE HAS A VALUE AND THAT EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT TO APPRECIATE AND ENJOY IT

A further universally-significant legacy of the Romantic engagement with the Lake District landscape was the concept of the legitimacy of wider public interest and participation in scenic landscape, including the Lake District. Wordsworth's aspiration for the Lake District as "sort of national property, in which every man has a right and interest who has an eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy", provided the philosophical basis for 19th century objections to railway development and for the purchase of land in order to protect scenic beauty.

This notion of legitimate wider public interest in landscape also combined with the Romantic emphasis on outdoor activity and experience – principally walking –

which was a major focus for both Wordsworth and Coleridge, not least as a stimulus for poetic writing. The opportunities for physical and spiritual refreshment, based on the development of these ideas in the English Lake District, became highly valued towards the end of the 19th century, in part as a reaction to the effects of the industrial revolution in Britain. This led directly to increased interest in the Lake District as a destination for walking holidays and through this to support for the idea of National Parks in the UK, whose twin purposes would be preservation of natural beauty and promotion of access and opportunities for quiet enjoyment.

4. THE NEED TO PROTECT AND MANAGE LANDSCAPE

The significant ideas outlined above, deriving from both the Picturesque and Romantic recognition of the value of the English Lake District landscape, led directly to concerns to prevent its damage from inappropriate development. Objections in the mid-18th century to felling of mature trees led in the 19th century to objections to industrial development and in the 20th century to opposition to conifer plantations and threats to traditional agro-pastoral farming.

The key conservation battle in the Lake District was over the Manchester Corporation's proposals for a dam and reservoir at Thirlmere in 1870s. This brought together many of the impulses and concerns which had already been stimulated by the Lake District landscape – its significant beauty and its value as expressed through Romantic engagement – which crystallised, in this instance, to form two clear strands of the conservation movement which have had international influence. The first was the founding of the National Trust and the second was the formation of campaigning groups which would have a crucial role, based on their experience of protecting the Lake District, in the movement for UK national parks.

In fact, three globally-significant models of landscape protection emerged from the early conservation initiatives in the Lake District, all which had their roots in the fight to protect the Lake District's cultural landscape:

a) The National Trust Model

The origins of the National Trust can be traced directly to the nominated Property and the battle over the construction of the Thirlmere reservoir which was led by a number of pupils and followers of Ruskin, some of whom lived in the English Lake District. These included Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley, the vicar of Crosthwaite, and Robert Somervell, a Kendal businessman, along with others including Octavia Hill, who 1895 founded the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty. The Trust's main purpose was, and remains, the purchase of land to be preserved in perpetuity. Today the National Trust owns over 20 per cent of the English Lake District.

The National Trust has become the leading landscape and heritage conservation body in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Scotland has a separate equivalent trust), and has also been the model that has inspired the establishment of National Trusts or similar non-governmental organisations in over 70 countries. This growing worldwide network of similar trusts has found a global voice through the establishment of the International National Trusts Organisation in 2007.

b) The Protected Landscapes Model

Wordsworth's proposal for the English Lake District as "sort of national property" is often cited as the first expression of the idea of national parks. The first national parks, in the United States and South Africa, were designated in order to protect wilderness areas.

In contrast, the UK national park model involves the formal designation of lived-in, working landscapes for protection. As a result of the recognition of the importance of the scenic beauty of the Lake District landscape and the long history of the campaigns to preserve it, the English Lake District became central to the movement to create national parks in the UK. In 1883, following the Thirlmere defeat, Rawnsley established the Lake District Defence Society to continue the battle against threats to the area and in 1934 this was succeeded by the Friends of the Lake District. In the years following the First World War there was a growing move towards the establishment of national parks in the UK with the Friends of the Lake District at its forefront.

This became reality through the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, and the designation of the Lake District as a national park in 1951. Although there are, of course, earlier examples of national parks internationally, the UK parks were the first complex, inhabited cultural landscapes. In addition, the comprehensive national system of protected landscapes established through the 1949 Act in the UK was the first of its kind in any country and was based on a nationwide assessment of potential areas for national park designation. The international significance of the category of protected cultural landscape represented by the Lake District was underlined through the adoption by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) of the Lake District Declaration (1987) which reinforced the importance within IUCN of its Category V Protected Areas (known as Protected Landscapes or Seascapes). This approach to conservation is now widely promoted by IUCN and adopted in many parts of the world, both complementing other stricter forms of nature protection and recognising the importance of cultural influences in landscapes that are rich in natural values.



FIGURE 3.4 'Ullswater, Cumberland' by J. M. W. Turner (c. 1835). This watercolour was based on sketched made by Turner during visits to the Lake District going back to 1797. The depiction is not very topographically accurate and displays a glowing light and colour influenced by Turner's visits to Italy and Switzerland. John Ruskin enthused about this work, "The blocks of stone which form the foreground of the Ulleswater [sic] are, I believe, the finest example in the world of the finished drawing of rocks which have been subjected to violent aqueous action." In 2005 the painting was bought by the Wordsworth Trust for £300,000 with help from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and other donors.

c) Influence on the World Heritage Cultural Landscape model

It was the nominations of the Lake District as a World Heritage Site in 1986 and 1989, both of which were deferred, which led directly to a debate within the World Heritage Committee about how to recognise cultural landscapes with Outstanding Universal Value. From this review eventually emerged the adoption by the World Heritage Committee in 1992 of the World Heritage Cultural Landscape category of cultural sites.

The World Heritage Convention is now the only international legal instrument which recognises and protects cultural landscapes across the whole world. Again there is a direct link back to the English Lake District.

3.1.c STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

DOES THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT INCLUDE ALL THE ELEMENTS NECESSARY TO EXPRESS ITS OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE?

The English Lake District nominated World Heritage property is a single, discrete, mountainous area. All the radiating valleys of the English Lake District are contained within it. The property is of sufficient size to contain all the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value needed to demonstrate the processes that make this a unique and globally-significant property. The boundary of the property is the Lake District National Park boundary as designated in 1951 and is established on the basis of both topographic features and local government boundaries. The attributes of Outstanding Universal Value are in generally good condition.

Risks affecting the site include the impact of long-term climate change, economic pressures on the system of traditional agro-pastoral farming and development pressures from tourism. These risks are managed through established systems of land management overseen by members of the Lake District National Park Partnership and through a comprehensive system of development management administered by the National Park Authority.

The proposed English Lake District World Heritage property is a coherent and complete whole, containing all the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value needed to demonstrate the processes that make this a unique and globally-significant place. Each of the 13 valleys in the Lake District has a distinctive character which is derived from its particular topography and history, reflected in the varied distribution and character of the evidence for the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (Figure 3.12).

These attributes include: the physical arrangements of agro-pastoral farming; the villages and market towns which serviced the wider landscape initially for agriculture and industry, and later also for tourism; the presence or absence of villas and designed landscape elements; and the successes of the landscape conservation movement. The 13 Lake District valleys and their surrounding uplands combine to form a coherent cultural landscape, linked through physical attributes (such as common fell grazing, the bloodlines of the indigenous Herdwick and Rough Fell sheep, the distinctive vernacular architecture of farm buildings, villages and towns), and intangible attributes (the longstanding customs and traditions of Lake District upland farming, surviving dialect, the continuing notion of the 'English Lake District' as a sublime and Picturesque landscape, and the Lake District as the object of an early and universally-significant conservation movement). This last attribute has resulted in the protection of the Lake

District as a national park and the 1951 national park boundary includes sufficient evidence of all the tangible and intangible attributes which demonstrate the Outstanding Universal Value of the English Lake District cultural landscape.

The proposed area for the World Heritage Site is coterminous with the National Park boundary and is of adequate size to ensure the complete presentation of the processes and features which convey its significance. It demonstrates all of the elements of a unique fusion of traditional agro-pastoralism, later landscape enhancement, a tradition of tourism and outdoor activity, artistic activities and the manifestations of the conservation movement that developed to protect the Lake District. The relevant tangible and intangible attributes demonstrating Outstanding Universal Value are demonstrably whole and complete with regard to nomination under Criteria (ii), (v) and (vi).



FIGURE 3.5 Boredale is a small side-valley south of the main Ullswater valley, showing a typical Lakeland field pattern of stone-walled inbye fields in the valley bottom, intake fields on the valley slopes and open fell grazing on the fell tops. There was a deer park here in the medieval period and red deer still roam the fells of this part of the Lake District.

ARE THE ATTRIBUTES OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE SUFFICIENTLY INTACT TO CONVEY THE OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE?

The attributes that define the Outstanding Universal Value of the Lake District display a remarkable intactness across this unique landscape. The physical features of the agro-pastoral farming system have developed and survived for over 1000 years. The native sheep breeds are still highly significant in the farming regime. Some of the field walls in use today can be traced back to the 13th century and the majority were constructed by the end of the 17th century. They have been maintained through continued use and the practice of traditional skills such as dry stone walling.

Many of the farmhouses date from the 17th century and have been maintained with their original features intact through a combination of tradition and practice, National Trust ownership, planning controls applied by the National Park Authority, and financial support from various sources.

Most of the villas, gardens and formal landscapes of the Lake District are intact and in good condition either as a result of private ownership and investment or ownership by the National Trust and National Park Authority. However, a survey of the 18th century viewing stations carried out in 2009 revealed that their views are obscured in many cases through tree growth. This issue will need to be addressed in the future.

The essence of the harmonious beauty of the English Lake District landscape, combining natural and agro-pastoral features and later designed landscape has also been maintained through traditional management, conservation initiatives and planning control.

The English Lake District, like other landscapes, has certainly changed over time. However here, more than in most other places, a special effort has been made to protect the key characteristics of the landscape and to resist unwelcome intrusions.



FIGURE 3.6 Rydal Mount and garden. This was the home of William Wordsworth from 1813 to 1850. It was here that he wrote many of his poems and revised and improved much of his earlier works. The property is owned and managed by the Wordsworth family and has been open to the public since 1970.

DOES THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT SUFFER FROM THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT AND/OR NEGLECT?

The Nominated Site is generally in good physical condition although some specific vulnerabilities are described in detail in Section 4. The protection afforded to the English Lake District is derived from a range of mechanisms described in Section 5 and include planning controls, land ownership by conservation bodies such as the National Trust,

and protective legal designations. These are all important factors which help to ensure that the key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value are protected.

The harmonious beauty of the Lake District landscape is a product of the interaction of agro-pastoralism with its spectacular natural setting. One of the key threats to this is posed by the impact on the landscape of extreme weather events, possibly caused by climate change, including flooding, soil erosion and land slips. These represent a serious threat both to the agro-pastoral economy of the Lake District and the appearance of the area. The Partnership's Plan (Management Plan; Nomination Volume 4) for the nominated Property provides a framework for guiding decisions on land use and adapting to climate change. Specific actions are being delivered to reduce in the short-term the impact of flooding through a variety of schemes including slowing the speed of rainwater running off the fells into the natural drainage system and in the long-term, reducing carbon consumption and restoring peat deposits.

The integrity and sustainability of the system of traditional agro-pastoral farming in the Lake District is potentially vulnerable to economic pressure and diseases such as Foot and Mouth. This could impact adversely on the physical attributes of farming (including early field systems, common land, and local breeds of sheep) and intangible attributes (including local traditions, shepherds meets and shows). The Partnership's Plan seeks to address this vulnerability by using the platform of the 25-strong Lake District Partnership (Table 5.5) to pursue a variety of strategies and actions. These include the development of new markets for added-value products, establishing and delivering payment for public benefits such as carbon storage and supporting the take up of available grant funding. Lake District agro-pastoral farming is currently in generally good condition as the system still has economic support from grant schemes under the European Common Agricultural Policy. However, reduction or removal of this support or changes in markets and global economics could potentially increase vulnerability.

