



The farm at Seathwaite, Borrowdale



9. BORROWDALE AND BASSENTHWAITE

—
Description, History and Development

9. THE BORROWDALE AND BASSENTHWAITE VALLEY



“His own home – two rooms of a farmhouse – was in the hamlet of Watendlath, the smoke from whose chimneys he could see now lazily curling beneath him. He had indeed a fine view. On these tops you could walk for miles and scarcely be compelled to descend... The ranges lay all about him in shapes more human than those of his friends, moulded and formed, now sharply with rocks and steeples and slanting cliffs of shining colour, then gently in sheets of flaming bracken lifting to smooth arms and shoulders embossed like shields of metal. Wild profusion, and yet perfect symmetry and order. One colour faded to another, purple cliff above orange sea, deeps of violet under shadow of rose, and a great and perfect stillness everywhere.”

Hugh Walpole, ‘Rogue Herries Part IV’ (1930)

9.1 DESCRIPTION

9.1.1 LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley is the largest of the 13 valleys in the English Lake District, running from the high fells of Rossett Pike and Esk Hause in the south to the northern edge of the Caldbeck Fells. The Buttermere and Crummock Valley lies to the west and Thirlmere to the east. The hard and resistant volcanic rocks composing the high fells of the central Scafell range enclose the head of the valley before it runs due north to the expansive coastal plain of the Solway Firth. The valley contains the major glacial lakes of Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite. The northern section of the valley is contained by the distinct, rounded, smoother textured hills of softer Skiddaw Slates, the Skiddaw and Blencathra massif to the east and Derwent Fells to the west. Further north still, typical limestone scenery takes over as the valley opens out and the fells are left behind.

Figure 9.1 Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley North Illustrative Map

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

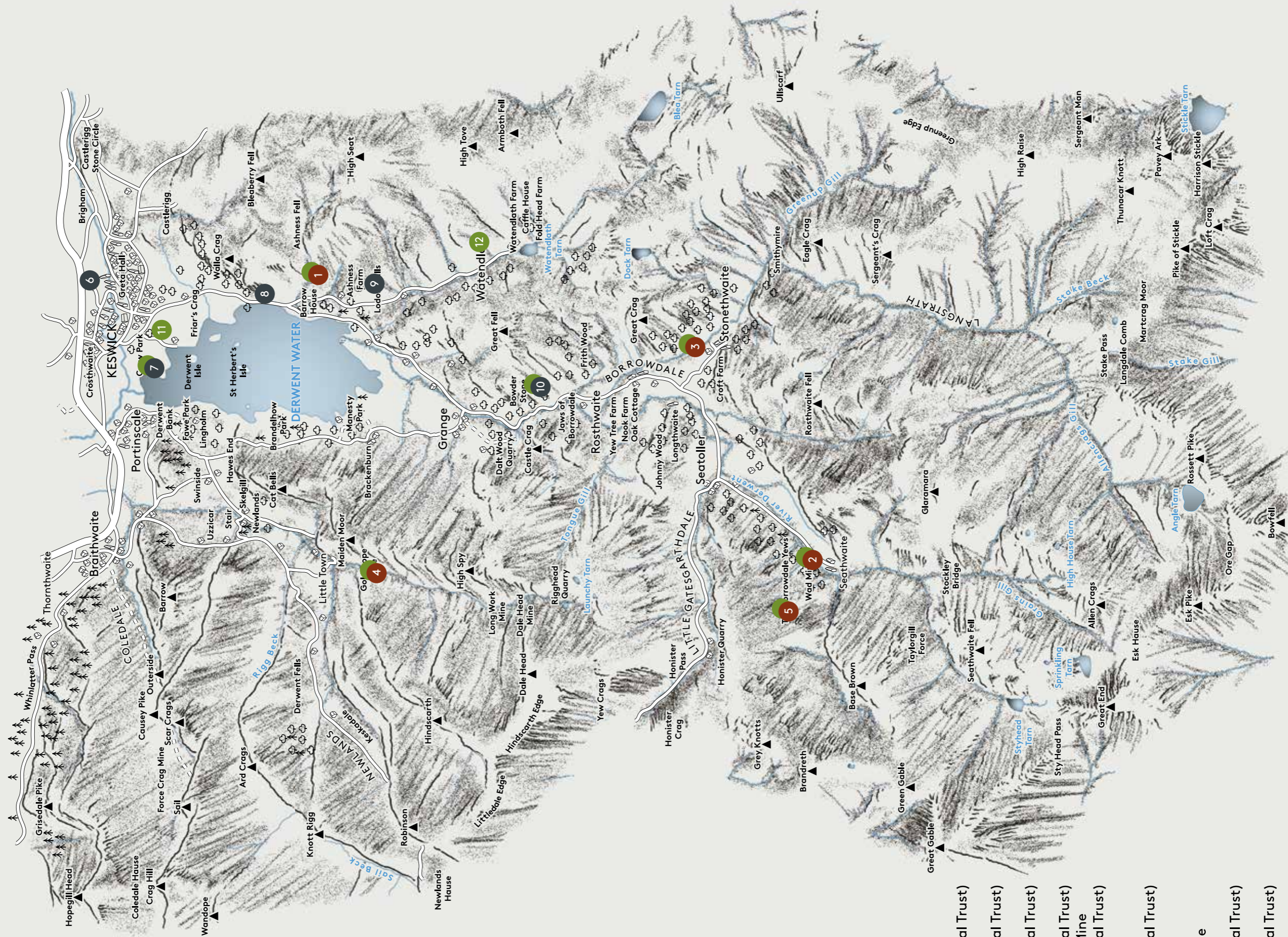


- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Troutbeck Roman forts | 8. Carrock Mine |
| 2. Isel Hall | 9. Mirehouse |
| 3. Routenbeck cruck barn | 10. Underscar Manor |
| 4. Brownrigg Farm | 11. Armathwaite Hall |
| 5. Blindcrake field system | 12. Bassenthwaite Lake
(owned and managed by
National Park Authority) |
| 6. Hesketh Hall | |
| 7. The Howk bobbin mill
(managed by National
Park Authority) | |



Figure 9.2 Borrowdale and Basenthwaite Valley South
Illustrative Map

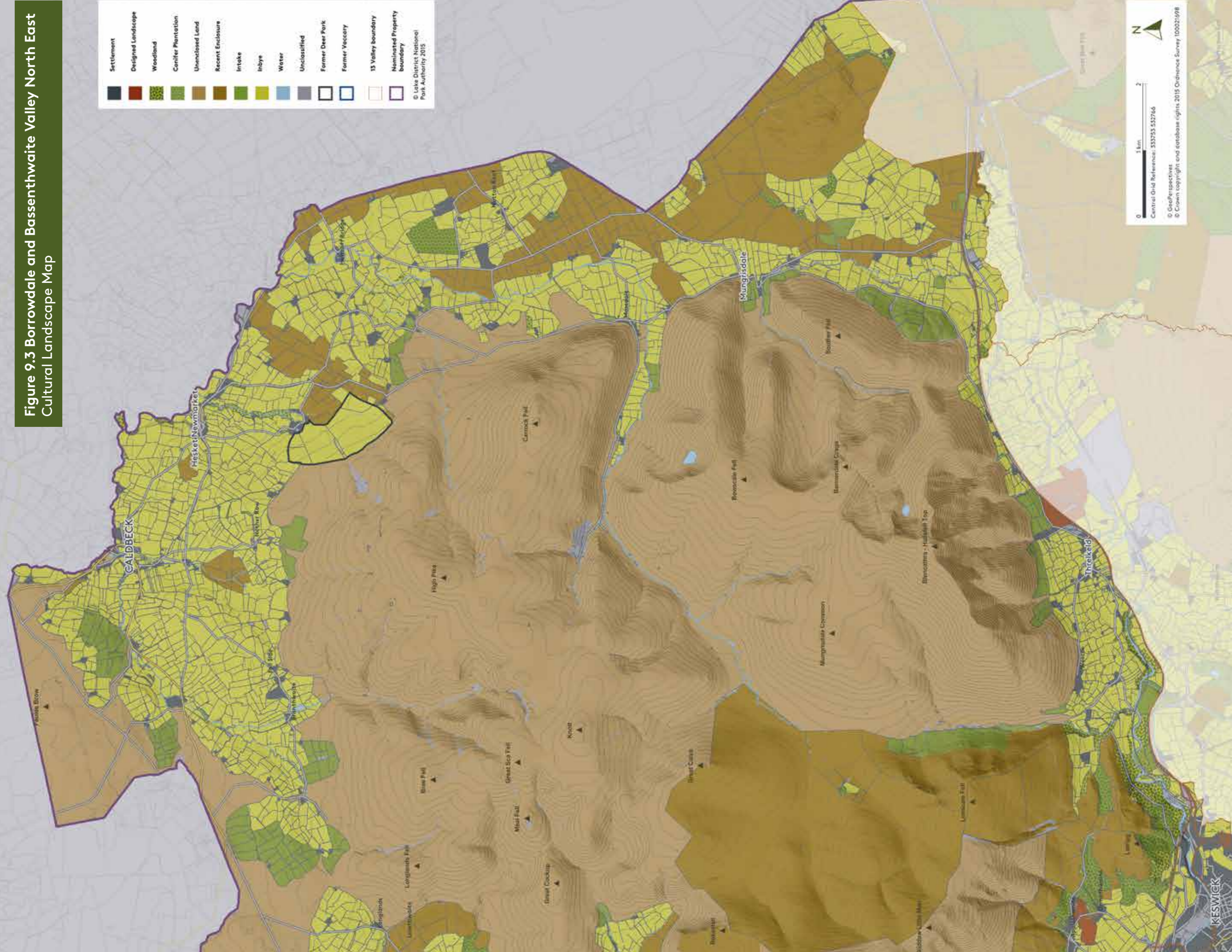
- Agro-pastoral landscape
- Aesthetic appreciation
- Conservation



1. Ashness Farm
(owned by National Trust)
2. Seathwaite Farm
(owned by National Trust)
3. Croft Farm
(owned by National Trust)
4. Goldscope Mine
(owned by National Trust)
5. Seathwaite Wad Mine
(owned by National Trust)
6. Greta Hall
(owned by National Trust)
7. Derwent Isle
(owned by National Trust)
8. Barrow House
(owned by National Trust)
9. Lodore Falls
10. Jaws of Borrowdale
11. Friar's Crag
(owned by National Trust)
12. Watendlath
(owned by National Trust)

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Figure 9.3 Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley North East Cultural Landscape Map

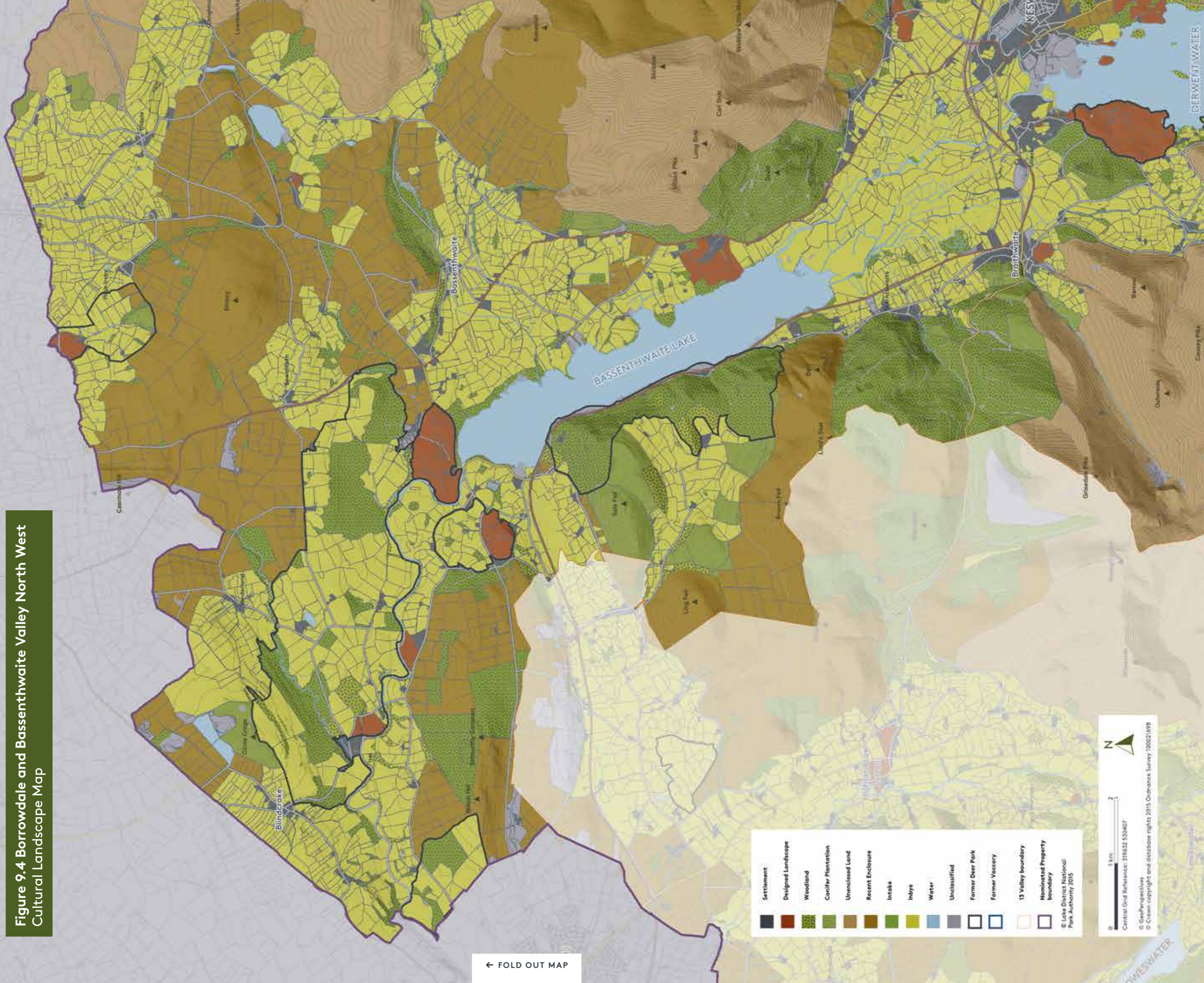


Settlement	Designed Landscape	Woodland	Conifer Plantation	Unenclosed Land	Recent Enclosure	Intake	Inbye	Water	Unclassified	Former Deer Park	Former Vaccary	13 Valley boundary	Nominated Property Boundary
(Black outline)	(Red)	(Green)	(Light Green)	(Brown)	(Dark Brown)	(Light Green)	(Yellow)	(Blue)	(Grey)	(White)	(White)	(Purple)	(Purple)