The medieval buildings and traditional stone-built farmhouses of the Lake District are vulnerable to the deterioration of their fabric where there is lack of investment. At present the historic building stock is in relatively good condition with only 87 of 1771 Listed Buildings at Risk. This is partly due to the massive financial investment in traditional farm buildings that was achieved under the Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme between 1993 and 2014 (£7.8 million between 1998 and 2004). The economic sustainability of the farming system is obviously a factor here. Maintenance programmes and monitoring by the Lake District National Park Authority, Historic England and the National Trust also help to maintain the good condition of the historic buildings in the Lake District.

Archaeological remains of all periods and types are vulnerable to stock erosion and vegetation growth including bracken. The Lake District National Park Authority Archaeological Service has secured grants through agri-environment schemes and the Heritage Lottery Fund to carry out conservation works to archaeological sites at risk. To manage these sites in the long-term, the National Park Authority, in partnership with Historic England and the National Trust, has established the Lake District Archaeology Volunteer Network. A large number of volunteers monitor archaeological sites and carry out conservation work including removal of bracken and other vegetation, thus ensuring that sites are conserved in good condition.

The Lake District towns are busy service centres both for traditional economic activities including farming and for the substantial tourist industry which has developed in the area. This inevitably brings pressure for new development which can also have potential impacts on other important attributes including villas, early tourist infrastructure, the residences and burial places of Romantic figures and landscape with literary and artistic associations. The Lake District has a population density of just 17.8 people per square kilometre, compared with the UK average of 413 people per square kilometre. In contrast the Lake District attracts in the region of 15.5 million visitors every year.

The nominated Property therefore has a mature resident and visitor infrastructure and built environment which is successfully managed through a local development management process, administered by the National Park Authority, and which is based on national legislation and local policies including the Lake District Local Plan. Visitor management plans are incorporated into the Partnership's Plan and site specific plans for key visitor facilities help to manage and mitigate the potential adverse effects of the pressure of visitor numbers. Conservation Area management plans also help to prevent the deterioration of market towns and villages where they apply.

Opportunities for quiet enjoyment and spiritual refreshment are also vulnerable to tourism and other development pressures. However, away from the busier towns and villages of the central Lake District, there are still many opportunities to experience the tranquillity of the area. This attribute is protected through the strategic planning system, through assessment of planning applications on a case by case basis, and by implementing visitor management strategies.

The key attributes associated with the development of the model for protecting cultural landscapes including National Trust ownership and covenanted land, ownership by other protective trusts, are potentially vulnerable to economic pressures on the responsible organisations. Other potential threats may come from renewed pressure



FIGURE 3.7 Fell Foot Farm, Little Langdale, Set at the foot of Wrynose Pass, this substantial early 17th century farmhouse, cruck cottage and barn, was owned in the 18th century by Fletcher Fleming of Rydal and was for a time an inn in the 19th century. It is still one of the key Herdwick farms in the Lake District. A substantial earthwork behind the farm may be the remains of a Norse 'Thing' or meeting mound dating from the 10th century.

for commercial forestry or wide scale encouragement of broad-leaved woodland in inappropriate locations. But in all these cases, the Partnership's Plan, which is agreed by the 25 key partner organisations responsible for managing the English Lake District, provides a framework for managing, protecting and conserving the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated Site.

3.1.d STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

As an evolving cultural landscape, the English Lake District conveys its Outstanding Universal Value not only through individual attributes but also in the pattern of their distribution amongst the 13 constituent valleys and their combination to produce an over-arching pattern and system of land use. The key attributes relate to a unique natural landscape which has been shaped by a distinctive and persistent system of agro-pastoral agriculture and local industry with the later overlay of distinguished villas, gardens and formal landscapes influenced by the Picturesque movements; the resulting harmonious beauty of the landscape; the stimulus of the English Lake District for artistic creativity and globally-influential ideas about landscape; the early origins and ongoing influence of the tourist industry and outdoor movement; and the physical legacy of the conservation movement that developed to protect the English Lake District.



FIGURE 3.8 Rydal Hall and park from the air. The area of the former medieval deer park can be seen beyond the hall in the upper Rydal valley. The Picturesque parkland surrounding Rydal Hall was developed by Sir Daniel Fleming in the mid-17th century and in 1909 the famous landscape gardener, Thomas Mawson, added a formal garden on the south side of the hall.

AGRO-PASTORAL SYSTEM

High authenticity in agricultural traditions, techniques and management systems is maintained in the Lake District because the physical agro-pastoral system is underpinned by unique social and cultural processes which survive largely intact. The landscape pattern and key elements of the socio-economic system that Wordsworth observed in the early 19th century still exists in remarkably good condition today in a way that is rare in an international context. These tangible attributes of agro-pastoral farming are the physical manifestation of an intangible culture of shepherds' meets, shepherds' guides, smit and lug marks on sheep (ways of distinguishing ownership), and collective gathering practices that remain very much alive, utilising one of the largest

extents of common grazing in northern Europe. Cumbrian dialect is strong in the Lake District, particularly amongst farming families and includes remnants of extinct language, for example in the terms used for counting sheep.

This continuity and consistency of traditional farming practices and land management methods as a form of local knowledge has maintained the landscape effectively in the same way for at least 400 years. The survival and authenticity of this agro-pastoral landscape have been facilitated in large measure by the sympathetic management of farms and land owned by the National Trust, together with the statutory function of the National Park Authority to preserve the special qualities of the area, and supportive European Union agri-environmental schemes.

The physical elements of this system, including the buildings (in a distinctive local vernacular form and style), walls and pattern of inbye, intake and open fell grazing, survive in a clearly defined and easily recognisable pattern that still operates today.

The continuing distinctive system of agro-pastoral agriculture is therefore wholly authentic in terms of form and design, materials and substance, use and function, and its traditions, techniques and management systems.

LOCAL INDUSTRIES

Few of the local Industries are still active. The production of charcoal and other woodland products still survives on a small scale and is being encouraged through grant schemes and training in relevant skills in order to maintain cultural traditions and to continue the practice of coppice management of woodland in order to maintain biodiversity. Slate quarrying is still an active industry in the Lake District and there are currently around five quarries along with a limited number where stone is being re-worked from spoil tips. The availability of local slate is important for the maintaining the character and authenticity of local vernacular buildings. The archaeological remains of past industries constitute an important physical element of the landscape.

There is therefore relatively good authenticity in terms of form and design, materials and substance, and, to some extent, of use and function, and traditions, techniques and management systems of past and present industry in the English Lake District.

TOWNS AND SETTLEMENTS

In the past the farming settlement pattern of individual farmsteads and small hamlets was complemented by larger villages, often reflecting the employment needs of local industry and market towns which provided services for the area. The arrival of the railway at Windermere and Keswick in the 19th century and the advent of mass tourism led to an expansion of key towns to provide the requisite accommodation and facilities. These include Windermere (which after 1847 developed from the village of Birthwaite), Keswick, Ambleside, Bowness and Grasmere. The 19th century development was generally achieved as an addition to the existing settlements and thus the medieval street patterns of Keswick and Ambleside survive alongside the many earlier buildings of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Towns and other settlements in the Lake District retain their historic character and are authentic in terms of form and design, materials and substance, and use and function even though some of them have seen significant development in the last half century.

EARLY TOURISM

Hotel architecture in the English Lake District has its own distinctive style, involving the use of local materials such as stone and slate and incorporating features such as Italianate towers. This has become an important element of the historic character of the English Lake District towns and settlements and, as with earlier buildings, these are afforded protected through statutory designation, planning policy and Conservation Area designation. The majority of hotels are still performing the function for which they were constructed.

Other tourist services which maintain traditional style and equipment, at least from the 19th century, include the various pleasure boat services on the lakes which followed soon after the arrival of the railway. The Lake District also remains an important location for the ongoing development of the outdoor movement and has the highest concentration of youth hostels in the UK together with many school and college outdoor centres and climbing huts.

VILLAS, GARDENS AND FORMAL LANDSCAPES

Many of the key 18th and 19th century villas, designed landscapes and gardens survive in the English Lake District both in private ownership and through ownership by the National Trust or other charitable or arts trusts. Their character and authenticity are preserved through statutory designation, good management and planning controls operated by the National Park Authority. Examples include the repairs to the house on Belle Isle, which was damaged by fire in the 1996 and restored using authentic materials and traditional techniques according to the original design, and the restoration of the Arts and Crafts style house at Blackwell by the Lakeland Arts Trust. Those houses which are privately-owned still fulfil the use and function for which they were constructed. Those in the ownership of the National Trust also demonstrate continuity through their careful maintenance and the way in which they still enable visitors to enjoy the harmonious beauty of the English Lake District landscape.

SITES AND COLLECTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PICTURESQUE AND ROMANTIC MOVEMENTS

Many of the views of scenic landscape beauty which were identified in the 18th and 19th centuries and captured in paintings or prints or described in literature survive as a result of traditional land management or conservation actions by responsible organisations. The landscape has clearly changed in detail but the overall feel has been retained or could be restored in some cases through vegetation management. Examples include the spectacular panorama of lake and fells viewed from the head of Derwent Water; the prospect of the Vale of Grasmere from Loughrigg Terrace; the view of Glencoyne Park and the head of Ullswater from Gowbarrow; and the outlook over Tarn Hows with the backdrop of the Conistone Fells. The survival of all these attributes is assisted by the policies and management of the National Park Authority working with other key

organisations in the Lake District National Park Partnership, including the National Trust and Friends of the Lake District.

Many residences of the Lake District poets survive. Dove Cottage is owned and managed by the Wordsworth Trust. The National Trust owns Wordsworth's former residence at Allan Bank and the Wordsworth family still owns and manages his last home at Rydal Mount.

The views of the English Lake District landscape which provided artistic inspiration in the past are still authentic to this day. Their principal characteristics survive and they continue to inspire contemporary artists.

THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT

The conservation movement which developed over the last two centuries to protect the Lake District has also helped to ensure the landscape's survival and authenticity. The results of the early conservation battles are evident in the landscape in the absence of rail infrastructure in the central Lake District, the restriction of conifer plantations in the majority of the Lake District and in the survival of agro-pastoral agriculture in its traditional form.

The farms and land purchased by concerned conservationists, including G. M. Trevelyan and Beatrix Potter (Mrs Heelis), in order to preserve the traditional agro-pastoral system, still survive in authentic operation as part of the wider National Trust estate in the Lake District. The conservation ethic enshrined in public policy in the Lake District and embodied in the establishment of the National Park Authority to preserve the special qualities of the area, has underpinned the survival and authenticity of the landscape. This has been achieved through the protection of craft skills, the use of local materials and the encouragement of traditional techniques of land management, including local agro-pastoral agriculture and woodland management. It has ensured that there is a high degree of authenticity across the whole of the landscape. Without intervention from the pioneers of the conservation movement, without the embodiment of a conservation ethic into public policy, and without the active preservation of local skills and indigenous knowledge, the authenticity of the Lake District would have been seriously compromised.