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0 1 km 2
 Central Grid Reference: 553555 552766
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Figure 9.4 Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley North West Cultural Landscape Map

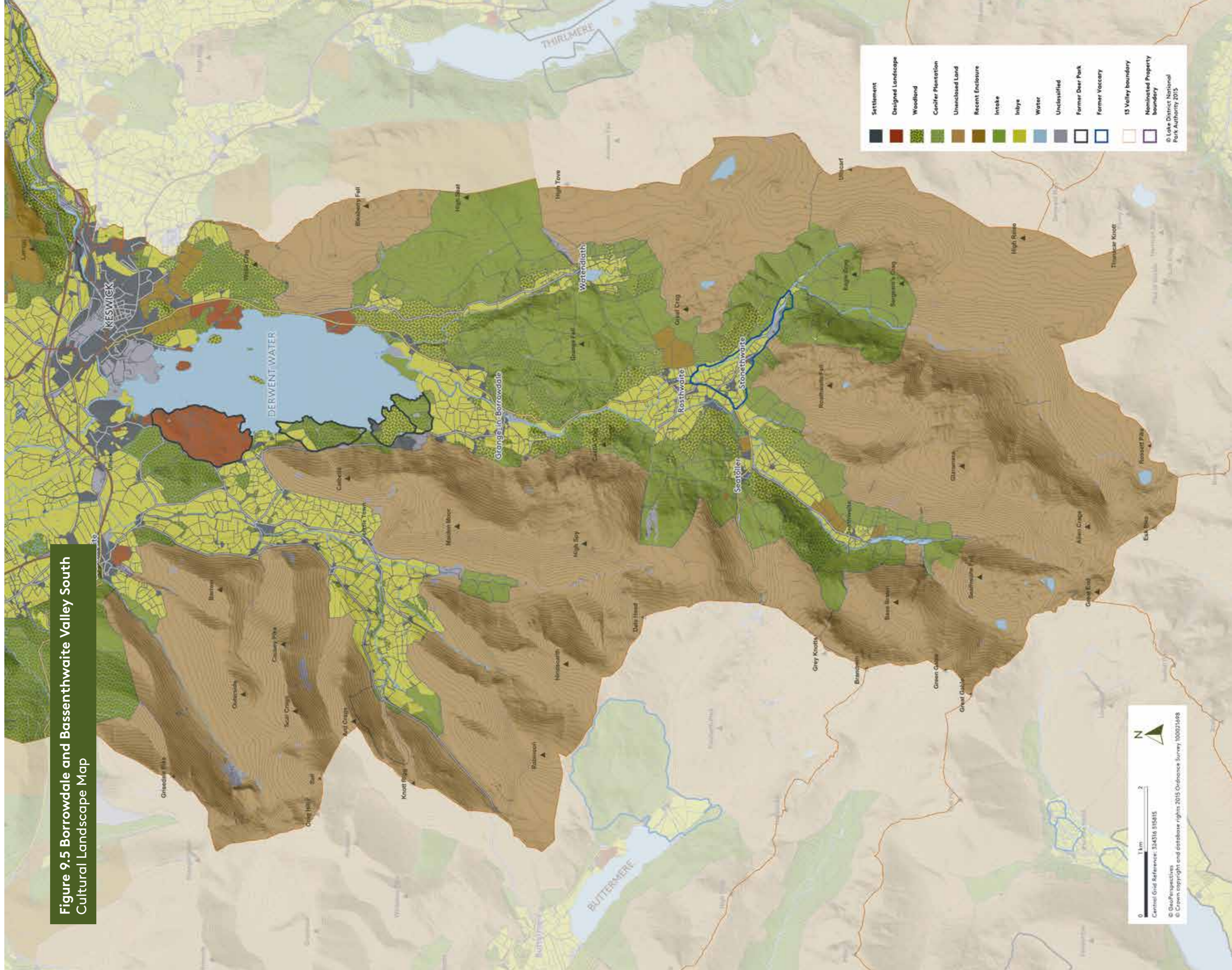


← FOLD OUT MAP

- Settlement**
- Designed Landscape
- Woodland
- Conifer Plantation
- Unenclosed Land
- Recent Enclosure
- Intake
- Inbye
- Water
- Unclassified
- Former Deer Park
- Farmer Veccery
- 13 Valley boundary
- Nominated Property boundary

0 1 km 2
 Central Grid Reference: 119632 530407
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Figure 9.5 Borrowdale and Basenthwaite Valley South Cultural Landscape Map



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

0 1 km 2

Central Grid Reference: 324516 558315

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FIGURE 9.6 The contribution of the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley to the cultural landscape themes identified

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



FIGURE 9.7 Aerial view of the northern end of Derwent Water with Bassenthwaite in the distance. Skiddaw and the Caldbeck Fells form the backdrop to the town of Keswick to the left of the view. The woodland on the western shore of Derwent Water forms part of an extensive area of parkland that has developed since the mid-18th century.

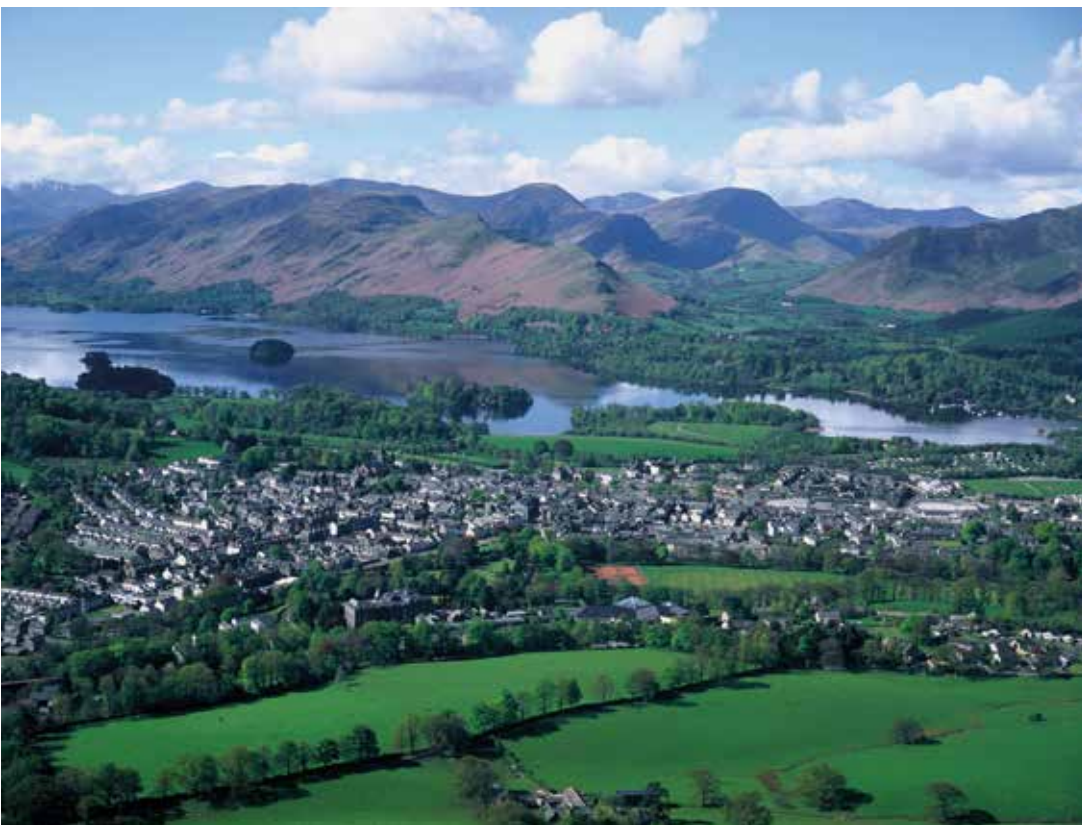


FIGURE 9.8 The town of Keswick with Derwent Water and the Derwent Fells beyond. Keswick developed as a medieval market town and at its core it still retains the pattern of market place and burgage plots of that period. It is now a thriving centre servicing the farming and tourism industries in the northern Lake District.

The varied underlying geology guarantees diversity in the landscape and this is intensified by human activity. In the fells the scars of once prosperous mineral mines are found, and the alluvial soils of the valley floor produce a lush, green carpet of pastoral fields and boundary walls. Above the valley floor and the semi-improved grazing of the intakes on lower slopes, the fellsides are cloaked in native oak woodland with Borrowdale being one of the most wooded of all the Lake District valleys. The influence of the 18th century Picturesque movement is evident in the landscape as the resulting influx of tourists and wealthy industrialists from outside the area created a fascinating and visually appealing blend of agricultural and designed landscape. At the northern end of Derwent Water the market town of Keswick sits comfortably in the landscape in an amphitheatre of fells. See Figure 9.1 and 9.2 for an illustrative map of the valley. Also see Figures 9.3, 9.4 and 9.5 for an overview of the cultural landscape of the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite valley.

9.1.2 THE INHERITED LANDSCAPE'S CHARACTER

On the valley bottom the lush inbye grazing produces a flat green carpet with a strong pattern of rubble stone walls, rising onto the lower sides of the surrounding fells. Nationally-significant rare upland hay meadows are found in the Borrowdale Valley, an important remnant of past land management and local farming heritage. The steep fellsides carry one of the largest oak woodlands in England, containing many species rare in England and restricted to this valley. The woods exhibit dramatic seasonal colour changes and contribute to the natural beauty of the area.

The River Derwent and its many tributaries are a notable influence on the character of the valley. Extensive gravel banks and beds, flanked by riverbank trees, snake along the valley. Distinctive, high-arched 'pack-horse' bridges have been designed and built to cross them. In periods of high rainfall numerous spectacular waterfalls cascade down from becks in the hanging valleys.

The underlying geology changes in a well-wooded narrowing of the valley between King How and Castle Crag. This visually separates and effectively divides Borrowdale into two distinct parts. Above (south of) the so-called 'Jaws of Borrowdale' the valley is relatively narrow with a strong sense of containment provided by the enclosing steep, rugged fells. Pastoral farming is the overriding influence on land use and landscape character and there is a perceived 'naturalness' about the landscape. North of the 'Jaws' the valley widens and is dominated by the expanse of Derwent Water with Keswick on its northern shore. The influence of the 18th century Picturesque movement becomes more evident in the landscape as the resulting influx of tourists and wealthy industrialists from outside the area building large villas and country houses created a fascinating and visually appealing blend of agricultural and designed landscape. Parkland and large gardens containing exotic species of trees, along with the significant houses, make visual statements and a highly significant positive contribution to the Lake District landscape.

Beyond the north end of Derwent Water and Keswick the valley becomes still wider while retaining its sense of containment due to the steepness and height of the enclosing fells. The floor of the valley is the wide, flat alluvial plain between Derwent

Water and Bassenthwaite Lake connected by the gently meandering River Derwent. The river here is much less of a visual presence than in the narrower and more dramatic confines of its upper sections in Borrowdale. The flat valley plain provides spectacular views of the surrounding fells particularly to the east where Ullock Pike and Skiddaw tower above the plain.

To the north west of Bassenthwaite, the valley widens and the high fells are left behind. The valley becomes a transitional landscape with intimate pastoral patterns of small fields giving way to rolling hills with long distance views. Then the valley enters the ring of limestone surrounding the Lake District with its rolling topography, pavements and outcrops that typify limestone scenery.

To the north east of Keswick and Bassenthwaite Lake, the massive circular area of high ground to the north of Skiddaw (known locally as 'Back o' Skiddaw') comprises the Caldbeck Fells and forms a physically discrete block of land. The Caldbeck Fells are relatively devoid of trees and are covered in coarse grass and heather. Views from the long escarpment on the northern edge of these fells look out to the Solway Plain and Scotland beyond.

The transition between various types of underlying geology guarantees variety in the landscape of the valley. Add to this the different land uses and industries which this area supports and not least the very important layer of historic development arising from the upsurge of interest in the landscape's intrinsic beauty, then the diversity of the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley is easily interpreted. But the landscape of this valley is not simply a fascinating record of human relationship with the environment. It is a landscape of great natural beauty which works at all scales from the stunning high fells and wide lakes to the detail of the bryophytes in the oak woods, complemented by the Victorian attention to detail on the streetscape of Keswick.

9.1.3 FARMING TODAY – THE AGRO-PASTORAL LANDSCAPE

The modern field pattern in Borrowdale itself reflects 18th and 19th century farming practices and little has changed in the intervening years. It is also noticeable that here there is a tradition of hedge-lined fields rather than the stone used elsewhere in the valley. Although some early field patterns around Bassenthwaite have been obscured by forestry, the present field system surrounding the village there displays the characteristics of an enclosed former town field. There are also traces of single ancient farms and extensive areas of parkland around Mirehouse at the southern end of Bassenthwaite Lake and Armathwaite Hall at the northern end.

Strip fields fossilised from a previous pattern of agriculture can be seen at Rosthwaite, although this could be quite late in date. Between Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite there are large areas of strips also possibly representing much earlier enclosure, especially away from the river at Millbeck and Thornthwaite/Braithwaite, where the name Hallgarth Beck is preserved (the place-name element 'garth' possibly denoting early agricultural enclosure). These may have been modified considerably by the construction of the railway line and by the implementation of modern drainage in

the 19th century. On both sides of the River Glenderamackin there appear to be strips enclosed from a former town field.

Traces of former open fields may survive at Mungrisdale and there is a very small area of strips immediately east of Mosedale. There may possibly be some open fields to the south of Haltcliff Hall, near Heskett Newmarket, with Haltcliff Hall perhaps occupying its own separate holding. There are common fields at Blindcrake, close to Redmain. There is a further likely example at Riggs along the Dubwath Beck on the west shore of Bassenthwaite and possibly also at Wythop Hall and Old Scales, although this is a tiny system, perhaps with Wythop Hall being superior and separate to the Old Scales settlement.

There is no documentary evidence in upper Borrowdale to suggest the existence of a ring garth in the valley. The surviving visible field evidence for such a feature is also fractured and insubstantial. Some sections of wall have been identified as potential sections of a valley ring garth, but are just as likely to have been part of enclosing walls for parcels of ancient coppice woodland. In contrast, the remains of two separate ring garths can be traced in the present field system in the side valley of Watendlath. In upper Borrowdale this situation may be in part due to the high incidence of flooding of agricultural land and the subsequent need to rebuild the field walls frequently.



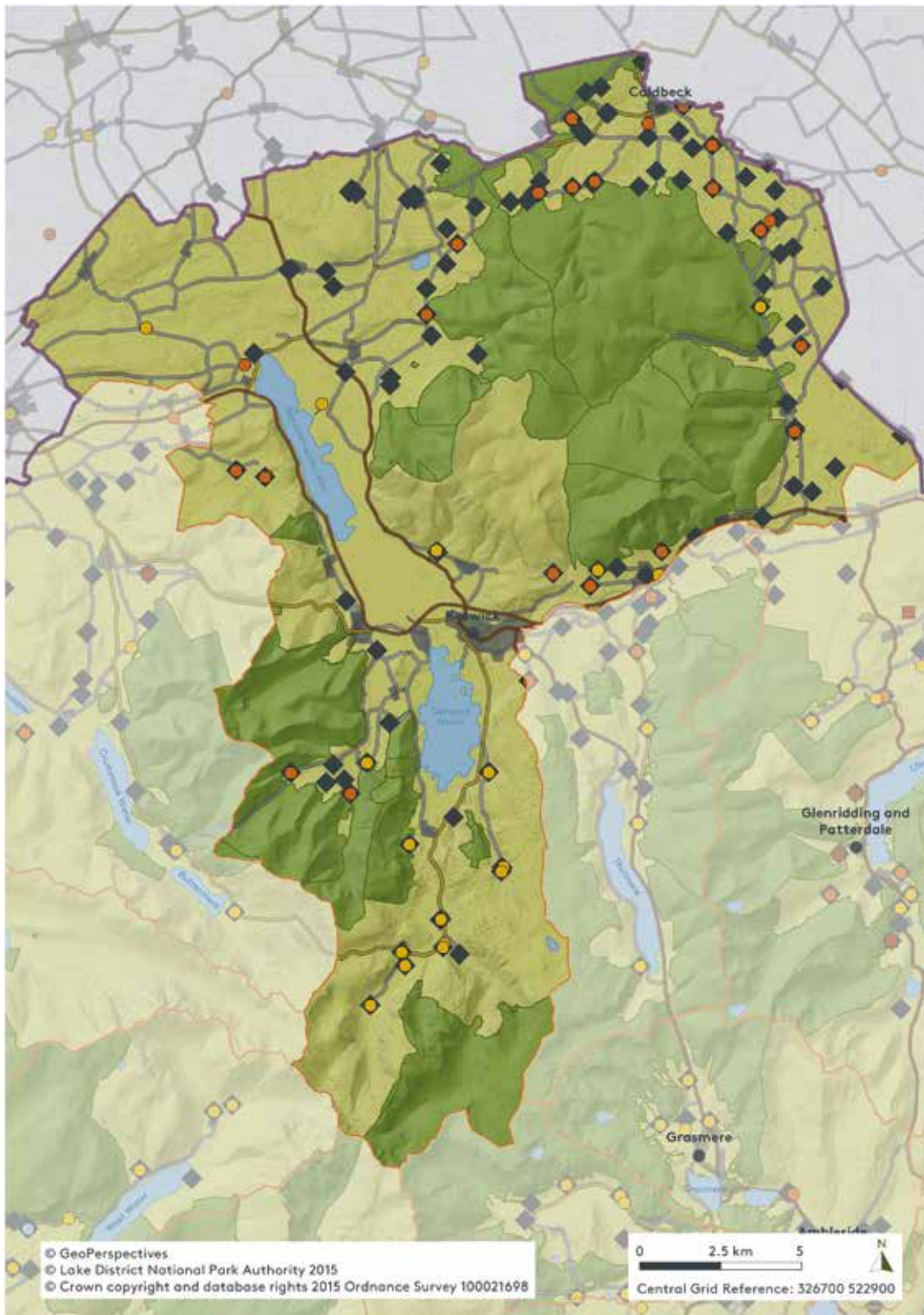
FIGURE 9.9 The agro-pastoral landscape in the hanging valley of Watendlath, on the eastern side of Borrowdale. One of the early ring garths here enclosed the land surrounding the tarn and can still be traced in the surviving field pattern. All the land and buildings in Watendlath are owned by the National Trust.



FIGURE 9.10 Stockley Bridge, crossing Grains Gill in upper Seathwaite. A classic example of a small, single-arched Lake District packhorse bridge.

The flat valley floors north of Seathwaite, east of Seatoller, west of Rosthwaite, and north and south of Stonethwaite, were the original focus for farming and enclosure outside of the earlier farmsteads and small enclosures/paddocks, but these areas are also prone to flooding and so enclosure boundaries have consistently been rebuilt on the valley floor thus obliterating any trace of earlier patterns. The pattern today is almost certainly the result of rebuilding at some point in the second half of the 19th century. In addition, east of Seathwaite, is an enclosure incorporating a large curvilinear and banked boundary, extending up the lower valley side and capped at the top by a funnelled boundary leading to a sheepfold. This enclosure could relate to a stock corralling area outside of the village looking out onto the medieval fell grazing. North of Seatoller, there is also an area of old enclosure located to the north of the hamlet where the ruinous remains of substantial dry stone walls sit upon banked boundaries. Again this

FIGURE 9.11 Shepherds' flocks and native sheep breeds in the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley



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0 2.5 km 5
 Central Grid Reference: 326700 522900

 Nominated Property boundary
 Valley boundary
 Registered Common Land

◆ Fell-going Flocks
 Flocks registered with Breed Associations:
● Herdwick ● Rough Fell ● Swaledale ■ Multiple Breeds

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

enclosure would appear to relate to stock corralling outside of the hamlet and near to the sheepwalks.

The walls and farm buildings in Borrowdale are constructed from local slate and the valley has numerous fine examples of Lake District vernacular style. Important groups of 17th century vernacular buildings can be seen at Grange, Watendlath and Rosthwaite. Typical packhorse bridges of the 17th and 18th centuries survive at Ashness and Stockley south of Seathwaite, and there is a double-arched bridge at Grange, rebuilt in the early 19th century. The settlement pattern in Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite comprises a range of small villages and hamlets with the market town of Keswick at the northern end of Derwent Water.

WORKING FARMS AND FLOCKS

Today there are still 103 farms with fell-going flocks in the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley area. There are 21 Herdwick flocks and 23 Swaledale flocks registered with the relevant Sheep Breeders' Associations. There are no registered Rough Fell flocks. There are a total of nine National Trust landlord flocks listed in the 'Lakeland Shepherds' Guide' (2005), in Borrowdale, Watendlath and Newlands, including very large flocks such as at Yew Tree Farm, Rosthwaite. There are about 14,800 hectares of Registered Common Land in the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley; this is around one third of the total area, and includes most of the open fell. The main areas of Common Land are the large area at the southern head of Borrowdale, the fells surrounding the Newlands Valley, and most of the Skiddaw massif.

Borrowdale is a great stronghold of the Herdwick sheep breed and there are many important farms in the valley. These include the great dalehead farm in Seathwaite, with 500 ewes recorded in the first flock book of the Herdwick Sheep Breeders Association in 1920. Seathwaite was one of the farms acquired by Herbert W. Walker of Whitehaven after World War I to prevent afforestation.

CONTINUING FARMING CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

Farming families have changed over time, but two families referred to in the 1920 Herdwick flock book still farm today. These are the Edmondsons at Seathwaite and the Grave family at Low Skelgill, Newlands. What is perhaps more astonishing is that the Grave family was farming at Low Skelgill at least as early as 1347.

William ('Herdwick Billy') Wilson, the first Secretary of the Herdwick Sheep Breeders Association in 1916 and long term Committee member, farmed large Herdwick flocks in Watendlath, Newlands and Bassenthwaite in the 1920s and 30s. The Wilson family were highly competitive and successful in the show ring and their tups were very influential in the breed for some time. Their flock was recorded as 800 ewes in the 1920 flock book.

The Relph family at Yew Tree Farm, Rosthwaite have won national awards for their Herdwick meat products.

The Keswick Herdwick Tup Fair is held on the Thursday after the third Wednesday in May on Keswick Town Field. It is one of the key meetings of the Herdwick calendar.

Skiddaw Shepherds' Meet is held alternately at Mungrisdale, Threlkeld, Bassenthwaite, Uldale and Caldbeck on the first Monday in December. The Summer Meet is on the first Monday after the 20th July at the same Inn as the December Meet. This is for the District of Saddleback, Skiddaw, Caldbeck and Bowscale Fells.

Buttermere Shepherds' Meet is held at The Fish Hotel, Buttermere on the last Saturday in November and with Buttermere Show at Lanthwaite Green, Brackenthwaite on third/fourth Saturday in October. This includes the District of Braithwaite, Newlands, and Borrowdale.

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

Keswick Agricultural Society's (founded in 1860) Annual Show is traditionally held on August Bank Holiday Monday. There are classes for Herdwick and Swaledale sheep, cattle, pony and horse showing, sheep dogs, terriers and foxhounds, children's classes as well as traditional Cumberland and Westmorland Wrestling, art and craft and trade stands.

FARMSTEADS

TABLE 9.1 Key farm buildings in the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley



ORTHWAITE HALL

Farmhouse and former house now barn. Probably late 16th or early 17th century with new house dated and inscribed on coat-of-arms panel over barn doorway: C.R.1675 (Christopher Richmond, arms Richmond of Highhead impaling Hudleston of Hutton John).

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 325272 534183



HESKET HALL

An intriguingly designed 17th century house built, probably as a hunting lodge or villa by Sir William Lawson, whose principal house was Isel Hall. It has a cubic centre and four gabled wings; twelve corners and four-way symmetry, enabling it to act as a sundial.

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 333973 538646



ROUTENBECK

Cruck barn is late 17th or early 18th century; significant due to the survival of 4 full cruck trusses; now a garage and store.

DATE 17th – 20th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 319529 530430

**HEWTHWAITE HALL**

Farmhouse, dated and inscribed 1581 over entrance.

DATE 16th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 315238 532836

**THWAITE HALL, HUTTON ROOF**

Rebuilt in 1555 and 'modernised' in 1876.

DATE 16th and 19th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 337451 534985

**TODCROFTS, CALDBECK**

The farmhouse is probably late 17th century and the barns are dated 1832.

DATE 17th – 19th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 331956 539570

**SEATOLLER FARM**

Seatoller Farm is early 17th century.

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Not listed
GRID REFERENCE 324504 513823

**NOOK FARM**

Cottage, farm house and barn under one roof. Early 18th century.

DATE 18th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 325684 514770

**WYTHOP HALL**

Farmhouse and adjoining former stables. Probably mid-16th century with extension dated and inscribed F. & V.F. 1678 (Fletcher) with late 19th century alterations. House has 17th century outshut and further 19th century extension to rear. The tower was given a licence to crenellate on 12 July 1318.

DATE 14th – 19th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 320291 528404

**CAFFLE HOUSE, WATENDLATH**

Farmhouse now house and cafe. Late 17th century with 20th century alterations.