SPIRIT AND FEELING OF THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT

The English Lake District maintains a tradition of using local materials and traditional techniques of building and maintenance of the landscape. High authenticity is demonstrated through the on-going use of local stone and slate in the construction of farm buildings and walls. This varies from valley to valley according to the local geology and there are still a small number of active quarries in the Lake District. Important traditional skills, such as riving slate to produce the traditional roofing materials for local housing, are still practised.

There is clear evidence from the thousands of visitors who flock to the Lake District each year that its harmonious beauty continues to inspire the human spirit. The Lake District has a strong sense of place and the distinctive local system of agro-pastoralism is underpinned by a robust sense of local identity and pride which is necessary for the operation and maintenance of a hand-built landscape in a marginal setting.

The English Lake District landscape has inspired visitors from the 18th century until the present and its authenticity of spirit and feeling is intimately bound to the Romantic ideas of self-discovery, inner response and the inspiration of cultural landscape that developed in the Lake District. This has resulted in the English Lake District becoming a globally-acknowledged and genuinely inclusive site for outdoor recreation, personal development and spiritual refreshment.



FIGURE 3.9 Watercolour by Beatrix Potter of Squirrel Nutkin sailing to Owl Island (from 'The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin', 1903). Between 1885, when she was 19, and 1907, Beatrix Potter spent nine summer holidays at Lingholm and one at Fawcett Park, the two stately homes whose estates now occupy most of the north western side of Derwent Water. The woods around Lingholm were – and still are – the home of red squirrels and Beatrix sketched them many times in the summer of 1901 while working on the backgrounds for 'The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin' ©Fredrick Warne & Co.2015.

3.1.e PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

As a National Park, designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and subsequent legislation, the English Lake District has the highest level of landscape protection afforded under UK law. Over 20 per cent of the site is owned and managed by the National Trust which also has influence over a further two per cent of the site through legal covenants. The National Park Authority owns around four per cent of the site and other members of the Lake District National Park Partnership, including the Forestry Commission and United Utilities Ltd, own a further 16 per cent. A substantial number of individual cultural and natural sites within the English Lake District are designated and have legal protection.

The Lake District National Park Partnership has adopted the bid for World Heritage nomination. This provides long-term assurance of management through a World Heritage Forum (formally a sub-group of the Partnership). The National Park Authority has created a post of World Heritage Co-ordinator and will manage and monitor implementation of the Management Plan on behalf of the Partnership. The Management Plan will be reviewed every five years. A communications plan has been developed in order to inform residents and visitors of the World Heritage bid and this will be developed and extended if the site is inscribed. The Management Plan seeks to address the long term challenges faced by the property including threats faced by climate change, development pressures, changing agricultural practices and diseases, and tourism.



FIGURE 3.10 National Trust staff repairing a stone wall near Hartsop in the Ullswater valley. Stone walling is a traditional skill much prized by farmers and necessary in order to maintain the functionality of the agro-pastoral landscape.

The English Lake District is a National Park, designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and subsequent legislation, and has the highest level of landscape protection afforded under UK law. This includes substantial protection regarding land use planning and proposed new development. There is also a robust and effective system of legal protection afforded to the substantial number of designated natural and cultural features within the Lake District, a number of which are attributes

of Outstanding Universal Value. This includes the protection of cultural assets designated as Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, and natural assets such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Areas of Conservation.

The production of a National Park Management Plan, reviewed and updated every five years, is required for national parks in England under the Environment Act 1995.

Since 2010, the statutory management plan (the 'Partnership's Plan') has been prepared by the Lake District National Park Partnership, whose 25 key stakeholders are committed to the protection and management of the Lake District. This multi-agency approach maximises the effectiveness of the Plan and its delivery. The Partnership can demonstrate a successful track record of preparing and delivering Management Plans across the nominated Site, including monitoring its condition. The current arrangements for developing and implementing the Management Plan provide a high degree of confidence for the effectiveness of established management systems.

The Lake District National Park Partnership has formally adopted the nomination of the Lake District for World Heritage inscription and has combined the Partnership's Plan with the Management Plan for the candidate World Heritage site. A Management Plan for 2015 – 2020 has been therefore been developed as part of the nomination dossier (Volume 4). This includes the requirements for managing both the World Heritage site and the National Park. It describes an integrated approach to management incorporating the aims and measures necessary to realise the protection and conservation of World Heritage attributes and National Park special qualities, as well as the use and sustainable development of the Site. The requirement to protect the attributes of the cultural landscape which define its Outstanding Universal Value is central to management of the nominated Site.

The Lake District National Park Partnership was established in 2006 to deliver a shared vision for the Lake District. The Partnership's 25 component organisations own approximately 40 per cent of the nominated Property, and fulfil a number of statutory functions. These 25 organisations have made a long term commitment to protect and manage the nominated Property, including ensuring the long term sustainability of agro-pastoralism, through all the relevant legislative and regulatory instruments available to them. The Partnership approach to management ensures there are adequate staff and financial resources available to manage and protect the candidate site.

The nominated Property faces a number of long term challenges including threats posed by climate change, development pressures, changing agricultural practices and diseases, and tourism. The long term challenge faced by climate change – extreme weather events causing flooding, soil erosion and land slips – has the potential to impact on the landscape. Such events represent a serious threat both to the agro-pastoral economy of the Lake District and the appearance of the area. The Management Plan for the nominated Property provides a framework for guiding decisions on land use and adapting to climate change. Specific actions are being delivered to reduce in the short-term the impact of flooding through a variety of schemes including slowing the speed of rainwater running off the fells into the natural drainage system and in the long-term, reducing carbon consumption and restoring peat deposits. Traditional agro-pastoral faces challenges resulting from economic pressure and diseases such as Foot and Mouth. This could impact adversely on the physical attributes of farming (including early field systems, common land, and local breeds of sheep) and intangible attributes (including local traditions, shepherds meets and shows). The Partnership's Plan seeks to address this vulnerability by using the platform of the Partnership to pursue a variety of strategies and actions. These include the development of new markets for added-value products, establishing and delivering payment for public benefits such as carbon storage and supporting the take up of available grant funding.

The nominated Property has a mature resident population and is an established tourist destination. This means there are long term pressures for new development, including for housing, tourism development such as hotels, and infrastructure. These development pressures can also pose challenges for historic and traditional buildings as there may be pressures for changes to these buildings. The built environment is successfully managed through a local development management process, administered by the National Park Authority, which is based on national legislation and local policies including the Lake District Local Plan. Conservation Area management plans also help to prevent the deterioration of market towns and villages where they apply. Tourism and the number of visitors to the property also pose long term challenges to the property, for example the impact of walkers eroding footpaths on the fells. Visitor management plans are incorporated into the Management Plan, which also addresses specific issues through strategies and actions. Site specific visitor management plans for key visitor facilities help to manage and mitigate the potential adverse effects of the pressure of visitor numbers.

Protection and management of the English Lake District nominated World Heritage site and its attributes will require full and informed involvement by the local communities in the area. The National Park Authority is developing a system of community-based management covering all of the 13 valleys. A community engagement strategy is being developed on this basis.



FIGURE 3.11 'Dove Cottage and Town End' by Dora Wordsworth (only surviving daughter of William Wordsworth, 1804 - 1847) after a print by Amos Green. Dove Cottage was the home of William and Dorothy Wordsworth from 1799. Gifted to the Wordsworth Trust by William Knight, probably 1898.

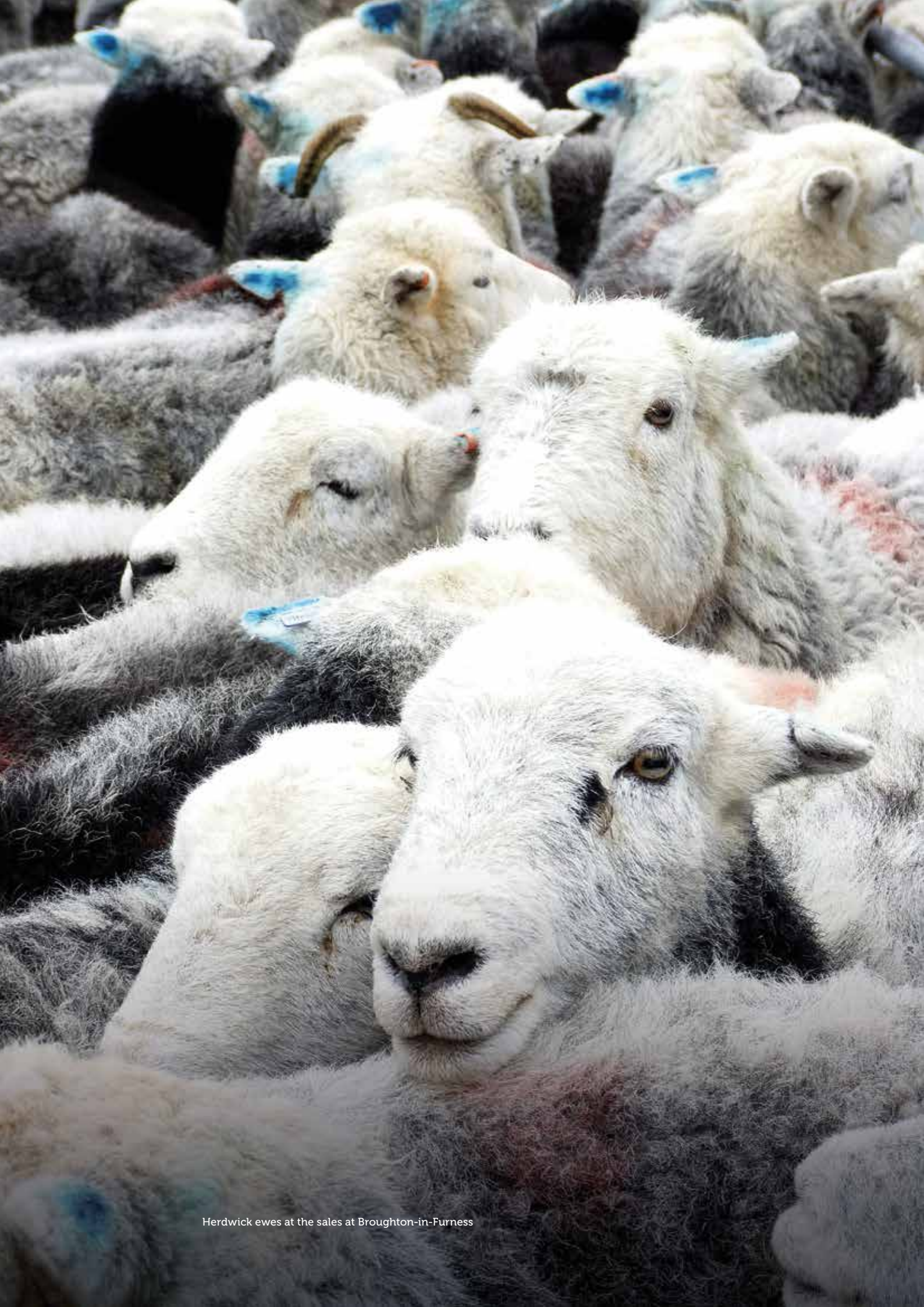
FIGURE 3.12 Attributes of Outstanding Universal Value of the 13 constituent valleys of the English Lake District.
(The criteria for identifying Valley attributes are shown in Figure 3.13)