DATE 17th – 20th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 327580 516320

**DUNTHWAITE HOUSE AND BARN**

Dated 1785 with accompanying late 18th century stables and barns.

DATE 18th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 317394 532828

**BROWNRIGG FARM, CALDBECK**

Dated 1722 with 17th century byres and barn. Probably 17th century. Interior has 3 pairs of upper crucks.

DATE 17th – 18th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 330680 540371

**OAK COTTAGE, ROSTHWAITE**

Cottage and adjoining barn. Interior has 17th century built-in panelled court cupboard and upper-floor 17th century panelling.

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 325730 514767

**STONETHWAITE FARMHOUSE**

Farmhouse. Mid or late 17th century with 19th century alterations.

DATE 17th – 19th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 326282 513712

**CROFT FARM**

Cottage and farmhouse. Late 17th century with 19th century alterations.

DATE 17th – 19th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 326212 513742

**STEPS END FARM, WATENDLATH**

Farmhouse. Mid-17th century. Includes 17th century studded plank door within 17th century gabled stone porch with side seats.

DATE 17th – 18th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 327583 516388

**FOLD HEAD FARM, WATENDLATH
(NOW JOHN GREENHOUSE FARM)**

Fold Head Farm, with its 16th century core. Farmhouse and barns. Late 17th century or early 18th century with late 18th century additions. Mentioned in the Herries series of books by Sir Hugh Walpole.

DATE 16th – 18th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 327591 516261

**ASHNESS FARM**

A good example of an isolated valley side farm, mid-17th century.

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Not listed
GRID REFERENCE 327175 519298

**SEATHWAITE FARMHOUSE**

Seathwaite Farm has a continuous row of barns under one roof facing the farmhouse, mid-17th century and mid-17th and 18th century cottages and 19th century barn. Dated on interior timber 1663; 19th century alterations; barn dated 1851.

DATE 17th – 19th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 323547 512164

**GRANGE FARM**

Long house and former farmhouse and barn. Mid-17th century. Interior has beamed ceiling and inglenook with firebeam. Built-in panelled and carved court cupboard is dated 1669.

DATE 17th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Not listed
GRID REFERENCE 325313 517439

**YEW TREE FARM, ROSTHWAITE**

Late 17th century farmhouse with 18th and 19th century additions. Interior has 17th century stone chimney breast supported by firebeam on corbels. Panelled 18th century doors.

DATE 17th – 19th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Not listed
GRID REFERENCE 325708 514784

**MILLBECK HALL**

Dated 1592. Farmhouse and barn thought to incorporate the remains of a 15th century fortified tower with newel staircase in thickness of the wall, but this is hidden by roughcast.

DATE 15th – 16th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 325605 526094

9.1.4 INDUSTRY

Medieval bloomery sites for smelting iron are apparent in the landscape and the charcoal pitsteads (platforms) are still evident in Borrowdale woodlands such as Frith Wood and Johnny's Wood, near Rosthwaite. In the medieval period it is likely that iron ore was being mined at Ore Gap on the high slopes of Bowfell and taken down to bloomeries in Langstrath for smelting, using charcoal produced in the local woods. One such bloomery site is on Smithymire Island at the confluence of Langstrath Beck and Greenup Gill.

Borrowdale was a key area for the Company of Mines Royal, set up by the English Crown in 1568. The remains of the Mines Royal copper and lead mines can be seen at Goldscope in the Newlands valley, and the copper mines of Long Work, St Thomas' Work and Dalehead higher up on the fellsides of Dalehead and High Spy, all of which are protected as scheduled monuments. The Caldbeck Fells on the north side of the Skiddaw massif represent an extensive mining landscape of about 25 square kilometres, including Potts Gill lead mines, Roughton Gill lead and copper mines and barytes mill buildings, Carrock Fell tungsten, lead, copper and arsenic mines and Charleton Gill, Ramps Gill and Swinburn Gill mines. The area was so rich in minerals that it inspired the saying "Caldbeck and the Caldbeck Fells are worth all England else".

The remains of a unique mining operation can be found on the slopes above Seathwaite in Borrowdale where 'wad' (pure graphite) was mined from the 16th century. Keswick became the world centre of pencil manufacturing and the first record of a factory making pencils in Keswick is from 1832. The Keswick Pencil Museum now occupies the 1920s factory in Keswick following a new factory being built on a new site in Cumbria in 2008. Graphite was also used for casting cannon balls, glazing pottery, in medicine and in smelting industries. The mines were abandoned in 1891.



FIGURE 9.12 Roughton Gill on the northern edge of the Caldbeck Fells. Mining of metal ores took place here from the 16th to the 19th centuries and the remains of Roughton Gill lead mine can be seen in the centre of the picture, along with zig-zag mining tracks leading to workings higher up the fells.

The last working mine in the Lake District was Force Crag Mine in the Coledale valley, south-west of the village of Braithwaite. This was mined for lead from 1839 until 1865, and for barytes and zinc intermittently from 1867 until it was finally abandoned in 1991. This site is protected as a scheduled monument and is owned and managed by the National Trust. The monument includes Force Crag mines and barytes mill together with the in situ machinery associated with the mill, and the remains of all

associated buildings, earlier mills, water management systems, settling ponds, trackways, tramways, dressing areas and an aerial ropeway.

Slate quarrying in this valley area was centred in the southern part of Borrowdale on the Borrowdale Volcanic Series geology. At Castle Crag the quarries were all mainly worked out by the 1930s, although some workings continued until the 1960s. Dalt Wood Quarry closed in 1973. Rigghead Quarries are high up in Tongue Gill, west of Rosthwaite. They were worked from the 18th century and finally closed in the 1940s.

The woollen industry was also important from the medieval period when the valley was jointly owned by Furness and Fountains abbeys, with mills in Keswick and other parts of the valley. This importance continued into later centuries and a significant group of late 18th century mill buildings can be seen at Millbeck on the slopes of Skiddaw, between



FIGURE 9.13 The remains of the Bobbin Mill at the Howk, Caldbeck, located in a spectacular wooded limestone gorge

Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite Lake. Millbeck Towers was a former carding mill which finished working in 1886 and was converted to a fine house in Art Nouveau style in 1903. It was gifted to the National Trust along with a number of other small buildings connected with the mill.

The Howk at Caldbeck is the best surviving example of a bobbin mill in the valley. It was purpose-built for bobbin manufacture in 1857 and operated until closure in 1924. The surviving structures largely date from 1857. It had a 42 feet

5 inches (13.1 metres) diameter water wheel, at the time said to be the second largest in the area. The Howk mill made mainly spinning and threading bobbins for the cotton industry in Lancashire as well as other wood products for local use. The mill employed between 40 and 60 people, including boys as young as 10 years old.

Low Mill, in Caldbeck (formerly known as Priest's Mill), is a former water-driven cornmill on the Cald Beck dating from 1702. It was operational up until the early 1960s, lastly as a sawmill.

9.1.5 SETTLEMENTS

KESWICK

Keswick's present form and character reflects three main periods of growth from medieval market town, with its fossilised burgage plot pattern of parallel yards, to 18th century water-powered industrial town based on minerals mined in the surrounding fells, to railway-induced Victorian tourist resort. The town sits comfortably in the landscape nestling by the lake with its picturesque islands within an amphitheatre of containing, but not overbearing, fells. Small wonder then that there are very strong literary and cultural associations with Coleridge, Southey, Wordsworth and Ruskin, who were all influential in attracting the first visitors to the area.

The name Keswick comes from the two Anglian words 'cese' and 'wic' meaning 'cheese farm' and is first documented in a mid-13th century manuscript from Fountains Abbey in Yorkshire. It is possible that there has been a church on the site of the present-day St Kentigern's at nearby Crosthwaite since the early medieval period as St Kentigern (known as St Mungo in Scotland) was an apostle of the early British kingdom of Strathclyde.

Keswick's market charter dates from 1276 and it was well established by the end of the 13th century. As is typical of this period of settlement it was (until the mid-19th century) a compact town made up of burgage plots around the market place, a pattern which can still be seen today through the thin and varied buildings fronting the market square with longer yards to the rear.

From the 16th to the 18th century the town's population increased due to trade, commerce, water-powered industries and mining in surrounding areas, although the town itself remained compact. By the 18th century, Keswick was the principal trading centre of the textile industry in the northern Lake District. The town developed gradually, often through the infilling of the long rear yards of the burgage plots, with small houses and workshops built to the rear of the back plots. This development is still apparent in the surviving street pattern off the market place.

A number of 18th and 19th century developments further influenced the form and character of Keswick to create the town we know today. The town developed as the Lake District's first tourist centre thanks to the guide books and poems written about the Vale of Keswick in the later 18th century such as those by Dr John Brown ('Description of the Vale and Lake Of Keswick', 1767 and Thomas Gray's 'Journal of a visit to the Lake District in 1769' which appeared as an appendix to Thomas West's 'Guide to the Lakes' of 1778). The single most dramatic development of Keswick came in the 1860s with the arrival of the railway. This resulted in rapid growth, with new housing, new styles of architecture and larger cottage industries such as pencil mills, woollens, timber, corn milling and leather tanning along the River Greta. To the north of Keswick town centre, by the bridge over the River Greta, is the Keswick School of Industrial Arts founded by Canon Rawnsley in 1893 and designed in the Arts and Crafts style. It is now a restaurant, but the inscription on the frontage is still visible: 'The Loving Eye and Patient Hand, Shall Join Together & Bless This Land.' Greta Hamlet (1910-11), to the north

of the medieval centre, was built as a small self-contained garden suburb of 25 houses surrounding a central court, built in the spirit of the 'garden city' movement.

BLINDCRAKE VILLAGE

Blindcrake village, north-west of Bassenthwaite Lake on a ridge above the north bank of the River Derwent, is a linear settlement with a string of traditional rendered and lime-washed farmhouses and stone barns lining the village street. Stretching back from the individual farms, the fossilised medieval field strip pattern, later enclosed with hedges and a few stone walls, abuts the line of a former Roman road. It is a particularly good example of a surviving medieval open field strip system in the Lake District and the narrow field strips still have the fragmented land ownerships of that period. The village and field system have been designated as a Conservation Area because of their significance. There are several well-preserved examples of 18th century vernacular longhouses with good examples of 19th century dwellings such as Greenbank (1832), Crabtree Cottage (1836), Meadow View (1847), Mountain View (around 1850) and Woodlands (1876).

CALDBECK

Caldbeck is a small historic hamlet set in a sheltered location on the north-east flank of the Skiddaw massif, along the banks of the Cald Beck, with attractive architectural and historic character. Caldbeck has a distinctive air of former prosperity and confidence, reflected in the quality of buildings. Those of the 18th and 19th centuries use the distinctive local pale pink, purple or buff sandstones for walling and door/window surrounds. The village is principally built on the southern bank of the river, where the large St Kentigern's Church, one of the finest in the Lake District with many periods of building since the 12th century, the rectory and tithe barn are located. A large churchyard contains some notable 18th century headstones, including that of the celebrated huntsman, John Peel. Numerous barns dating from the 17th to 19th centuries testify to the agricultural origins of Caldbeck. An unusually high number of 18th and 19th century water-powered mills remain from Caldbeck's time as the focus of various industries including corn milling, wool spinning and carding, bobbin making, and stone quarrying and metal mining.

HESKET NEWMARKET

Hesket Newmarket is a small historic farming hamlet with attractive architectural and historic character, two miles south-east of Caldbeck on a terrace above the valley of the River Caldew. It received a market charter in 1751 and was formally laid out as a neat small market centre around village greens, with well-proportioned 18th and 19th century houses in local sandstone and render. It has numerous buildings protected by listing dating mainly from the late 17th to early 19th centuries, including the Market Cross in the centre of the green and the unusual cross-shaped Hesket Hall farmhouse. Several buildings are former public houses and there is a smithy; buildings that testify to the hamlet's historic role as a market and meeting place for the scattered farms of this part of the Lake District.

MUNGRISDALE

An attractive cluster of 17th and 18th century farmsteads sited where farmland abruptly meets the steep eastern edge of the Caldbeck Fells. The houses have a rugged style of vernacular architecture using cobbles, boulders and Skiddaw slate. St Kentigern's Church, dating from the 18th century, is small and simple in style, to serve an isolated farming community. Nearby at Mosedale is a fine example of a Friend's Meeting House of 1702. Beckside Farm is run by Newton Rigg College as a training farm for young farmers.

THRELKELD

Sited at the foot of steep slopes to Blencathra, Threlkeld is essentially a string of cottages and farmsteads on the old Keswick road. The Horse and Farrier (1688) is a good example of a vernacular inn. The Penrith to Keswick Railway encouraged expansion of lead mining and nearby granite quarrying and the village prospered from 1880 to 1900 with mining of lead and zinc. The buildings of Threlkeld are unique in the Lake District, with the local slate-stone walling having a rusty brown stain on all the 19th century buildings. On the main street, the Old Joiner's shop, next to Church is a rare survivor of the late 16th/early 17th century small house with cruck trusses and large stone firehood.

BASSENTHWAITE

The village of Bassenthwaite is located on the eastern side of Bassenthwaite Lake, some six miles from Keswick, just off the A591 main road to Bothel. It comprises a mixture of buildings of various periods around a village green, with two churches, one Norman (St Bega's) and one Victorian (St John's).

BRAITHWAITE

Braithwaite sits at the foot of the Whinlatter Pass to Lorton and the Coledale Valley, on the edge of the Derwent Fells. Historically a compact settlement, with local woollen industry, pencil mill and corn mill, it saw a substantial amount of infill and new development in the 20th century, towards Thornthwaite near the very busy A66 road. Braithwaite is a popular tourist centre with camp site and hotel accommodation.

GRANGE IN BORROWDALE

Originally a farm or grange belonging to Furness Abbey, Grange is located in a narrow section of the Borrowdale Valley and surrounded by inbye fields. The graceful double-arched bridge is the key approach feature in this part of the valley and the village comprises an attractive group of old stone and whitewashed cottages and farmhouses with limited 20th century development.

WATENDLATH

Watendlath sits on the edge of a tarn within a hanging valley high above the main valley of Borrowdale. It is on an ancient packhorse route through the Lake District and forms a very attractive cluster of farms and houses, with a well-known packhorse bridge. Watendlath is one of The Lake District's most remote hamlets and a very popular

destination for tourists in the Keswick area. Watendlath achieved literary fame through Hugh Walpole's novels – the heroine of Judith Paris was based on Fold Head Farm.

ROSTHWAITE

Although small, Rosthwaite is the main settlement in Borrowdale. It is dominated by steep valley sides to the east and is essentially a cluster of farmsteads, house and a hotel. At Kiln Orchard, a local housing scheme of six dwellings was given the national Rural Housing Award in the Civic Trust Awards in 1995.

ISEL AND CROSTHWAITE

There is some fine medieval ecclesiastical and defensive architecture, namely at Isel, on the Derwent downstream from Bassenthwaite Lake. St Michael's Church, Isel, dates from the 1130s, although Isel does not appear as a name in documents until 1195, as Ysala. Isel Hall is a defended pele tower of the 14th century with later Elizabethan and 17th century additions. St Kentigern's Church, Crosthwaite, is the earliest true parish church in the Lake District, with evidence of 12th, 14th and 16th centuries, although its predecessor is reputedly 6th century.

In the wider valley, there are also a number of important 'hall' farmhouses dating from the 16th or 17th century on the fringes of the Bassenthwaite and the Skiddaw Massif areas and good examples of 17th or early 18th century farmhouses or farm building groups on the northern fringes. In Borrowdale there are a number of small farming hamlets with typical clusters of vernacular farm houses, cottages, barns and byres, many now owned by the National Trust.

9.1.6 PICTURESQUE BUILDINGS AND LANDSCAPE

Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley was one of the most important areas of interest for visitors seeking Picturesque views. It also has many connections with the Lake Poets and

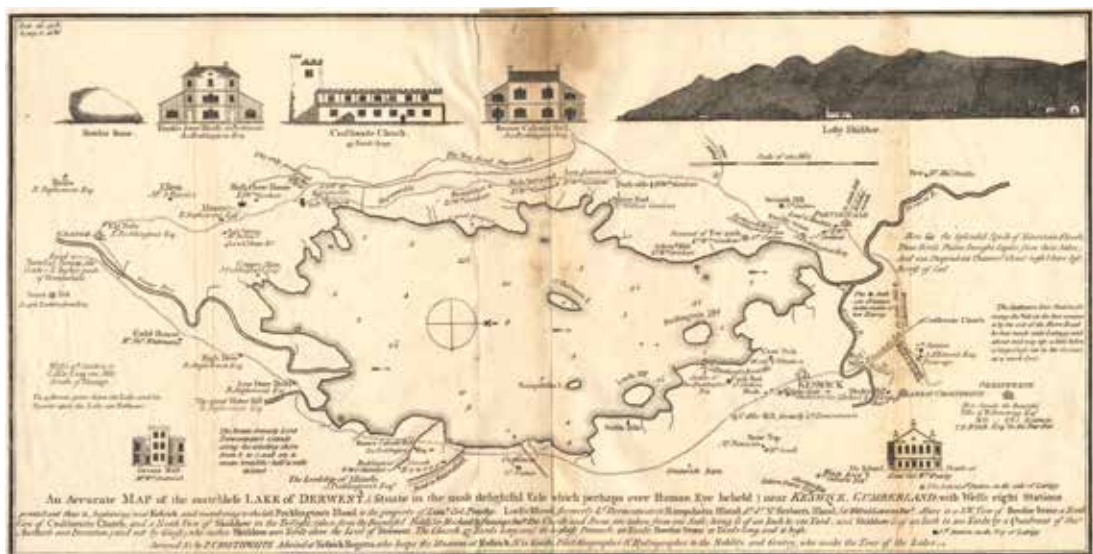


FIGURE 9.14 Crosthwaite's map of Derwent Water, first published in 1783 and republished in 1794

other major literary and artistic figures of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. There are a number of their residences surviving, and a great number of landscape features which provided inspiration for their work.

Thomas West's guidebook of 1778 identified a series of viewing stations around Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite from which the picturesque beauty of the landscape could be fully appreciated. West's tour around Derwent Water started at his first station at Crow Park in Keswick and worked in a clockwise direction to include eight viewing stations. Additional viewing stations were proposed by the 18th century entrepreneur Peter Crosthwaite and are depicted on maps that he produced to sell to visitors. These viewing stations are still accessible and are mostly now in the ownership of the National Trust.

9.1.7 VILLAS AND ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPING

The early Picturesque interest in Derwent Water quickly led to the purchase of land and estates by offcomers wishing both to live in the area and to enhance its undoubted beauty. An early phase of villa building around Derwent Water was undertaken by Joseph Pocklington, the son of a Nottinghamshire banker, who bought Derwent Isle in 1778. Here he built a mansion and various follies including a stone circle. This land and mansion are now owned by the National Trust. He went on to build further villas at Derwent Bank, on the west side of the lake at Portinscale (which later became a popular Holiday Fellowship guesthouse), and at Barrow House – now a youth hostel. Pocklington called this property 'Cascade House' and behind the building he had a stream diverted to create a waterfall as a Picturesque feature. This was intended to be a rival to the famous Lodore falls, further down the valley, which was already an established tourist attraction.








FIGURE 9.15 Aerial view of Joseph Pocklington's villa on Derwent Isle, set within its wooded grounds

From 1781 Lord William Gordon began to purchase land on the west side of Derwent Water and by 1785 had purchased the Waterend estate and then all the land from Fawe Park to Manesty. The farm at Waterend was replaced with Derwent Bay House and another house was built at Silver Hill. In the late 1780s the road from Portinscale to Borrowdale was diverted higher up the valley slopes, away from the estate. The farmland that Gordon purchased had been extensively covered with old coppiced

oak woodland, but much of this had been felled just before the purchase. He therefore set about re-planting the former areas of coppice with a variety of tree species including oak, spruce, silver fir, Weymouth pine and larch. The land to the north of Derwent Bay was also laid out with gravelled drives and footpaths. Gordon's intention was to enhance the natural beauty of the slopes and shore on the west side of Derwent Water in order to create an idealised Picturesque landscape following principles set out William Gilpin for Derwent Water in his 'Observations of 1776' (published 1789). The heavily wooded western shore of Derwent Water still bears testimony to Gordon's landscaping activities

in the late 18th century and the southern part of his estate – Manesty and Brandlehow Parks – are owned by the National Trust.

TABLE 9.2 Key villas in the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley

	<p>ARMATHWAITE HALL</p> <p>At the lower end of Bassenthwaite Lake, a mid-19th century mansion built for the Fletcher-Vane family.</p> <p>DATE 19th century OWNERSHIP Private PROTECTION Listed GRID REFERENCE 320637 532464</p>
	<p>BARROW HOUSE</p> <p>Barrow House built by Pocklington. The grounds of the latter were furnished with a picturesque waterfall, created by diverting the course of a beck. This was conceived as a rival to the falls at Lodore, which had become a popular tourist attraction.</p> <p>DATE 18th century OWNERSHIP Private Hostel PROTECTION Listed GRID REFERENCE 326855 520013</p>
	<p>DERWENT BANK, PORTINSCALE</p> <p>The villa at Derwent Bank, Portinscale was built by built by Joseph Pocklington in 1784-5, probably to his own design. Enlarged in the 19th century and now a guesthouse.</p> <p>DATE 18th century OWNERSHIP Private GRID REFERENCE 325306 522979</p>
	<p>DERWENT BAY</p> <p>Single storey lakeside pavilion built by Lord William Gordon c. 1790.</p> <p>DATE 18th century OWNERSHIP Private GRID REFERENCE 325085 521520</p>
	<p>UNDERSCAR MANOR</p> <p>Underscar Manor, an Italianate style mansion on the lower slopes of Skiddaw. Now a hotel. 1856-63, with later extensions, and mid-20th century alterations, refurbished and altered to form hotel 1990. By Charles Reed, (the name later changed to Verelst) architect, of Liverpool, for William Oxley, merchant, of Liverpool.</p> <p>DATE 19th century OWNERSHIP Private PROTECTION Listed GRID REFERENCE 327023 525627</p>

**DERWENT ISLE HOUSE**

Villa in Italianate style built by Joseph Pocklington 1778 – 80. Extended by Anthony Salvin in 1850 for William Marshall.

DATE 18th and 19th century
OWNERSHIP National Trust
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 326121 522381

**GRETA HALL, KESWICK**

Greta Hall in Keswick, a well-proportioned Georgian mansion of the late 18th century, later occupied by the poets Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1800 – 1803) and Robert Southey (1803 – 43). Now part of Keswick Grammar School.

DATE 18th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 326522 523789

**MIREHOUSE**

Mirehouse, on the eastern shore of Bassenthwaite Lake, dates from the 1666, with wings added in 1790 for Thomas Story and rear extensions of 1830 by Joseph Cantwell for John Spedding. Further extensions in 1851 and 1883. Inherited by the Speddings of Armathwaite Hall in 1802. Still the home of the Spedding family and open to the public. Of particular interest for its associations with Thomas Carlyle, Tennyson and other literary friends of James Spedding (1808-1881), who were frequent visitors to the house. John Spedding attended Hawkshead School with Wordsworth.

DATE 16th and 19th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 323178 528378

**OVERWATER HALL**

House and garden terrace, originally built as Whitefield House c. 1810 and extended in 1840 for Joseph Gillbank from Ireby, who made his fortune in Jamaica. Now a hotel.

DATE 18th and 19th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 324347 534614

**HIGHAM HALL**

The gothic castellated Higham Hall was built in 1827-8 for Thomas Alison Hoskins, of the West Cumbrian industrial family, railway investor and Chairman of the Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith Railway. Now Residential Adult Education Centre.

DATE 19th century
OWNERSHIP Private
PROTECTION Listed
GRID REFERENCE 318556 531545

9.2 HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

9.2.1 ARCHAEOLOGY AND EARLY SETTLEMENT

Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite have been settled from at least the Neolithic period (4000 – 2000 BC). Many stone axes of this period have also been found in the area, including a hoard of unfinished implements from Portinscale. There is some evidence that there may have been a stone axe production site on Carrock Fell. Other early monuments from this period include the stone circle at Castlerigg (just to the east of Keswick – see the Thirlmere Valley description); another large stone circle at Elva Plain, east of Bassenthwaite Lake; and causewayed enclosures at Carrock Fell and Green How. Clearance cairnfields have been found at Weasel Hills which could relate to Bronze Age (2000 – 800 BC) farming and the small hillforts at Castle Crag in Borrowdale and Castle How by Bassenthwaite Lake, may date to either the later prehistoric or early medieval periods.

There is a Roman fort at Caermote, north of Bassenthwaite Lake, and another at Troutbeck, on the A66 between Penrith and Keswick, along with a road and camps. A well-preserved group of Roman period native settlements survive at Aughertree Fell and the remains of a Roman marching camp have recently been found at Castlerigg, near the site of the Neolithic stone circle.

9.2.2 THE ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CURRENT SETTLEMENT PATTERN

The place-names in Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite indicate an early British presence (the name 'Derwent' has a British meaning 'abounding in oaks') but those of Scandinavian origin appear to dominate, suggesting that Scandinavian settlement in the valley was extensive. Particularly common are the names that include the element 'thwaite', meaning clearing within woodland. 'Nordmanthait' (found in the c. 1160 Cartulary of Fountains Abbey) combines the Old Norse 'thwaite' element with the 'Nord' element (Old French?) perhaps reflecting the Normans or Northmen responsible for the clearing. Evidence of clearance is also supported by pollen deposits from peat bogs which suggest major wood clearance episodes in the interior valleys during the second half of the first millennium. The place-name Seatoller is derived from the Old Norse 'seatr' place-name element for summer pasture, which may suggest a transhumant shieling pasture in the upper remote reaches of the valley bottom before a permanent farm was set up later in the medieval period.

Settlements at Uzzicar, Ormathwaite and Portinscale are documented unusually early. These appear as 'Huseker' and 'Husaker' (possibly a compound of the Old Norse 'hus' and 'kiarr' meaning marsh house. Alternatively the 'car' ending may have derived from the Old English 'aker' meaning oak).

Further evidence of early medieval settlement is limited. The Venerable Bede refers in his 'Ecclesiastical History of the English People' (c. 731) to St Herbert's Island in Derwent

Water as the reputed home of this 7th century hermit and priest. An earlier 6th century saint is commemorated at St Kentigern's churches at Crosthwaite and Caldbeck.