		VALLEY				
THEME	COMPONENTS OF ATTRIBUTES	LANGDALE	WINDERMERE	CONISTON	DUDDON	ESKDALE
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)	None				
	16th/17th century farmhouses					
	Herdwick flocks					
	Rough Fell flocks	None			None	None
	Swaledale flocks	None				
	Common land	CL CL CL	CL	CL CL	CL CL CL	CL CL CL
	Shepherds' meets/shows and traditional sports					
	Woodland industries					
	Mining/Quarrying					
	Water-powered industry					
Market towns	None			None		
Discovery and appreciation of a rich cultural landscape	Viewing stations	None			None	None
	Villas					
	Designed landscape					
	Early tourist infrastructure				None	None
	Residences and burial places of significant writers and poets	None	None		None	None
	Key literary associations with landscape					
	Key artistic associations with landscape					
	Key associations with climbing and the outdoor movement					
Opportunities for quiet enjoyment and spiritual refreshment						
Development of a model for protecting cultural landscape	Conservation movement					
	National Trust ownership (inalienable land)					
	National Trust covenanted land	NTC NTC NTC	NTC NTC	NTC NTC	NTC	NTC
	Other Protective Trusts and ownership including National Park Authority					

WASDALE	ENNERDALE	BUTTERMERE	BORROWDALE & BASSENTHWAITE	THIRLMERE	ULLSWATER	HAWESWATER	GRASMERE, RYDAL, AMBLESIDE
	None						
						None	
	None		None	None	None		None
None							
				None			
				None			
None	None			None		None	
None	None	None		None		None	
None	None			None		None	None
	None			None		None	
None	None			None		None	
None	None	None		None		None	
None	None			None		None	
None	None	None		None	None	None	
				None		None	

FIGURE 3.13 Criteria for identifying the significance of Valley attributes

VALLEY NAME		
THEME	SYMBOL AND COMPONENTS OF ATTRIBUTES	NOTES ON SIGNIFICANCE
Continuity of traditional agro-pastoralism and local industry in a spectacular mountain landscape	 Extraordinary beauty and harmony	All valleys receive maximum score
	 Evidence of pre-medieval settlement and agriculture	Based on numbers of scheduled monuments. Data from historic England. (1 symbol 1-5; 2 symbols 6-10; 3 symbols 11+)
	 Distinctive early field system	Area of combined in-bye and intake land, calculated from cultural landscape data, as a percentage of the valley area. (1 symbol 1 to 15%; 2 symbols 16-25%; 3 symbols 26%+)
	 Medieval buildings (e.g. churches, pele towers and early farmhouses)	Expert advice and Listed Building information. (1 symbol 1-2; 2 symbols 3-5; 3 symbols 6+)
	 16th/17th century farmhouses	Expert advice and Listed Building information. (1 symbol 1-2; 2 symbols 3-5; 3 symbols 6+)
	 Herdwick flocks	Numbers of registered flocks supplied by Breed Association. (1 symbol 1-5; 2 symbols 6-10; 3 symbols 10+)
	 Rough Fell flocks	Numbers of registered flocks supplied by Breed Association. (1 symbol 1-5; 2 symbols 6-10; 3 symbols 10+)
	 Swaledale flocks	Numbers of registered flocks supplied by Breed Association. (1 symbol 1-5; 2 symbols 6-10; 3 symbols 10+)
	 Common Land	Area of common land as a percentage of the valley area. (1 symbol 1-5%; 2 symbols 6-30%; 3 symbols 31%+)
	 Shepherds' meets/shows and traditional sports	From published sources
	 Woodland industries	Relative frequency. Data from Historic Environment Record, published sources and expert advice. (1 symbol: low; 2 symbols: medium; 3 symbols: high and presence of key sites)
	 Mining/Quarrying	Relative frequency. Data from Historic Environment Record, published sources and expert advice. (1 symbol: low; 2 symbols: medium; 3 symbols: high and presence of key sites)
	 Water-powered industry	Relative frequency. Data from Historic Environment Record, published sources and expert advice. (1 symbol: low; 2 symbols: medium; 3 symbols: high and presence of key sites)
	 Market towns	Presence/absence using data from published sources
	Discovery and appreciation of a rich cultural landscape	 Viewing stations
 Villas		Expert advice and Listed Building information. (1 symbol 1-5; 2 symbols 6-10; 3 symbols 10+)
 Designed landscape		Expert advice, published sources and cultural landscape data. Numbers of individual designed landscapes and gardens
 Early tourist infrastructure		Presence/absence using expert advice and published sources
 Residences and burial places of significant writers and poets		Presence/absence using expert advice and published sources
 Key literary associations with landscape		Data from published sources
 Key artistic associations with landscape		Data from published sources
 Key associations with climbing and the outdoor movement		Presence/absence using expert advice and published sources
 Opportunities for quiet enjoyment and spiritual refreshment		Data from Tranquillity map
Development of a model for protecting cultural landscape	 Conservation movement	Notable examples of conservation campaigns and private purchase of land for conservation purposes. Data from published sources and expert advice. (1 symbol: one example of either; 2 symbols: at least one example of each; 3 symbols: multiple or key examples)
	 National Trust ownership (inalienable land)	Area of National Trust inalienable land as a percentage of the valley area. (1 symbol 1-5%; 2 symbols 6-20%; 3 symbols 21%+)
	 NTC National Trust covenanted land	Area of National Trust covenanted land as a percentage of the valley area. (1 symbol 0.1%; 2 symbols 0.6-2%; 3 symbols 2.01%+)
	 Other Protective Trusts and ownership including National Park Authority	GIS data



Herdwick ewes at the sales at Broughton-in-Furness

SECTION 3.2

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Comparative Analysis

3.2 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

IDENTIFYING THE BASIS FOR THE COMPARISON

The basis for this comparative analysis is the statement of Outstanding Universal Value (see section 3.1), which seeks to demonstrate that the English Lake District landscape:

- is exceptionally beautiful, having been shaped by persistent and distinctive agro-pastoral traditions which give it a special character;
- has inspired artistic and literary movements and generated ideas about landscape that have had global influence and left their physical mark; and
- was the catalyst for key developments in the national and international protection of landscapes.

It is this whole package of attributes which make the case for Outstanding Universal Value and which is at the heart of the comparison. Thus the question that runs through this analysis is whether there are other comparable agro-pastoral landscapes that have influenced writers and artists to the same degree, which have been improved and come to be seen as beautiful, and which have helped shape thinking over many years about conservation and the protection of landscapes.

No thematic studies encompass the kind of site represented by the nominated Property. However, it has been possible to compare it with a number of World Heritage sites (WHS), sites on Tentative Lists (TL) and other sites (OS). Most of these are cultural landscapes. For reasons given below, the main focus has been on the geo-cultural region of Europe, including elsewhere in the British Isles.

Two approaches to the analysis were considered:

- A framework based on comparing sites which displayed similar attributes to each of the three strands that make up the Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated site by examining, in turn: outstanding examples of upland agro-pastoral landscapes (principally in Europe); other landscapes that have been the focus of interest for the Picturesque and Romantic Movements and so have had a wide impact on ideas about our relationship to landscape; and other landscapes that have had a powerful influence on the development of landscape conservation.
- A less structured approach in which landscape sites are compared with the Lake District in order to answer this question: 'what other cultural landscapes can be compared to the Lake District in terms of the package of qualities that account for its Outstanding Universal Value?'

Although the first approach has the apparent attraction of being more systematic, it was found to be less helpful as it was based on a disaggregation of the three strands when in fact their 'fusion' is the essence of the Lake District nomination: or, put another way, it takes apart the three elements which 'together' justify World Heritage status for the English Lake District. When comparing the English Lake District with other sites, this should not be done to ascertain if it is the best example of an agro-pastoral landscape (though it is an excellent one), or the best example of a landscape that has inspired literary and artistic movements (though it may well be), or even the best example of a place that has shaped the international conservation movement (though it has a strong claim to being so), but whether there are any other landscapes that bring all three together in the same way.

So, the basis of this comparative analysis has been to adopt the second approach and consider what other sites can be compared to the Lake District in terms of the 'package' of attributes that each conveys.

IDENTIFYING THE GEO-CULTURAL REGION

The three strands individually do, however, have an important role to play in identifying the geo-cultural region on which the comparative analysis should be mainly focused. They help to narrow down a potentially very long list of comparators to a shorter, more manageable one where there are likely to be some comparable features with those found in the English Lake District.

From an agro-pastoral perspective: the English Lake District is located in a distinct mountainous environment in northern England with numerous lakes and valleys. It has a cool but temperate climate with high rainfall, which favours grass growth. This kind of climate can be found elsewhere (in parts of western Canada, New Zealand and Chile for example) but only in Europe – particularly in North West Europe – has it given rise to a long established form of agro-pastoral farming based on relatively small farming units with pastures which are grazed and managed in common.

While the English Lake District is characteristic of the European physiographic region of the North West Uplands, it shares some aspects of upland geography and agro-pastoral traditions with places in two other such regions: the Alpine System and the Central Plateaux.

From the perspective of artistic and literary developments during the 18th and 19th centuries: there are strong associations between the English Lake District and other parts of Europe, and to a lesser degree North America. Indeed attitudes to the Lake District, and the part it played in the development of important artistic and literary movements, reflect ideas that emanated from other parts of Europe at the time. They were also the inspiration for the kind of additions (villas, designed landscapes etc.) which were made to the English Lake District. While other important traditions also celebrated landscape, such as those in China, there were few connections between these and the European experience.

England – fast becoming the premier trading nation in the 18th century – borrowed many of its intellectual and artistic ideas from other countries in Europe. Thus the origins of the English Picturesque Movement that was evident in attitudes to the Lake

District from about 1750 onwards can be found in inspiration derived from continental Europe. Eighteenth century garden designers, like William Kent and 'Capability' Brown, sought to re-create the allegorical landscape paintings of European artists, especially Claude Lorrain, Poussin and Salvator Rosa. They shaped the land of their wealthy clients, manicuring hills, creating lakes, planting trees and dotting the landscape with allegorical temples. Such was the impact of this new approach to landscaping that it was in turn copied in many other parts of Europe: French landscape gardeners, for example, acknowledged this when they created the 'jardin anglais'. It also had an impact on landscaping in North America.

Similarly the Romantic Movement's association with the Lake District was part of a Europe-wide discovery of the power of nature as expressed in the term 'sublime'. In contrast to the Picturesque, the goal of which was to reveal the delights and beauties of nature, sublime images were intended to show it at its most fearsome. Edmund Burke, the English exponent who believed that terror was the ruling principle of the sublime, derived many of his ideas from Immanuel Kant. The work of Wordsworth in particular, shows the development of a sensibility towards nature which, directly or indirectly owes much to Kant's notions of transcendent. When – during the revolutionary wars – the Alpine landscape could no longer be easily accessed by Englishmen in search of the sublime, the English Lake District could offer an alternative. However, as with the Picturesque, the English version of Romanticism was really part of a broader European-wide development.

To conclude, around the end of the 18th century three ideas about nature were prevalent in Europe: "beautiful landscapes, often parks and gardens that had been deliberately created; sublime landscapes, such as wild mountains that could evoke feelings of awe; and Picturesque landscapes which were to a degree a fusion between the other two" Mitchell (2013). All three of these ideas can be seen in varying degrees in the English Lake District, thus reinforcing the argument that the search for comparable landscapes should be sought from within this geo-cultural region.