9.2.3 THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FARMING LANDSCAPE

Following the Norman invasion of Cumbria in 1092, the Manor of Borrowdale was established. It remained intact until 1195 when Watendlath, Langstrath and part of Stonethwaite were granted to Fountains Abbey by Alice de Rumeli, the granddaughter of the first Norman overlord. Furness Abbey bought the remainder of the Manor in 1209 including all the remaining lands south of Derwent Water and a document defining the boundary between the two holdings was drawn up in 1211.

From the last years of the 12th century onwards the monks drained and cultivated the land, possibly building the first field walls. They also cleared great areas of waste, converting large tracts of fell into pasture. Although the emphasis was on wool, rye, barley and oats were also produced and stored in 'grangia', a term which gave the name to the nearby village of Grange (on Furness Abbey land). A 13th century grange, owned by Fountains Abbey, is also known to have existed in Watendlath. Fountains Abbey had a vaccary (a type of demesne cattle ranch) at Stonethwaite by 1309. Much of its boundaries have been lost, but some natural topographic features survive which almost certainly functioned as outer boundaries.

Place-name evidence provides a limited insight into the evolution of settlement in this valley. Borrowdale appears as 'Borgordale' c. 1170 in 'Illustrative Sources' appended to 'The Register of the Priory of St Bees', although by 1209 it appeared in the 'Furness Coucher Book'. This suggests perhaps that the Derwent Valley originally looked north and west, until the Abbey of Furness flexed its considerable muscle across Cumbria; perhaps the reference refers to Grange rather than anything higher up, or it may refer to the entire valley.

Threlkeld first appears in documents as 'Trellekell' in 1197. Watendlath appears first as 'Wattendlane', and Stonethwaite as 'Staynethwayt' under Richard I (1189-1199), Watendlath and Langstrath appear first in 1195, and Stonethwaite in 1198. Braithwaite appears in the Cartulary of Fountains Abbey during the reign of John (1199-1216). Thornthwaite appears as 'Thorn(e)thwayt', 'Thorn(e)thweyt', 'Thorn(e)thwait' in 1230, in a Calendar of documents relating to Scotland; perhaps these three 'thwaites' had been recently cleared.

In the Newlands valley, to the west of Derwent Water, Keskadale appears as 'Keskeldale' in 1260, Swynside appears as 'Swynesheued' in 1260, Birkrigg appears as 'Birkeryg' in 1293 and Gutherscale appears as 'Goderyscales' in 1293; these four provide a reasonably good mid-13th century date for the opening up of this side valley.

Furness Abbey had a huge influence on the 13th century economy of Keswick and Borrowdale through the introduction of large flocks of sheep on its land, establishing a trade in wool. Keswick increasingly became the economic centre for the locality, based on wool, leather and farm products. A 1418 survey of Fountains Abbey property gives an insight into the farming economy of Borrowdale. At that time, 41 farmsteads were in existence. Given that Fountains Abbey owned roughly half of Borrowdale,

this provides an indication of a vigorous population in the valley at that time. This may suggest that due to its relative isolation, Borrowdale had been spared the worst of the devastation caused by the Black Death in the 14th century. The valley appears to have survived this difficult period relatively well by comparison with other Lakeland areas.

Key to understanding the farming practices of the medieval period are the surviving field patterns of the area. Apart from monastic enclosures and clearance for pastoral farming, the evidence of shielings, surviving predominantly within Langstrath, potentially relate to transhumant stock management from the central valley farms to the more isolated parts of the valley. Indeed, some of the later permanent farmsteads of subsequent periods (e.g. Seatoller) may have had transhumant origins. Much of Langstrath was still probably wooded and the clearance may have dramatically altered the vegetation and animal communities, resulting in a landscape of enclosed woodlands and open pasture.

The same 1418 survey for Fountains Abbey shows the 41 farms to have each had an average of three acres of enclosed land. However, it is not certain whether this was in the form of small inbyes close to the settlement or strips in an early town field. Archaeological evidence shows that local woodland was being cleared and the brushwood coppiced in Seathwaite around 1300-1450 AD, and enclosed by a boundary wall and fence.

Documentary evidence suggests that the earliest enclosures were of parcels of land associated with individual tenements, later supplemented by the creation of a number of town fields. These certainly existed around the small hamlets of upper Borrowdale by the time of the Dissolution. Field evidence of surviving field systems is described above.

At the chapelry of Mungrisdale, which first appears as 'Grisedal(e)' in the 1285 Pleas of the Forest and relatively frequently thereafter, there seems to be a former open field. It does not feature in the Fountains or Furness Abbey records and therefore must have been held privately, probably as a part of the parish of Greystoke. Similarly there is a very small area of strips immediately east of Mosedale; this is mentioned in documents from 1285 onwards which shows that this too was in private hands from the medieval period onwards, probably also as a part of Greystoke.

Evidence for medieval deer parks is less clear. Snittlegarth Hall, north of High Ireby, appears to sit inside its own stock enclosure on the edge of a large, undocumented former deer park, but it could equally be another vaccary. At Armathwaite Hall on the north tip of Bassenthwaite there is a deer park, but this did not appear on Ordnance Survey maps until the 1898 edition; perhaps it was a role revived, or perhaps it was new as it does not appear on the 1787 Clarke map and deer may have been important as animating elements within the ornamental parkland. Clarke's map of 1787 also shows the entire west side of Bassenthwaite as a single piece of woodland belonging to the Manor of Wythop, possibly a former deer park; the south- or east-facing shores of lakes may have been favoured for hunting preserves.

In the medieval period the woodlands in the valley were a major industrial asset. The key product was charcoal from charcoal burning in the woods which required regular rotational coppicing of the woodland. The 16th century was significant for the creation of new farms, the increasing enclosure of common land and investment in new buildings and industry, largely in the second half of the century. However, new farms appeared to have been created before the Dissolution, for example, Rosthwaite first

appears as 'Rasethuate' in 1503. Longthwaite was not mentioned until the 16th century in any of the documentary records, when John Fisher was recorded as the tenant to Furness Abbey in 1538. The enclosure there forms a pattern of radiating fields extending out of the settlement core.

Former monastic granges and farms were sold (Armathwaite perhaps), and there may have been some new settlements which grew up in the aftermath of the Dissolution – Stair ('Stayre') does not appear until 1565; Ullock ('Uloke') in 1564. Snittlegarth is not recorded until it appears as 'Smyttlegarth' in 1580, suggesting a late foundation date. This site was built on the edge of a former deer park or a monastic stock enclosure given its date. Seatoller is not documented until it appears as 'Settaller' in parish registers of 1563.

The creation of town fields around the small hamlets of upper Borrowdale may not have occurred until the 16th century; indeed they were not specifically mentioned until the relatively late date of 1659.

Most of these areas around Keswick had probably been turned over to agriculture before the 16th century, as it grew into a market town. Almost all the western lakeside of Derwent Water is shown on the 1787 Clarke map as occupied by parks – Fall Park, Brandlehow Park (Branley Park on the map) and Manesty Park. These may have distilled from an earlier deer park, carved out for the inheritors of the Grange estate from the mid-16th century.

Limited documentary information indicates that the valleys to the south of Derwent Water were to have been enclosed in the 16th/17th centuries. There are references respectively in 1539 and 1537 to enclosures resulting from the granting by the crown of seized land to a Richard Greme.

Further, documents from 1678 refer to a number of 'closes' at Rosthwaite varying in size between 1 and 5 acres (0.5 to 2 hectares) and again in 1696 there are references to a "close or inclosure of arable land and meadow". The small acreage of these enclosures suggests they were either the small tenement closes or the start of the enclosure of strips within the town field. Perhaps redistribution of the former Furness Abbey lands around Grange provided the first opportunity for farm holdings to grow on a large scale. Frith (Frith Wood) at the foot of Grange Fell, adjacent to Swanesty Wood, probably indicates a former stock park enclosure, although it is not possible to trace its boundary with any confidence.

The process of selling off monastic land continued long after the Dissolution. When James I became king in 1603, he sold the land once held by Furness Abbey to two London entrepreneurs, William Whitmore and Jonas Verdon. They indulged in asset stripping, selling the individual farms in 1614 to 38 people. The next year, while retaining the graphite mines, they sold the 'Manor of Borrowdale' to the same 38 in an agreement referred to as the 'Great Deed of Borrowdale' which constituted "all the woods... wastes, commons, stinted pastures... ways and entries". The list was headed by "Sir Wilfrid Lawson of Isel, Knight", followed by the names of people who mostly lived in the farmsteads of upper Borrowdale. Lawson had already obtained the lands around Stonethwaite from the Greames family in 1606, and he then bought more in the valley in 1617. In 1614, just before the 'Great Deed of Borrowdale', Lawson bought Seathwaite and Rosthwaite off Verdon and Whitmore.

By 1700 an enclosed field system had been established along most of the valley floor and intaking was starting to spread up the fellsides. Some areas of fellside with coppiced woodland, such as Johnny's Wood and intakes along Eagle Crag, had probably already been enclosed for some time for their own protection from grazing animals. Around the north-west Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley area there are large stretches of inbye land, with extensive modern enclosures. Intake enclosure is relatively sparse, suggesting that most of the best land had been enclosed enthusiastically before the 16th century.

The 16th century redistribution of ecclesiastical property also led to the construction and investment of new buildings and rebuilding of existing ones. Armathwaite Hall may have been built after the Dissolution on former Benedictine nunnery land. A number of farms in the valley have 16th century buildings at their core, such as Millbeck Hall, Wythop Hall, Thwaite Hall, Hewthwaite Hall and Fold Head Farm.

The 16th century was also important in the growth of industry. The first documentary evidence of mining in the Caldbeck Fells dates to 1537 when the Company of Mines Royal had significant mining interests there. In the mid-16th century, the company constructed a large smelter at Brigham, on the eastern side of Keswick, fuelled by timber from local woodland. The smelter at Brigham and its associated works became the largest in Europe. "The smelting houses were so many that they looked like a little town" wrote Sir Daniel Fleming in 1671. The Moot Hall of 1813, in the centre of the marketplace, was built on the site of a copper store used by of the Company of Mines Royal in the 1570s.

The unique 16th century 'wad' (pure graphite) mine on the slopes above Seathwaite in Borrowdale was mentioned by William Camden as 'the famous mine of wad or black-lead' after his journey through the North of England in 1582. This extremely valuable material was used locally as a black dye for marking sheep, known as 'black cawke', but had many other uses. There is evidence that Flemish traders were supplying the Michelangelo School of Art in Italy with Cumberland graphite by about 1580.



FIGURE 9.16 Farms, field and woodland in Stonethwaite at the southern end of Borrowdale. There has been no substantial change to this landscape for over 150 years.

Finally, there were hints of the tourism and the interest in outdoor recreation that was to come in the late 18th to 19th centuries around Keswick, with the first recorded ascents of Skiddaw to take in the view by Bishop Nicholson in 1684.

In many respects, Borrowdale was a landscape of contrasts in the 18th century with high levels of poverty amongst the farming communities, but a growing tourism trade that would change the character of the valley. Hutchinson (in his 'History of the County of Cumberland') said in 1794 that "the surface of the ground was very little cultivated" and that even by the late 1760s a "cart or any type of wheeled carriage was totally unknown in Borrowdale". He continued to describe how hay was not stacked in the field but carried home in bundles by pack horse. He also records that the first recorded chaise in Borrowdale, in 1824, bringing one Jack Cawx, almost overturned on the poor road at Grange Bridge.

The intakes of Borrowdale were set out in the 18th century and at Seathwaite, Rosthwaite and Stonethwaite intaking of the remaining fellside appears to have taken place by the 1750s. The final phase of wall-building, comprising the large, straight walled fields on the higher fellsides resulting from planned enclosure was completed by the mid-19th century. Thus by 1850 the field pattern that we see today in Borrowdale had been established and little has changed in the intervening years.

9.2.4 DISCOVERY AND APPRECIATION OF A RICH CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

EARLY TOURISM

The landscape that had developed in Borrowdale by the mid-18th century as a result of farming and industry within a spectacular valley and mountain setting was the key attraction in the English Lake District to the visitors who came in search of Picturesque beauty. The influx of visitors and a growing population created tensions: the more people came to admire the valley, the more it had to change to accommodate them. It was considered that all the elements of the Picturesque were brought together around Keswick with a number of different landscape types and this was noted by Dr John Brown in 1753, who listed them as "beauty, horror and immensity":

"...the full perfection of Keswick, consists of three circumstances, beauty, horror, and immensity united... to give you a complete idea of these three perfections, as they are joined in Keswick, would require the united powers of Claude, Salvator, and Poussin. The first should throw his delicate sunshine over the cultivated vales, the scattered cots, the groves, the lake, and wooded islands. The second should dash out the horror of the rugged cliffs, the steeps, the hanging woods, and foaming waterfalls; while the grand pencil of Poussin should crown the whole, with the majesty of impending mountains".

Dr John Brown, 'Description of the Vale and Lake of Keswick' (1767)



FIGURE 9.17 Aerial view of the 'Jaws of Borrowdale' from the south. Castle Crag is in the foreground with Derwent Water and its islands beyond.

The landscape of Borrowdale reflects these three divisions noted by Dr Brown which translates from "beauty, horror and immensity" to ancient enclosed cultivated landscapes around Keswick, the islands and woods and parkland (beauty), plus Castle Crag and the rocky summits of Borrowdale (horror) and finally the fells of Swinside, Skiddaw and Castle Rigg (immensity).