From the perspective of the development of the international conservation movement it is helpful to distinguish between three types of conservation:

- the conservation of nature and wilderness
- the conservation of lived-in landscapes
- the conservation of the built heritage

In all three respects, Europe and (to a lesser extent) North America have been central. While the earliest examples of rulers acting to safeguard nature were in India and China, "the roots of the (modern environmental) movement lay in technological, economic and social changes brought by the industrial revolution in Europe and North America" McCormick (1995). It was also a response to a rising sense of national identity which in many countries was considered to be encapsulated in places of great natural beauty or cultural splendour.

Thus modern day attitudes to the conservation of nature, landscapes and heritage can be traced to around the start of the 19th century. It was then that William Wordsworth first expressed key ideas about the value of nature and landscape beauty and the

need to protect them. He is also often quoted as the progenitor of the national park idea, especially through his reference in 1810 to the Lake District as a 'sort of national property'. The writings of Wordsworth, Ruskin and others led to a direct interchange of values with an international audience which have provided a foundation for environmental thinking and the conservation movement. Their ideas about the significance of nature and landscape, and the need to protect them, greatly influenced their contemporaries in the United States: the particular impact they had on North America's pioneers of national parks is well documented.

However, the paths of conservation diverged. In North America the emphasis was on the protection of what was seen (mistakenly in many cases) by the pioneer settlers as wilderness and untamed nature, as in the national parks created at Yosemite and Yellowstone (see below). However, "the American concept of large national parks, safeguarded against Man the Destroyer, was clearly difficult to export to densely populated and much altered regions like Western Europe. Here landscape protection as the means of preserving the natural beauty of the countryside... was more prominent" Holdgate (1999) *The Green Web Earthscan*, page 8). Legislation in 1949 to protect the outstanding landscapes of England and Wales was the first of its kind but many other countries in Europe have subsequently established systems of landscape protection for lived-in landscapes of high conservation value. This particular approach is known as Protected Landscapes/Seascapes, or Category V in the classification system used by IUCN. All the UK National Parks, and many nature parks and other landscape protection areas elsewhere in Europe, are Category V designations. Indeed, IUCN identifies Europe as the area where this kind of protected area is most widely used, accounting for 41.5 per cent (or nearly 18,000 square kilometres) of all land under any form of protection. So it is in Europe that landscape protection is most strongly established. It is also the region where there is the greatest concentration of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes (nearly 50 per cent).

Finally much of the theory and practice of built heritage conservation also evolved in Europe, partly in the 19th century context of an awakening of national identity. It focused on monuments that were facing pressures affecting their physical integrity and their significance. For example, the Ancient Monuments Act 1882 of the UK is an early example in the European context of the state putting in place legal measures to protect archaeological sites; the prehistoric stone circle at Castlerigg in the northern part of the English Lake District was in the first group of sites to be protected by this legislation.

Thus, in respect of all three types of conservation, the most meaningful geo-cultural region for the comparative analysis is Europe, with some reference to North America.

To conclude: the three strands of the English Lake District nomination justify the selection of the geo-cultural region of Europe as the main focus for comparison. It is in this way, rather than in the individual site-by-site comparisons, that the various attributes of the nominated site help in the exercise of comparing it with other (more or less) similar places. The analysis that follows asks of a number of other places, all but a handful from within Europe, this question: 'what other cultural landscapes can be compared to the Lake District in terms of the package of attributes that accounts for its Outstanding Universal Value?'

SITE-BY-SITE COMPARISON

WORLD HERITAGE SITES OUTSIDE EUROPE

Notwithstanding the primary focus of the comparative analysis on Europe, it is important to recognise that many landscapes elsewhere have had a powerful influence on human emotions. Most commonly they are places with religious or spiritual associations. Examples on the World Heritage list include: several sacred mountains, such as the Kii Mountain Range (WHS/Japan); sites that were a place of meditation, such as Ouadi Qadisha and Forest of Cedars of God (WHS/Lebanon); and spiritual centres, such as Mount Lushan (WHS/China).

Except in so far as these are all examples of natural beauty moving the human spirit, none of these sites can be meaningfully compared to the English Lake District.

A more instructive comparison can be drawn with the **West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou** (WHS/China). This site, which comprises the West Lake and the hills surrounding it on three sides, has inspired famous poets, scholars and artists since the 9th century. It contains numerous examples of additions intended to beautify the landscape: temples, pagodas, pavilions, gardens and ornamental trees, as well as causeways and artificial islands. It is therefore an excellent example of how the Tang and Song culture sought to demonstrate harmony between man and nature by improving the landscape so as to create places of great beauty. These were captured by artists, given names by poets and influenced garden design in China, Japan and Korea for many centuries. Thus the West Lake has some similarities with the English Lake District. But its influence has been within a very different aesthetic tradition, nor has it played a part in shaping international conservation attitudes or practice.

There are of course many other landscapes outside Europe that have inspired artists. For example: the **Hudson Valley** (OS/USA) which enthused the Hudson Valley School of 19th century Romantic painters; and **Georgian Bay** (OS/Canada) which has associations with the Group of Seven, the first Canadian national art movement directly inspired by nature. However, these artists were responding to wholly different types of landscapes to those to be found in the Lake District, the art they created was not so widely influential, and again these places played no part in the worldwide conservation movement.

However, in some ways more meaningful comparisons can be drawn from other sites in North America. **Yosemite** (WHS/US), **Yellowstone** (WHS/US), **Banff** (WHS/Canada) and other great natural areas were designated as national parks in the 19th century in response to growing concerns about the threats to them and in recognition of their iconic place in the emerging national identities of these two countries. Yosemite was accorded protection as early as 1864. In 1872 the Yellowstone National Park was established, the first modern national park – a model that has been very influential internationally (IUCN Category II). But this model was essentially about protecting nature and natural systems as far as possible in their unaltered state. Moreover, while the natural splendours and scenic wonders of these mountain landscapes were celebrated by painters in the “American sublime” tradition and captured by photographers, notably Ansel Adams, their relationship to nature was essentially

one of awe. The North American perspective therefore contrasted with the message of conservation that came from the English Lake District, which was about the value of lived-in, working landscapes which have forged a highly distinctive and harmonious relationship between humans and nature. Obviously there are few direct similarities between such places as Yellowstone and the nominated Property but the English Lake District stands beside them as one of a handful of places around the world that have had a global impact on conservation thinking and practice.

The rest of this comparison examines sites from within the geo-cultural region of Europe.

EUROPEAN SITES ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

The Causses and Cévennes, Mediterranean agro-pastoral Cultural Landscape (WHS/France) is in the southern part of central France. It is a mountain landscape with deep, incised valleys. It is inscribed as an outstanding example of one type of Mediterranean agro-pastoralism, being representative of the relationship between agro-pastoral systems and their biophysical environment, notably through the presence of 'drailles' or drove roads, villages and stone farmhouses set among steep terraces. Mont Lozère is one of the last places where traditional summer transhumance (the seasonal movement of people with their stocks between winter and summer pastures over quite long distances) is still practised, with flocks being driven to seasonal grazing grounds along the 'drailles'. The importance of the area's nature and landscape was recognised in its designation as a national park in 1970.

The distinctive land use patterns and architectural elements such as farm buildings, terraces, walls, watercourses, open grazed common land and 'drailles' contrast with those of the English Lake District, with its stone walled fields, stock enclosures and fell grazing, complemented by groups of farm buildings that reflect the vernacular architecture of the area. Historically there is evidence of an ancient transhumance tradition in the Lake District but stock movement appears to have been over relatively short distances (in contrast to other parts of Europe) and involved moving milking cattle to good pastures which were too far away to be milked directly from home. The decline of this kind of transhumance coincided with the shift away from cattle in the 13th century to sheep by the 16th century. So in the Lake District there are no long distance transhumance tracks to take the flocks to summer pastures (as distinct from the much shorter 'outgangs' which take sheep from the valley bottoms up to the common pastures on the fells); nor are there terraces. As in the Causses and Cévennes, there are the remains in the Lake District of the small scale working of stone, slate and timber; only a few of them still operate.

There are thus some important differences between these two agro-pastoral systems but the most important distinction is that the French site never played such a central role in the development of ideas about landscape, was never improved by additions to it and has not been a major driver of conservation thought and action as the nominated site has.

Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley (WHS/Andorra) is a dramatic glacial landscape of craggy cliffs and glaciers, with high open pastures and steep wooded valleys, covering an area of over 4,247 hectares. The landscape illustrates the persistence of pastoralism through high mountain agro-pastoral complexes and mid-mountain agricultural centres

connected by partially paved trails that have been in existence for more than a 1,000 years. The main land use features are seasonal settlements, terraced fields and stone tracks. There is a history of iron smelting which has left traces in the landscape. Of particular note is the management of the land: transhumance is the predominant system for herds of sheep alongside the survival of a medieval communal land-ownership system once typical of the mountain culture of the Pyrenees. The site has remained intact and complete in large part due to its isolation.

Even though transhumance has not been used in the Lake District for many centuries, there are some similarities between the Lake District commons and communal land-ownership in the Andorran site. But in other respects these agro-pastoral systems differ. More importantly, though, the Andorran site has not been influential in terms of ideas about landscape nor in the development of conservation.

Pyrénées – Mont Perdu (WHS/Spain and France) is a transboundary mixed site. It is located high in the French and Spanish Pyrénées. Inscribed for its geological formations and its dramatic mountain scenery, it is also a cultural landscape, consisting of mountain peaks and valleys, villages, farms, fields, upland pastures and mountain roads. It combines scenic beauty with a socio-economic structure that has its roots in the past. The agro-pastoral way of life that it displays, with a transhumant system of grazing and frequent movement of herds, was once common in the upland regions of Europe but is now rare.

As in the case of the Andorran site, Pyrénées – Mont Perdu is distinguished from the English Lake District by the central role played in land management by transhumance, with its distinctive physical, social and cultural features. In contrast, land management in the Lake District has not involved transhumance since the medieval period. Furthermore, as with the two previous sites, Pyrénées – Mont Perdu has not played a central role in the development of our understanding and appreciation of landscape nor in its conservation.

The Upper Middle Rhine Valley (WHS/Germany) extends over 65 kilometres along the valley of the Rhine. The Rhine is one of the world's great rivers and has witnessed many crucial events in human history. With its castles, historic towns and vineyards, this stretch of the Middle Rhine Valley between Bingen and Koblenz graphically illustrates the long history of human involvement with a dramatic and varied natural landscape. The landscape is punctuated by some 40 hill top castles and fortresses erected over a period of around 1,000 years. It is intimately associated with history and legend and for centuries has exercised a powerful influence on writers, artists and composers.

In the late 18th century the Rhine Valley, which had previously been a mere staging post, was discovered and extolled as a destination for travellers. For Heinrich von Kleist, who sailed up the river in 1803, it was "the most beautiful stretch of country in all Germany, in which the Great Gardener evidently laboured *con amore*." Two years later Friedrich von Schlegel also described the valley in terms of a deliberately carved landscape: Clemens von Brentano and subsequently Heinrich Heine then created the character of the mythical sorceress Lorelei. Goethe also praised the landscape. Carl Gustav Carus and J. M. W. Turner were among the Romantic painters drawn to the area. Schubert and Wagner were among composers for whom this landscape was an inspiration.