Thomas Gray, having experienced the Alps, wrote about his discovery of Borrowdale in 1769. He described "the most delicious view" his eyes had ever beheld on the shores of Derwent Water:

"Opposite, are the thick woods of Lord Egremont, and Newland Valley, with green and smiling fields embosomed in the dark cliffs; to the left, the jaws of Borrowdale, with the turbulent chaos of mountain behind mountain, rolled in confusion; beneath you and stretching far away to the right, the shining purity of the lake reflecting rocks, woods, fields, and inverted tops of hills, just ruffled by the breeze, enough to shew it is alive, with the white buildings of Keswick, Crosthwaite church and Skiddaw for a background at a distance".

However, as Gray ventured further into Borrowdale he found the experience increasingly alarming:

"...soon after we came under Gowder-crag, a hill more formidable to the eye, and the apprehension, than that of Lowdore; the rocks at the top deep-cloven perpendicularly by the rains, hanging loose and nodding forwards, seen just starting from their base in shivers. The whole way down, and the road on both sides is strewn with piles of the fragments strangely thrown across each other and of a dreadful bulk; the place reminds me of those passes in the Alps, where the guides tell you to move on with speed, and say nothing, lest the agitation of the air should loosen the snows above, and bring down a mass that would overwhelm the caravan. I took their counsel here, and hastened on in silence"

Thomas Gray, 'Journal of a visit to the Lake District' (1769)

Thomas West's guidebook of 1778 identified a series of viewing stations around Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite from which the picturesque beauty of the landscape could be fully appreciated. West's tour around Derwent Water started at Keswick and worked in a clockwise direction to include eight viewing stations. A viewing station at each end of the lake (Stations II and IV) provided all-encompassing views from one end to the other, taking in the islands and the fellsides which formed the amphitheatre around the lake. Station II, in Crow Park on the edge of Keswick looked down the lake into the "rocky jaws of Borrowdale" and Station IV provided views from Borrowdale northwards to the more gentle landscape around Keswick. To the north of Keswick, Station VII was on the heights of Latrigg and provided views of the entire lake, Keswick and Borrowdale, and so covered from one point all the landscape features seen from the other seven stations.



FIGURE 9.18 'Keswick Lake', by Paul Sandby (c. 1780). Crosthwaite Church can be seen just below Skiddaw and Joseph Pocklington's villa, completed a year before this painting, can be seen on Derwent Isle.

West also identified a series of four viewing stations around Bassenthwaite Lake, at Armathwaite at the lower end, Scar Ness and Broadness promontories on the eastern shore and at Beck Wythop on the western side.

In the late 18th century Keswick began to develop as a tourist centre for the moneyed, leisured and educated visitors who were interested in the contemplation of lake and mountain

scenery, and attracted by guide books (such as that written by Thomas West) and poems written about the Vale of Keswick (such as those by John Brown and Thomas Gray). Early tourism in the Keswick area in the 1780s had two important champions in Joseph Pocklington and Peter Crosthwaite. Pocklington built a mansion and various follies including a stone circle on Derwent Isle (the mansion is now owned by the National Trust). He also built a house at Portinscale (now a guesthouse) and Barrow House which is now a youth hostel. The grounds of the latter were furnished with a picturesque waterfall, created by diverting the course of a beck. This was conceived as a rival to the falls at Lodore, which had become a popular tourist attraction.

PICTURESQUE BUILDINGS AND LANDSCAPE

As well as Pocklington's adventurous approach to buying land and building and 'improving' the landscape, Pocklington and Crosthwaite teamed up to lay on regattas on Derwent Water. These were not the first, as John Spedding at Armathwaite Hall set the precedent in 1779 on Bassenthwaite Lake, but Pocklington and Crosthwaite's events included mock invasions of Pocklington's Island (now Derwent Isle), including a fleet of boats with muskets and cannons and musical interludes. The fields between the town and the lake were filled with stalls, sideshows and refreshment tents.

In 1789 Pocklington bought the land where the Bowder Stone, a massive glacial erratic, sat. At over eight metres high and 18 metres long it is the largest free-standing boulder in the Lake District. Pocklington carried out 'improvement' works around the stone including building a guide's hut, so that the early tourists could pay for a



FIGURE 9.19 The Bowder Stone

surveyor. He offered his services as a guide and by 1783 he had mapped Derwent Water, Ullswater and Windermere and drawn a plan of Pocklington's Island. He went on to survey Bassenthwaite Lake, Coniston Water and Buttermere. He made his maps specifically for visitors including features of interest such as Thomas West's viewing stations. He built a museum on Keswick's main street, which he opened to the public in 1784 and charged visitors for entry. His museum included curiosities from his time with the East India Company and local artefacts. His family continued to run the museum until 1870.

Other guides set up business in the area including Jonathan Otley and Thomas Hutton, who also opened a museum. Hutton's museum included a model of a slave ship, donated by William Wilberforce. Wilberforce had become friends with Hutton on his regular visits to the Lake District and employed Hutton as a guide.

Visitor numbers increased from the mid-18th century and by 1802, Coleridge wrote of Keswick that for one-third of the year it swarmed with tourists. They needed places to stay and it has been claimed that the first hotel in the area specifically built to accommodate tourists was at Ouse Bridge at the north end of Bassenthwaite Lake, dating from the same time as the establishment of the local turnpike trusts in the 1760s. It appears to have operated for about 50 years before being converted to another use. In 1787 14 inns and ale houses were listed in Keswick and by 1889 the list had grown to 36 inns and five beer houses. The George is said to be the oldest hostelry in Keswick; the earliest recorded bill dated to 1733. Thomas Gray stayed at the Queens in 1769.

John Peel, the famous huntsman, is probably one of the Lake District's most well-known local characters, chiefly because of the song written about him. Peel was born at Parkend, near Caldbeck in 1777. He maintained a pack of hounds at his own expense for 55 years. John Peel Cottage at Ruthwaite was his farm and he died there in 1854. John Woodcock Graves, from Wigton, a Caldbeck carding mill owner, lived at Gatehouse, Caldbeck and in 1824 wrote the song "D'ye ken John Peel with his coat so grey?". Peel's grave is in St Kentigern's churchyard, Caldbeck.

9.2.5 ROMANTIC SITES, BUILDINGS AND ASSOCIATIONS

The Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley has many connections with the Lake Poets and other major literary and artistic figures of the late 18th and early 19th centuries

guide. Pocklington had no qualms about adapting nature for the sake of entertainment, which the Romantics found not only tasteless, but immoral.

Peter Crosthwaite was a farmer's son from Thirlmere. He served with the East India Company and the Customs Service before returning to settle in the Lake District. He was the first local man to see how lucrative the tourist trade could be and to develop attractions specifically for visitors. He was an avid observer and

with a number of surviving residences and a great number of landscape features which provided inspiration for their work.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge lived at Greta Hall in Keswick from 1800 to 1803 and the Wordsworths visited on numerous occasions. Robert Southey took up residence at Greta Hall following Coleridge's departure from the Lake District in 1803 and lived there with both his family and Coleridge's until his death in 1845. Southey is buried in Crosthwaite churchyard where his memorial is inscribed with verses by Wordsworth. In 1803 Wordsworth was given land at Applethwaite, just north of Keswick, by Sir George Beaumont, who wanted to enable him to live near his friend Coleridge. Although Wordsworth never built here, he wrote the sonnet 'At Applethwaite, near Keswick' to commemorate the gift and his descendants later built the slate cottage which now occupies the site.

In addition to Coleridge and Southey, the Wordsworths had other friends in Keswick including William's benefactor, Raisley Calvert. Calvert lived at Windy Brow (now the Calvert Trust Riding Centre for the Disabled) and William and Dorothy Wordsworth stayed here in April 1794 and in early 1795 when Calvert was terminally ill. Calvert left money to William, which allowed him to live independently at Grasmere and in response to this generosity he wrote the sonnet 'To the Memory of Raisley Calvert'. The Wordsworths continued to visit the woods at Windy Brow, often with Coleridge, and constructed a seat there for which both poets wrote sonnets.

The poet Percy Bysshe Shelley and his wife lived (briefly) at Shelley Cottage, Keswick, over the winter of 1811/12 and Shelley, like Coleridge, undertook solitary rambles and drew inspiration from the Lake District landscape. He wrote the poems 'Mother and Son' and 'The Devil's Walk' while resident in Borrowdale. Local settings feature briefly in Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein' and 'The Last Man'.

In his 'Guide Through the District of the Lakes' (1835), Wordsworth commented that Derwent Water was:

"distinguished from all other Lakes by being surrounded with sublimity: the fantastic mountains of Borrowdale to the south, the solitary majesty of Skiddaw to the north, the bold steeps of Wallow-crag and Lodore to the east, and to the west the clustering mountains of New-lands."

Having settled in Keswick, Coleridge's 'Notebooks' are, unsurprisingly, full of references to the surrounding fells, notably Skiddaw and the sometimes dramatic cloud formations that grace its summit:

"As we turned round on our return, we see a moving pillar of clouds, flame & smoke, rising, bending, arching, and in swift motion – from what God's chimney doth it issue?"

Skiddaw also features in a number of Wordsworth's poems, notably the sonnet 'Pelion and Ossa Flourish Side by Side', in which he compares it favourably with Parnassus and the mountains of Ancient Greece.

The Falls of Lodore were celebrated in poems by Wordsworth ('An Evening Walk') and Southey ('The Cataract of Lodore'). In his 'Don Espriella', Southey references Lodore and the nearby Bowder Stone.

In 1833, Wordsworth wrote a number of poems to commemorate a tour of Cumbria, the Isle of Man and Scotland. These included a homage to the River Greta –

"Greta, what fearful listening! When huge stones / Rumble along thy bed, block after block".

With regard to Borrowdale, Wordsworth's poem 'Yew Trees' celebrates the yew that is 'Pride of Lorton Vale', but goes on to observe that:

**"worthier still of note
Are those fraternal Four of Borrowdale,
Joined in one solemn and capacious grove;
Huge trunks! And each particular trunk a growth
Of intertwined fibres serpentine
Up-coiling, and inveterately convolved;
...a natural temple scattered o'er
With altars undisturbed of mossy stone"**

The yews were damaged in a great storm of 1883 and one yew was lost. This event moved Canon H. D. Rawnsley to compose a melancholy 'Trilogy of Sonnets on the Yews of Borrowdale'. The three remaining yews are still standing; their age has been estimated at 1500 years.

On his 1799 walking tour, Coleridge stayed at Ouse Bridge hotel at the head of Bassenthwaite. His 'Notebook' records:

"From the Inn Window, the whole length of Basenthwait, a simple majesty of water & mountains – / & in the distance the Bank rising like a wedge – & in the second distance the Crag of Derwent Water / What an effect of the Shadows on the water!"

The area around the huge Skiddaw massif is rich in literary associations. Skiddaw itself is the most written about mountain in Britain. It even features in William Blake's poem 'Jerusalem The Emanation of the Giant Albion' (1804-1820) as a sinister setting where Hand, one of the sons of Albion, is betrayed by his consort Cambel:

**"Hand slept on Skiddaw's top, drawn by the love of the beautiful Cambel, his bright beaming Counterpart, divided from him;
And her delusive light beam'd fierce above the Mountain,
Soft, invisible, drinking his sighs in sweet intoxication."**

Ormathwaite Hall, on Skiddaw's southern slopes was the home of Joseph Wilkinson, for whose landscape engravings Wordsworth wrote the commentary which became his Guide to the Lakes. Coleridge and the Wordsworths visited the Skiddaw area a number of times.

Coleridge, in 1800, and Dorothy Wordsworth, in 1803, wrote about visiting The Howk and the Fairy Kirk at Caldbeck. Coleridge and Wordsworth stayed at Dickens House, formerly the Queen's Head Inn at Hesket Newmarket in 1803. Coleridge climbed and wrote about Carrock Fell many times. Skiddaw's mountain neighbour Blencathra features in Wordsworth's 'Song at the Feast of Brougham Castle' and Coleridge's 'A Thought Suggested by a View'. Threlkeld Hall on Blencathra's southern slopes features in Wordsworth's 'Benjamin the Waggoner'.

Many later famous literary figures have been inspired by the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite area. The novelist Hugh Walpole (1884-1941) lived in Borrowdale and set his 'Herries Chronicles' novels against local scenery and based on sites throughout Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite. Walpole lived at Brackenburn on the slopes of Cat Bells and is buried in St John's churchyard in Keswick.

The increase in tourism resulted in a growing population in Borrowdale along with new roads, new buildings and changes in agricultural practices. The population of the valley was 342 in 1801 increasing to 506 in 1891 (Bulmer and Snape c. 1901). The tithe map of 1842 depicted a much altered agricultural landscape with a surprising amount of land given over to the growing of crops rather than the traditional pasture.

To meet the growing demands for accommodation for both visitors and local people, public facilities were expanded and improved in Keswick and a large residential suburb was created east of the town. Between 1871 and 1901 the population of the town rose from 2,782 to 4,451. By the 1890s the town had taken on a distinctive Victorian character with substantial stone-built hotels, banks, library, post office, police station, courts and a museum. Guest houses and residences were built to cater for the influx of rail-borne visitors and affluent incomers. Fitz Park, designated as 'a pleasure ground and place of recreation', was formally opened in 1887. The Keswick Hotel, built in 1869 next to the railway station, is probably the best surviving reflection of Keswick's confidence and status as a tourist attraction in the later 19th century.