The Rhine appealed to the Romantic mind as a symbol of the European Middle Ages and this was reflected in literature, painting and music. But Rhenish Romanticism was also evident in architectural works. Fascinated by all things medieval, from about 1820 members of the Prussian royal family started acquiring castle ruins along the Rhine and converting them into romantic summer residences. The renovation of fortress ruins in the Romantic style, the reconstruction of historic monuments such as the Königsstuhl at Rhens, and the beginnings of monument conservation indicate a regard for the Middle Ages that had a decisive effect on the cultural landscape.

Comparing the area to the English Lake District reveals important similarities and important differences. The main feature that they have in common is that they were both at the heart of ideas about Romanticism. While there were differences between the Romantic Movement in England and Germany (as there were indeed between other countries of Europe), the idea that the landscape could inspire through its beauty, that it could express a lost ideal and that it could be enhanced through renovation of (or more often additions to) ancient structures was a common theme. Another important similarity is that they both played a part in developing ideas about conservation: in the case of the Rhine it was about conserving monuments, in the case of the Lake District it was about conserving landscape. On the other hand, the landscape of a great river valley and that of a mountain region are quite different and so was the use made of the land in each area: the vineyards of the Rhine slopes, for example, have nothing in common with the kind of agro-pastoral system of the Lake District.

So, while there are instructive parallels between the Upper Middle Rhine and the nominated site, they differ in terms of the landscape involved and their role in the Romantic Movement. While both landscapes inspired through their beauty, because Romanticism in the Lake District was essentially about people's relationship to nature it led there to the development of ideas about the conservation of organically-evolved cultural landscapes. By contrast, at the heart of the Romantic attraction of the Rhine was a fascination with the history of the Middle Ages, which led to the emergence of ideas about the conservation of historic buildings.

The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes (WHS/France) is located in Western and Central France and consists of a main river, the Loire, flowing through a valley bounded by low cliffs of tufa and limestone and a flood plain dissected by old channels. The Loire Valley contains some of the finest Renaissance architecture in France and indeed in Europe. The 'chateaux' embody some of the best architectural and artistic techniques of the time. Many contain outstanding gardens too. The natural elements were manipulated by skilled landscape architects to complement the 'chateaux'. This landscape inspired Romantic writers and painters in the 19th century, making the Loire Valley a magnet for tourists, from France, then Europe, and then the world.

So while both landscapes inspired artistic and creative responses of a very high order, the contrast between the Loire and the Lake District reveals a totally different landscape experience. More importantly it displays evidence of a very different attitude towards nature. In the case of the Lake District, artistic and literary inspiration came from a combination of nature and culture. Furthermore, the enhancements to the landscape were made to stress rather than model the landscape to respond to an artistic ideal. In the Loire, places of great architectural beauty were constructed as an expression

of wealth and power. Moreover, the idea of manipulating nature to create a place of designed beauty – which reached its pinnacle in the 20th century re-construction of the gardens at Villandry – is completely different to that expressed in the Lake District. In addition the Loire has no similar tradition of agro-pastoral agriculture and has not inspired influential ideas of landscape conservation.

Val d'Orcia (WHS/Italy), in the hinterland of Siena, is characterised by flat chalk plains and conical hills with fortified settlements. The landscape reflects colonisation by the merchants of Siena in the 14th and 15th centuries who shaped and developed this agrarian and pastoral landscape during the Renaissance to create an aesthetically pleasing picture. The colonisation of the area was based on innovative tenure systems in which the estates owned by merchants were divided into small properties and cultivated by families who lived on the land. These were mixed farms, cultivating grain, vines, olives, fruit and vegetables while hay meadows and pastures for livestock were interspersed between the farms. The aim was to create a landscape of efficient agricultural units but also one that was pleasing to the eye. The landscape that resulted was one of careful and conscious planning and design and led to the beginning of the idea of 'landscape' as being a man-made creation. It inspired generations of artists (including those of the Siennese school of painting), poets and writers to reflect on it as a model of people living in harmony with nature; it was also a destination on the Grand Tour of the 18th century.

Compared to the English Lake District, the forms of farming in Val d'Orcia are quite different. While the site was consciously remodelled for economic and aesthetic purposes, the improvements made to the Lake District were designed to enhance nature. The area was important in terms of representing utopian ideals at the time of the Renaissance, and its influence on the arts. However, it had little to do with the Picturesque or the Romantic Movements. While it does seem to have been referenced – along with many other landscapes – by those developing the European Landscape Convention at the end of the 20th century, its global influence cannot be compared to the conservation ideas and practices developed in the nominated site.

Droogmakerij de Beemster (Beemster Polder) (WHS/Netherlands) dates from the early 17th century, and is an exceptional example of reclaimed land in the Netherlands. It has preserved intact its well-ordered landscape of fields, roads, canals, dykes and settlements, laid out in accordance with classical and Renaissance planning principles. The innovative and intellectually imaginative landscape of the Beemster Polder had a profound and lasting impact on reclamation projects in Europe and beyond. Unlike Val d'Orcia, the majority of the grand houses have now disappeared, and the agricultural system did not have idealised connotations. However, the landscapes were immortalised by Dutch landscape artists.

Compared to the Lake District, the polder represents an entirely different land use system, it has no claims to have shaped ideas relevant to the Picturesque and the Romantic movements, and it has not been the source of conservation ideas and practice.

The Sacri Monti of Piedmont and Lombardy (WHS/Italy) are landscapes with strong spiritual or religious associations. In addition to their symbolic spiritual meaning, the monuments they contain are skilfully integrated into the surrounding natural landscape

of hills, forests and lakes. In that sense they are similar to **Kalwaria Zebrzydowska** (WHS/Poland) where the natural landscape was used as the setting for a symbolic representation in the form of chapels and avenues of the events of the Passion of Christ. Such landscapes certainly inspired a response by pilgrims and other visitors but clearly they have nothing otherwise in common with the Lake District.

Finally there are many World Heritage cultural landscape sites in Europe that in different ways demonstrate the conscious planning and enhancement of landscapes, for example:

Muskauer Park/Park Mużakowski (WHS/Germany/Poland), lying astride the Neisse River and the border between Poland and Germany, was created by Prince Hermann von Puckler-Muskau from 1815 to 1844.

Cultural Landscape of Sintra (WHS/Portugal) represents a pioneering approach to Romantic landscaping that had an outstanding influence on developments elsewhere in Europe.

Aranjuez Cultural Landscape (WHS/Spain) was under royal patronage for three centuries, and incorporates a planned town, large gardens, vegetable gardens and orchards, lagoons, rivers and waterworks, woods, and pastures.

Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape (WHS/Czech Republic) is one of the largest artificial landscapes in Europe, an exceptional example of a designed landscape that evolved in the Enlightenment and subsequently.

Blenheim Palace (WHS/UK) whose landscaped park, designed by 'Capability' Brown, is considered 'a naturalistic Versailles'.

Studley Royal Park including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey (WHS/UK) whose landscape garden is an outstanding example of the development of the 'English' garden style throughout the 18th century, which influenced the rest of Europe.

There are few meaningful comparisons to be drawn between these landscapes and that of the Lake District. The types of land use that they contain are quite different; they all reflect the influence of their powerful owners, whereas the English Lake District landscape was essentially the creation of independent hill farmers. While all these areas were influential in terms of landscape design and the appreciation of landscape, they reflect a desire to master and shape nature rather than admire its untamed qualities; and none of these areas helped to influence attitudes towards the protection of nature and landscape as the nominated site did.

OTHER EUROPEAN SITES

THE ALPS (OS/EIGHT COUNTRIES)

This is a vast mountainous region that extends 1,200 kilometres. from east to west across eight countries. The continental barrier that it represents, the drama of its mountain scenery and the often remote and isolated cultures sheltered in its valleys have always exerted a powerful influence on the consciousness of people across Europe and therefore on European culture. During the 18th century, it was the place that was most

associated with the 'Sublime': it was considered "the temple of sublimity... and the seat of virtue". Viewing the awesome cliffs, crags and waterfalls of the Alps on the way to Rome was an essential part of the Grand Tour. Painters of the Romantic period were drawn to the area to capture its dramatic qualities. In the 19th century it became the main focus of mountain tourism.

So in this respect, there are some obvious parallels with the English Lake District. However, the Alps are on a vastly bigger scale and it is difficult to find any specific part of the region with which the Lake District can be compared. Moreover, while the Alpine Valleys had a huge influence on travellers, writers and artists who came to the Lake District in the late 18th century, the landscapes that inspired them have not survived. Almost all the Alpine valleys now have roads, new development and infrastructure that have drastically changed the character of their lower lengths. This is reflected in the fact that it is only the highest peaks and geological sites that have been considered as possible World Heritage natural properties. Thus of the four natural World Heritage sites in the Alps, two are inscribed for their geological features, and two for their high mountains (however, the inscription for one of these, the **Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch** (WHS/Switzerland), specifically recognises its "important role in European art, literature, mountaineering and alpine tourism").

Studies have been undertaken to establish a basis for new World Heritage nominations in the Alps. In cultural terms, the following elements have been identified as most significant:

- "Symbolic and associative sites of the Alps (history of Alpinism, famous peaks etc.)
- Specific features which reflect the exchange between cultures such as passes, pathways, routes, fortifications and itineraries (salt route)
- The related intangible heritage of the Alps (diversity of languages, surviving cultures)
- The adaptation of high mountain cultures to the environment which results in specific cultural (in particular rural) landscapes and traditions (transhumance, [alpine] pastures etc.), and
- Examples of mountain architectural features and complexes (e.g. mountain villages).

This list is very different from the particular combination of attributes that are to be found in the Lake District, and which make the case for its Outstanding Universal Value. This is confirmed by an examination of the Alpine Tentative Lists sites with cultural landscape components.

The **Écrins** and the **Vanoise** (TL/France) are important for aspects of Alpine mountain culture; **Bregenz Forest** (TL/Austria) retains its traditional forms of Alpine farming and timber architecture; and **Alpine and pre-alpine meadow and marsh landscapes** (TL/Germany), in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, represent perhaps the best example of the meadow and marsh systems that have been lost over much of Europe. One other site deserves reference: **Watzmann** (OS/Germany) in the Bavarian Alps is one of Germany's highest summits, with dramatic peaks, lakes, valleys, pastures and villages. Its agro-pastoral tradition revolves around cattle farming. It is a landmark area for German Romantic painting and has drawn tourists since the early 19th century.

However, none of these four sites is really comparable to the agro-pastoral systems in the English Lake District. Climate, topography and tradition have created a very different landscape in the Alps. And none of these places attracted the attention of leading lights in the Picturesque or (the Watzmann apart) in the Romantic movements. Nor have they played a part in the development of conservation.

Lakes Maggiore and Orta (TL/Italy) are located in Piemonte, and are the westernmost of the lakes that lie on the southern flanks of the Italian Alps. The area consists of valleys, rivers, lakes with numerous small islands and remodelled hill sides with olive groves, gardens and villas. It is closely associated with Renaissance and Baroque architectural ideas that influenced the design of landscapes. In the 19th century, the district attracted thinkers, men and women of letters and artists. While it is thus an influential area, it lacks the agro-pastoral traditions of the Lake District and did not play such a central role in the development of literature or important ideas, nor in conservation.

The **Harz** (OS/Germany) is the highest mountain range in Northern Germany. Thickly forested in many parts, it is closely associated with German Romanticism. Goethe called the Brockenberg his favourite mountain, and used it as the setting for the witches' orgiastic Sabbath scene in 'Faust'. In the 19th century it became a popular tourist destination.

The **Siebengebirge** (OS/Germany), are hills of volcanic origin on the east bank of the Middle Rhine. They too were popular in the Romantic era: one of the seven mountains, Drachenfels, inspired poems by Byron, Edward Bulwer-Lytton and Heinrich Heine. Like the Harz, the Siebengebirge became a popular tourist destination later in the 19th century.

Both these German sites speak to the power of mountain scenery – and associated myths, legends and folklore – to affect the Romantic mind and inspire a creative response. In that limited sense they are like the Lake District. But whereas the nominated site is primarily an agro-pastoral landscape, these forested mountains are quite different in appearance, land use, economy and social structure; nor did these areas have a central place in the development of conservation.

The Dresden Elbe Valley (de-listed WHS/Germany) features low meadows, and is crowned by the Pillnitz Palace and the centre of Dresden with its many monuments and parks. The landscape includes 19th and 20th century suburban villas and gardens as well as important natural features. Some terraced slopes along the river are still used for viticulture and some old villages have retained their historic structure and elements from the industrial revolution. An outstanding example of a cultural landscape along a valley around a great city, it cannot be compared to the essentially rural, mountain landscape of the Lake District, with its very different history, land use and economy. Nor has it played a central part in the development of landscape protection.

The **Transhumance: The Royal Shepherds Trail** (TL/Italy) illustrates the agro-pastoral system of transhumance in southern Italy, beginning in pre-Roman times and for certain features continuing to this day. Much of the land use and architectural legacy focuses on the tracks running through the Southern Apennines. Other than being a manifestation of an approach to agro-pastoralism, this site has nothing else in common with the Lake District. As already noted, transhumance is not a feature of the nominated site and the Shepherds Trail has no connections with ideas relating to the Picturesque, Romanticism or landscape conservation.

Montagne Sainte-Victoire et sites cézaniens (TL/France) is a 1,000 metre high limestone massif in Provence. While of considerable natural interest, its chief claim to fame is that the landscape inspired the artist Cézanne to explore and develop his post-Impressionist style as he painted and repainted it many a times. As a landscape that is associated with the work of one outstanding artist, it is clearly not comparable to the complex relationship that many artists, poets and others had with the Lake District over an extended period.

SITES IN THE BRITISH ISLES

Since the English Lake District owes much of its character as an agro-pastoral landscape to the effect of its prevailing climate and topography, and its historical influence to its place in an essentially British cultural context, it makes sense finally to examine closely a number of comparators from elsewhere in the British Isles where broadly similar conditions and influences have prevailed.

The Burren (TL/Ireland) is near the west coast of Ireland, in County Clare. It is an example of glaciated karst topography with many karstic features and little surface water. This inhospitable topography elicited a distinctive cultural response from its people, as seen in the extensive pastoral systems that prevail to this day and which contribute directly to the rich natural and cultural heritage of the region. The distinctive feature of land-management is a tradition of reverse-transhumance where flocks and cattle are driven to graze the uplands in winter and in the lowlands in the summer.

Apart from being another agro-pastoral site, the Burren has little in common with the Lake District and even its pastoral system is quite different. It did give rise to a local school of painters in the early 20th century and it has associations with the Irish writers W. B. Yeats and J. M. Synge. But it had no connections to either the Picturesque or the Romantic movements and it made no contribution to ideas about conservation.

Killarney National Park (OS/ Ireland) covers more than 10,000 hectares of rugged mountainous country in the south-west of Ireland. It includes the highest mountain range in Ireland and a number of lakes, famed for their beauty. It contains several large 19th century mansions and estates.

Like Snowdonia and Trossachs (see below), Killarney has some obvious physical similarities with the Lake District – its mountains are of broadly the same size and its narrow, glaciated lakes, surrounded by woods, recall those of the nominated site. However, the tradition of hill farming is not in evidence in Killarney. While it was, like the Lake District, a focus for tourism in the 19th century, Killarney was ignored by the Picturesque, was never centrally associated with the Romantic Movement and played no part in the development of ideas around conservation.

The Scottish Highlands (OS/UK) is an extensive mountainous area well known for its dramatic scenery, consisting of hills, moors, mountains, lochs (lakes), rivers and valleys. Much of the land use was converted to sheep grazing in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Today most of it is grazed or used for deer stalking. Landscape protection has been given to some parts of the Highlands – notably the Cairngorms National Park and the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

The region was of interest to the Picturesque and it has strong connections with the Romantic Movement. The story of the Scots, the repression of their identity and their forced migration during the Highland Clearances became an inspiration for Scottish as well as English authors and poets. The novelist, Sir Walter Scott, and the painter, Sir Edwin Landseer, for example, introduced the Highlands to a wide public. Queen Victoria's love of Scotland added to the region's appeal and it was much visited in her reign, and has been ever since.

Although many of the same ideas were expressed by leading artists, poets and others about the landscape of both the Scottish Highlands and the English Lake District during the 18th and 19th centuries, on grounds of scale alone it is not meaningful to try to compare these areas. Though there are no agreed boundaries to the Highlands, they cover more than 50,000 square kilometres, more than 25 times larger than the nominated site. However one small part of it, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, certainly has physical similarities with the Lake District: long thin lakes, mostly in deep valleys, with wooded slopes and mountains above. But this area has nothing like the strong coherent identity of the Lake District, it has no comparably long-established agro-pastoral tradition and it has played only a marginal role in relation to the ideas that are associated with the nominated site.

Snowdonia (OS/UK) in north west Wales is a rugged mountainous area with many lakes in deep valleys carved out by ice. Most of the area is grazed with sheep and some cattle; some parts are forested; others bear the scars of past industry (slate quarrying in particular, has left such a dramatic legacy that the Slate Quarries of North Wales have been included on the current UK Tentative List). The area was the last refuge of the Welsh princes and is strongly associated with the distinct history, culture and language of Wales. It has been much visited by tourists for two hundred years.

More than any other area examined in this comparative analysis, Snowdonia shares important attributes with the Lake District. It is of a comparable size. Its natural beauty – though more austere – is the product of many of the same forces: geology, climate, land use: in places the scenery is very similar. It, too, has a strong agro-pastoral tradition (though many of its features like stone walls are more neglected) and large areas of common land. It too, was a mecca for the early mountain climbers. Snowdonia was the subject of paintings by Richard Wilson in the Picturesque style in the mid and late 18th century and of artists of the Romantic movement such as J. M. W. Turner. But the associations with ideas that emanated during that period were much less strong than those generated in the Lake District (there were no Welsh equivalents to Wordsworth or Ruskin). Nor was it at the forefront of early ideas about conservation. Although the National Trust is a significant land owner, its holdings are much smaller than their Lake District estate. On the other hand, the strong association with Welsh culture and its dramatic industrial heritage give Snowdonia a very distinct character. In short the comparison even with this area, with which it has similarities, shows how the Lake District stands apart as the place where powerful, universal ideas about humanity and its relationship to nature were developed.

Within England, there are a number of other upland or hilly areas (many of them now National Parks) with which the Lake District can be compared. Most have been shaped by locally-distinct agro-pastoral systems. Like the Lake District, the **Wye Valley** (OS/

UK) and the **Derwent Valley** (part of which is a World Heritage site for its industrial archaeology) in the **Peak District** (OS/UK) were described as sources of the Picturesque by William Gilpin; the **Surrey Hills** (OS/UK) attracted the artist George Lambert. They, and other artists of the period, saw British landscape from the perspective of a European classical tradition of landscape painting. Many of these areas with more dramatic scenery were also recognised and valued by artists and poets in the Romantic period. Thus **Exmoor** (OS/UK) was a source of inspiration for William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, as was the Wye Valley on the English/Welsh border.

In terms of their importance in the development of ideas about nature and landscape, none of these areas has played such a central part as the Lake District, which was valued by writers and poets for its inherent qualities of beauty and harmony as a working landscape – the physical expression of the interaction between man and nature developed over a thousand years. In terms of the contribution that they made to conservation, the Peak District is credited with a parallel influence to that of the Lake District on the UK National Parks, as it was here – in 1932 – that a campaign to give working people access to upland areas was launched with the famous Kinder trespass (Kinder Scout being an area of open moorland above Manchester but closed off to the public for grouse shooting by its aristocratic owner). However, access to the countryside for recreation was a distinctly British concern, unlike the universal values of conservation of nature and landscape that were explored in the Lake District and the mechanisms for landscape protection that were pioneered there.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The results of this comparative analysis have been summarised in the table below. Such a presentation over-simplifies the comparisons and involves disaggregating the very package of attributes that together account for the Lake District's claim to Outstanding Universal Value. Also it cannot easily be used to show the relative importance of an attribute in one area or another. But it is nevertheless instructive.

Very broadly, it shows that several landscape World Heritage sites outside Europe were also significant in terms of artistic inspiration. West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou is important in that it is a landscape that – like the Lake District - has been consciously added to, to make it more beautiful. Three World Heritage sites in North America have also inspired important ideas about landscape and had a major influence on the global conservation movement in terms of protecting pristine nature and wilderness. In contrast, the influence of the Lake District has been in celebrating and conserving places of great natural beauty that have been shaped by human influence over centuries.

A long list of World Heritage sites were reviewed from within Europe. None of the three upland or mountain agro-pastoral sites that were examined had been deliberately beautified by additions to the landscape and none played a role in inspiring a significant artistic response, or shaping human values or conservation action on a global scale. The Upper Middle Rhine has certain important similarities with the Lake District through the prominent intellectual and artistic influence it exerted during the 19th century especially, and its impact on the conservation of historic buildings – a parallel to the Lake

TABLE 3.1 Summary of results of the comparative analysis

SITE	AGRO-PASTORAL FARMING IN A MOUNTAIN SETTING	ARTISTIC INSPIRATION	ADDITIONS TO THE LANDSCAPE TO BEAUTIFY IT	INSPIRED GLOBALLY IMPORTANT IDEAS ABOUT LANDSCAPE	KEY ROLE IN THE GLOBAL CONSERVATION MOVEMENT	NOTES
The English Lake District	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
WORLD HERITAGE SITE OUTSIDE EUROPE						
West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou (WHS/China)		✓	✓			
Hudson Valley (OS/USA)		✓				
Georgian Bay (OS/Canada)		✓				
Yosemite (WHS/US)		✓		✓	✓	The artistic inspiration in these cases was about a sense of awe towards the wonders of nature, whereas in the Lake District it was in response to a lived-in, working landscape of great natural beauty.
Yellowstone (WHS/US)		✓		✓	✓	
Banff (WHS/Canada)		✓		✓	✓	
EUROPEAN SITES ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST						
The Causses and Cévennes Mediterranean Agro-Pastoral Landscape (WHS/France)	✓					
Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley (WHS/Andorra)	✓					
Pyrénées - Mont Perdu (WHS/Spain and France)	✓					
The Upper Middle Rhine Valley (WHS/Germany)		✓	✓	✓	✓	Mainly influential in the conservation of the built heritage
The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes (WHS/France)		✓	✓			
Val d'Orcia (WHS/Italy)		✓	✓			
Droogmakerij de Beemster (Beemster Polder) (WHS/Netherlands)		✓				
The Sacri Monti of Piedmont and Lombardy (WHS/Italy)			✓			
Kalwaria Zebrzydowska			✓			
Muskauer Park/Park Mużakowski (WHS/Germany/Poland)			✓			

TABLE 3.1 Continued

SITE	AGRO-PASTORAL FARMING IN A MOUNTAIN SETTING	ARTISTIC INSPIRATION	ADDITIONS TO THE LANDSCAPE TO BEAUTIFY IT	INSPIRED GLOBALLY IMPORTANT IDEAS ABOUT LANDSCAPE	KEY ROLE IN THE GLOBAL CONSERVATION MOVEMENT	NOTES
Cultural Landscape of Sintra (WHS/Portugal)			✓			
Aranjuez Cultural Landscape (WHS/Spain)			✓			
Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape (WHS/Czech Republic)			✓			
Blenheim Palace (WHS/UK)			✓			
Studley Royal Park including the Ruins of Fountains Abbey (WHS/UK)			✓			
OTHER EUROPEAN SITES						
Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch (WHS/Switzerland)	✓	✓		✓		
Ecrins and the Vanoise (TL/France)	✓					
Bregenz Forest (TL/Austria)	✓					
Alpine and pre-alpine meadow and marsh landscapes (TL/Germany)	✓					
Watzmann (OS/Germany)	✓	✓				
Lakes Maggiore and Orta (TL/Italy)		✓	✓			
Harz (OS/Germany)		✓				
The Siebengebirge (OS/Germany)		✓				
The Dresden Elbe Valley (de-listed WHS/Germany)			✓			
Transhumance: The Royal Shepherds Trail (TL/Italy)	✓					
Montagne Sainte-Victoire et sites cézaniens (TL/France)		✓				

TABLE 3.1 Continued

SITES IN THE BRITISH ISLES						
The Burren (TL/Ireland)	✓	✓				
Killarney National Park (OS/ Ireland)						
The Scottish Highlands (OS/UK)	✓	✓				
Snowdonia (OS/UK)	✓	✓				
Wye Valley (OS/UK)		✓				
Peak District (OS/UK)	✓	✓		✓		Important in establishing ideas about access to landscape
Surrey Hills (OS/UK)		✓				
Exmoor (OS/UK)	✓	✓				

District's effect in the area of landscape protection. Many other sites in Europe show how landscape can be enhanced by human endeavour, but only a few inspired ideas about landscape (rather, many were a response to the prevailing notions about design principles relating to landscape); none had a global impact on conservation practice.

Other sites in Europe that were reviewed include the Alps. This is the one landscape that had a comparable, or even wider, impact on 19th century thinking about landscape and a similarly close association with the Romantic Movement. But, perhaps because of its vast size and diversity, it is far harder to pin down its influence and it lacks several other key characteristics of the nominated site's claim to Outstanding Universal Value. All the other European sites examined were only comparable to the Lake District in one aspect or another.

Finally the comparative analysis examined other sites in the British Isles. There are certainly some, notably the Scottish Highlands and Snowdonia which have in certain respects important similarities and the Peak District has been more important in setting high standards for public access to mountains. But in the British Isles, too, the English Lake District can rightly claim to illustrate a range of internationally important attributes that are not evident anywhere near to the same degree elsewhere.

So to conclude, this analysis demonstrates that none of the areas looked at can be compared to the Lake District in terms of the package of attributes that accounts for its claim to Outstanding Universal Value.

As an upland agro-pastoral, working landscape, the English Lake District has forged a highly distinctive relationship between humans and nature. As a landscape that nurtured writers and poets who could communicate their emotional engagement to the landscape – and so changed perceptions of landscape – it has few if any equals. As a landscape that contains the evidence of attempts to enhance its natural beauty, it is highly distinctive. As a landscape that led the way to the international recognition and protection of cultural landscapes, it probably stands alone. But as a landscape that is the living embodiment and fusion of all these attributes, it is incomparable.

SECTION 3.3

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Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

3.3 STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

a) BRIEF SYNTHESIS

The English Lake District is a self-contained mountainous area in North West England of some 2,292 square kilometres. Its narrow, glaciated valleys radiating from the central massif with their steep hillsides and slender lakes exhibit an extraordinary beauty and harmony. This is the result of the Lake District's continuing distinctive agro-pastoral traditions based on local breeds of sheep including the Herdwick, on common fell-grazing and relatively independent farmers. These traditions have evolved under the influence of the physical constraints of its mountain setting. The stone-walled fields and rugged farm buildings in their spectacular natural background, form a harmonious beauty that has attracted visitors from the 18th century onwards. Picturesque and Romantic interest stimulated globally-significant social and cultural forces to appreciate and protect scenic landscapes. Distinguished villas, gardens and formal landscapes were added to augment its picturesque beauty. The Romantic engagement with the Lake District generated new ideas about the relationship between humanity and its environment, including the recognition of harmonious landscape beauty and the validity of emotional response by people to their landscapes. A third key development was the idea that landscape has a value, and that everyone has a right to appreciate and enjoy it. These ideas underpin the global movement of protected areas and the development of recreational experience within them.

The development in the English Lake District of the idea of the universal value of scenic landscape, both in itself and in its capacity to nurture and uplift imagination, creativity and spirit, along with threats to the area, led directly to the development of a conservation movement which has had global influence. This influence includes the establishment of the international National Trust movement, the origin of the concept of legally-protected landscapes and the creation of the World Heritage cultural landscape category.

b) JUSTIFICATION FOR CRITERIA

CRITERION (ii)

The harmonious beauty of the English Lake District is rooted in the vital interaction between an agro-pastoral land use system and the spectacular natural landscape of mountains, valleys and lakes. In the 18th century the quality of the landscape was

recognised and celebrated by the Picturesque Movement, based on ideas related to both Italian and Northern European styles of landscape painting. These ideas were applied to the English Lake District in the form of villas and designed features intended further to augment its beauty. The Picturesque values of landscape appreciation were subsequently transformed by Romantic engagement with the Lake District into a deeper and more balanced appreciation of the significance of landscape, local society and place. This in turn inspired the development of a number of powerful ideas and values including a new relationship between humans and landscape based on emotional engagement, and the universal value of scenic and cultural landscape which transcends traditional property rights. In the Lake District these values led directly to practical conservation initiatives to protect its scenic and cultural qualities which continue today. These values and initiatives, including the concept of protected areas, have been widely adopted and have had global impact as an important stimulus for landscape conservation.

CRITERION (v)

Land use in the English Lake District derives from a long history of agro-pastoralism. The landscape which has developed is now also a focus for land management for conservation purposes. This landscape is an unrivalled example of a northern European upland agro-pastoral system based on the rearing of cattle and native breeds of sheep, shaped and adapted for over 1,000 years to its spectacular mountain environment. This land use continues today in the face of social, economic and environmental pressures. From the late 18th century a new land use developed in parts of the Lake District designed to augment its beauty through the addition of villas and designed landscapes.

Conservation land management in the English Lake District developed directly from the early conservation initiatives of the 18th and 19th centuries. The primary aims in the Lake District have traditionally been, and continue to be, to maintain the scenic and harmonious beauty of the cultural landscape; to support and maintain traditional agropastoral farming; and to provide access and opportunities for people to enjoy the special qualities of the area and have developed in recent times to include enhancement and resilience of the natural environment.

Together these surviving attributes of land use form a distinctive cultural landscape which is outstanding in its harmonious beauty, quality, integrity and on-going utility and its demonstration of human interaction with the environment. The English Lake District and its current land use and management exemplify the practical application of the powerful ideas about the value of landscape which originated here and which directly stimulated a landscape conservation movement of global importance.

CRITERION (vi)

A number of ideas of universal significance are directly and tangibly associated with the English Lake District. These are the recognition of harmonious landscape beauty through the Picturesque Movement; a new relationship between people and landscape built around an emotional response to it, derived initially from Romantic engagement; the idea that landscape has a value and that everyone has a right to appreciate and

enjoy it; and the need to protect and manage landscape. Three conservation models of international significance for the establishment of the international conservation movement have developed in the English Lake District: the origin of the National Trust movement; the origin of the concept of legally-protected cultural landscapes including national parks; and influence on the creation of the World Heritage cultural landscape category.

These interrelated ideas all emerged from a human response to the English Lake District landscape. Many have left their physical mark contributing to the harmonious beauty of a natural landscape modified by a persisting agro-pastoral system (and supported in many cases by conservation initiatives); villas and Picturesque and later landscape improvements; the extent of, and quality of land management within, the National Trust property in the Lake District; the absence of railways and other modern industrial developments as a result of the success of the conservation movement. All these ideas that have derived from the interaction between people and landscape are manifest in the English Lake District today.

c) STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

The English Lake District nominated World Heritage property is a single, discrete, mountainous area. All the radiating valleys of the Lake District are contained within it. The property is of sufficient size to contain all the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value needed to demonstrate the processes that make this a unique and globally-significant property. The boundary of the property is the Lake District National Park boundary as designated in 1951 and is established on the basis of both topographic features and local government boundaries. The attributes of Outstanding Universal Value are in generally good condition.

Risks affecting the site include the impact of long-term climate change, economic pressures on the system of traditional agro-pastoral farming and development pressures from tourism. These risks are managed through established systems of land management overseen by members of the Lake District National Park Partnership and through a comprehensive system of development management administered by the National Park Authority.

d) STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

As an evolving cultural landscape, the English Lake District conveys its Outstanding Universal Value not only through individual attributes but also in the pattern of their distribution amongst the 13 constituent valleys and their combination to produce an over-arching pattern and system of land use. The key attributes relate to a unique natural landscape which has been shaped by a distinctive and persistent system of agro-pastoral agriculture and local industry with the later overlay of distinguished villas, gardens and formal landscapes influenced by the Picturesque movements; the resulting harmonious beauty of the landscape; the stimulus of the Lake District for artistic creativity and globally influential ideas about landscape; the early origins and ongoing influence of the tourist industry and outdoor movement; and the physical legacy of the conservation movement that developed to protect the Lake District.

e) REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

As a National Park, designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and subsequent legislation, the English Lake District has the highest level of landscape protection afforded under UK law. Over 20 per cent of the site is owned and managed by the National Trust which also has influence over a further two per cent of the site through legal covenants. The National Park Authority owns around four per cent of the site and other members of the Lake District National Park Partnership, including the Forestry Commission and United Utilities Ltd, own a further 16 per cent. A substantial number of individual cultural and natural sites within the Lake District are designated and have legal protection.

The Lake District National Park Partnership has adopted the bid for World Heritage nomination. This provides long-term assurance of management through a World Heritage Forum (formally a sub-group of the Partnership). The National Park Authority has created a post of World Heritage Coordinator and will manage and monitor implementation of the Management Plan on behalf of the Partnership. The Management Plan will be reviewed every five years. A communications plan has been developed in order to inform residents and visitors of the World Heritage bid and this will be developed and extended if the site is inscribed. The Management Plan seeks to address the long term challenges faced by the property including threats faced by climate change, development pressures, changing agricultural practices and diseases, and tourism.



FIGURE 3.14 View of Ullswater from Gowbarrow Park. This includes the enclosed inbye land of Glencoyne Park, the woodland surrounding the celebrated waterfall at Aira Force and the Gothic hunting lodge of Lyulph's Tower (centre left), built in 1780 for the Earl of Surrey and one of the earliest Picturesque houses in the Lake District. The daffodils in the Glencoyne woodlands inspired Wordsworth's poem 'I wandered lonely as a cloud' and large parts of this landscape are owned and managed by the National Trust.