The 20th century saw a continuing interest from literary figures in the valley and in the growth of tourism. Many famous literary figures visited Hugh Walpole's home at Brackenburn, on the west side of Derwent Water, including J. B. Priestley, Arthur Ransome and W. H. Auden. Far Wescoe, near Threlkeld was the holiday home of W. H. Auden's parents in the 1920s and 1930s and Auden wrote many of his well-known poems on visits there. High Ireby, north of Skiddaw, is the home of novelist and broadcaster, Melvyn Bragg whose novels include 'The Maid of Buttermere'. Lingholm and Fawe Park on the western shores of Derwent Water were the summer holiday residences of Beatrix Potter and her family between 1885 and 1907. Lingholm inspired 'Tales of Benjamin Bunny' and St Herbert's Island, the island in 'The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin' (1903). Fawe Park's kitchen garden formed the basis for Mr McGregor's garden in 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' (1902) and 'The Tale of Mrs Tiggy-Winkle' (1905) was set around Littletown, Skellgil and Cat Bells, nearby in the Newlands valley.

Tourist accommodation took a number of forms. There is a strong tradition and continued presence of hostels in the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite valley. The Youth Hostel Association (YHA) runs Skiddaw bunkhouse, the highest Youth Hostel in Britain at 470 metres Ordnance Datum, Keswick Youth Hostel and Hawse End bunkhouse.

The Barrow House hostel; in Derwent Water is now run privately. The Reverend Thomas Arthur Leonard (1864-1948) founded the Co-operative Holiday Association (CHA) in 1893 and the Holiday Fellowship in 1913. He wanted to offer outdoor holidays to the workers of the large industrial cities of the Midlands and the North of England. He was described following his death in 1948 as the Father of the open air holiday movement. There is a memorial tablet on the slopes of Cat Bells. Derwent Bank, at the northern tip of Derwent Water is still run by HF Holidays. They ran The Old Mill House, Stair, Newlands, a renovated old graphite mill, from 1914 to 1987, which continues to be run as Newlands Adventure Centre. HF Holidays also ran Hawes End, Derwent Water, from 1927 to 1938, which is still a youth activity centre.

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

Borrowdale has a particularly important place in the story of the early conservation movement in the Lake District which continues to the present day. The felling of the Crow Park oaks by Greenwich Hospital in the mid-18th century stimulated a public debate about the aesthetics of economic land management decisions. The land was part of the Derwent Water Estate which belonged to the last Earl of Derwent Water, who supported the Jacobite rebellion in 1715. When the rebellion failed he was executed for treason and his estate was given to the Commissioners of Greenwich hospital. The Commissioners sold the oaks for timber and they were cut down in 1749-51. This and other decisions about management of the Derwent Water woodlands came at a time when landscape aesthetics were of increasing interest in society. The debate that ensued in the years and decades following the felling of the Crow Park oaks is a very early example of land management decisions becoming of more than private interest and into a more public arena with competing agendas of the economic decisions of the landowner and the aesthetic values of an increasing number of interested observers who valued the landscape for other reasons.

Wordsworth's apparently unlikely friendship with John Marshall (1765-1845) of Leeds, the principal flax spinner in England, was to have a significant impact on the ownership and management of the landscape of the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley (see Volume 1, Section 2.b.5). Wordsworth and Marshall were brought together through Dorothy Wordsworth's childhood friendship with Marshall's wife, Jane Pollard. Marshall became interested in tree planting, particularly the use of native and non-native species for aesthetic and economic purposes, at the same time as Wordsworth began advising local landowners, such as Lord Lowther, on his aesthetics of landscape planting. The Greenwich Hospital's Keswick Estate was acquired for John Marshall Junior in 1832 and in 1844 Henry Cowper Marshall purchased Derwent Island. The Marshall family ownership in the valley, as in the rest of the Lake District, sought to control and manage the water, shore and fell sides at the heads of the lakes and to improve both the prospects of landscape and production by planting, conforming to the aesthetic values established in the 18th century. The Wordsworths were instrumental in advising the Marshalls on both the estate purchases and the landscape improvement and influencing the Marshalls' aesthetic and cultural values and sensibilities. The case of the Keswick

Estate in 1832 provides an early case of the transfer of a productive but iconic estate into protective rather than exploitative ownership. The Greenwich Hospital was already foregoing some economic benefit to the Hospital for the sake of aesthetic value, and had the estate not been sold, the Hospital would have cut timber in quantity.

Another early environmental battle that was fought and won in Borrowdale was the proposal in 1883 for the Buttermere and Braithwaite Railway from Buttermere to Keswick, primarily to carry slate from the Honister quarries. Canon Rawnsley, who was appointed vicar of Crosthwaite in the same year, was instrumental in organising letters to the national press, petitions and protest meetings and he soon defeated the Parliamentary Bill that had been tabled. The Lake District Defence Society was also established in 1883 and other successful campaigns in the valley included the prevention of a proposed road over Sty Head Pass to link Keswick with Wasdale and the west coast.

In 1885 several landowners around Keswick had closed footpaths which had been used for generations. A Miss Spedding, then owner of Latrigg, closed the only access paths to the fell and planted a number of trees. In protest, The Keswick Footpath Preservation Association called for a mass trespass. On 1 October 1887, 2,000 people gathered in Keswick and marched to one of the footpaths where they found a chained gate and a 'Private' sign. Spurred on by Keswick local and protest leader, Henry Irwin Jenkinson, the crowd removed the chains on the gate, took down the sign and walked up the footpath singing 'Rule Britannia'. Miss Spedding's gamekeeper reportedly asked them to stop singing as it would disturb the birds. Ignoring this they proceeded to the summit for speeches and a rousing rendition of 'God Save the Queen'. The trespass appeared in all the national papers with The Manchester Guardian reporting that "the Latrigg case will affect the right of ascent to almost every mountain in Britain". Miss Spedding issued writs for damages to the Footpath Preservation Society and the case was heard at Carlisle the following year. Witnesses described how they had used the paths for many years without hindrance. One of these, son of poet Robert Southey, said that he and friends had regularly used the footpaths as children. After two days a compromise was reached. One footpath, Spooney Green Lane, would be opened to the public while the other would remain private. When a victorious Jenkinson and his supporters returned to Keswick they were escorted into town by a crowd and a brass band. Following the court case other land owners in the Lake District who had closed footpaths opened them to the public again. Henry Irwin Jenkinson also led the fundraising to buy Fitz Park for the people of Keswick and his name appears over the main gate to the park.

Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley, the Crosthwaite vicar, was one of the three people behind the formation of the National Trust in 1894 and the Trust's earliest land acquisitions in the English Lake District were in the valley. The Keswick School of Industrial Arts was founded by Canon Rawnsley and his wife Edith as an evening class in woodwork and *répoussé* (relief metalwork) at the Crosthwaite Parish Rooms. The enterprise, designed to alleviate unemployment, prospered, and within ten years more than 100 men were attending classes. In 1894 a new building was erected for the school, nearby in Keswick. The school operated for 100 years closing in 1984.

In 1889 Marion Twelves brought her linen industry from Langdale to Keswick and connected it with the Keswick School of Industrial Arts and, with Ruskin's agreement, named it the 'Ruskin Linen Industry'. In 1892 the craftspeople of Ruskin's Linen Industry

were commissioned to produce within three days the pall for Alfred Lord Tennyson's coffin for his funeral at Westminster Abbey. Eight years later the weavers made the pall for Ruskin's funeral. Both were designed by Edith Rawnsley. The making of Ruskin Lace is still taught today with a teaching lineage that can be traced back to Marion Twelves who died in 1929 at the age of 86.

Borrowdale is important in the history of the development of the National Trust's involvement with the Lake District. It was here that the fledgling National Trust grew and today it continues to own and manage much land in the valley. Its actions over the last century have helped to maintain the distinctive character of the valley together with preservation of archaeological and industrial monuments and securing public access. The National Trust owns 10,002 hectares of land of which 9,963 hectares is inalienable. It has no leased land and 292 hectares of covenanted land.

The first act of the National Trust in the Lake District was to collect subscriptions for the erection of a memorial to John Ruskin on Friar's Crag, Derwent Water in 1900 (the remainder of Friar's Crag was purchased by the Trust in 1922 as a memorial to Rawnsley). This was followed in 1902 by the purchase of part of the Derwent Water lakeshore at Brandlehow, again following a public appeal. This was purchased for public access as the remainder of the shore was at that time in private hands. Most of the remaining lakeshore was purchased over the next 20 years. The Trust later acquired the western lakebed of Derwent Water and the remaining privately owned islands in the lake in 1958. Further early purchases included Manesty Park in 1908, south of Brandlehow, and in 1909, from the Leconfield Estate, the right to public navigation on Derwent Water. In 1910 the Bowder Stone and Grange Fell were acquired and the Neolithic stone circle at Castlerigg in 1913.



FIGURE 9.20 The official opening of Brandlehow in October 1902

Following the First World War, a number of significant gifts of land in and around Borrowdale were gifted to the National Trust as memorials to the fallen. These included Castle Crag in the 'Jaws of Borrowdale' by Sir William and Lady Hamer, and much of the high fell land at the southern end of the valley, including Scafell Pike, Great Gable and Great End. Further significant purchases following a public appeal in 1939 increased the

Trust's holdings in central Borrowdale. During this early period the National Trust, under the strong influence of Canon Rawnsley, also successfully opposed a number of developments that would have damaged the landscape character of the area, including the re-building of the road bridges at Portinscale and Grange.

In addition, Herbert Walker of Whitehaven donated Rampsholme Island in Derwent Water to the National Trust in 1929, along with the nearby properties of Strandshag Bay and Stable Hills. In the same year he facilitated the imposition of a National Trust covenant on land east of Derwent Water. After his death his trustees transferred land at The Ings in Borrowdale to the National trust in 1952, this was followed by Great Wood and other land near Keswick in 1969.

After 1946 the National Trust concentrated on building up a farming estate in Borrowdale. Nook Farm was gifted as a war memorial in 1947 and this was followed in 1950 by Ashness Farm and three further farms at Watendlath in 1960 (Fold Head, Stepps End and Caffle House (1962)) which secured the whole of the hanging valley of Watendlath. Seatoller Farm came to the National Trust through National Land Fund procedures in 1959 and as this included the land at Honister Hause, the Trust was in a position to control road improvement over the pass.

In 1976 the farms of Longhwaite and Yew Tree came to the National Trust from the winding up of Lake District Farms Estates Limited and in 1982 the entire holding of Seathwaite Farm was acquired by the National Trust following the gift of the Kingston Lacy Estate in Dorset, which included land in Seathwaite and the remains of the wad mines.

The majority of the land surrounding Bassenthwaite Lake is either in private hands or owned or leased by the Forestry Commission. Some of the extensive conifer plantations on the western shore, and particularly on the eastern side, on the Dodd, are being felled and converted to native woodland. The lake bed, navigation rights and parts of the lakeshore are owned by the Lake District National Park Authority. These were transferred to the National Park Authority by the Treasury in 1979, following the death of the previous owner, Lord Egremont. Recent conservation activity here has achieved many benefits including improving lake water quality, including for the rare fish, Vendace, increased public access and the return in 2001, after nearly two centuries of absence in England, of breeding Ospreys. This same property transfer also saw the National Park Authority becoming owner of the Caldbeck and Uldale Commons, covering 4,555 hectares of registered Common Land in the Caldbeck and Uldale Fells, on the north side of the Skiddaw massif.

In 1937 the Buttermere Slate Quarry entered into a contract to receive mains electricity supply to its slate quarry on Honister Pass between Borrowdale and Buttermere. The supply would be on poles up the Borrowdale Valley. Friends of the Lake District, the Council for the Protection of Rural England and the National Trust all supported the supply to the quarry and hoped that Borrowdale properties could be included, but they wanted as much of the line as possible to be put underground. The company, local councils and objectors debated and disagreed over costings, routes and what could be underground. Eventually the scheme was dropped. Honister quarry generated its own electricity, but the legacy was that the Borrowdale residents pressed the electricity company and the Government for an underground supply for the valley, successfully arguing the case for modern services, but sensitively delivered in a special landscape. This eventually came to pass in 1955-56.

The improvement of the A66 from Penrith to Cockermouth proved extremely controversial in the 1970s. The two most contentious elements were an engineered embankment along the west shore of Bassenthwaite Lake and the high-level bridge over the River Greta just east of Keswick. A route to the north outside the National Park was a potential alternative. A seven-week public enquiry resulted in the controversial decision in December 1972 by the Secretary of State for the Environment favouring the route through the National Park. The Countryside Commission at the time called it 'a permanent monument to insensitivity towards superb scenery.'



FIGURE 9.21 View of Bassenthwaite Lake from the north west

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

The attributes demonstrating the contribution of this Valley to the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the English Lake District as a whole are listed in Figure 9.6. Attributes for the first theme of agro-pastoral agriculture are strongly represented in the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley with a very clear landscape pattern of inbye and intake in the narrow side valleys of Seathwaite and Stonethwaite, and a field system at Watendlath which developed from two medieval ring garths. The areas of inbye land are more extensive in the more open parts of the valley and intakes less so, at the northwest end of Bassenthwaite and north of the Caldbeck Fells, but all parts of the valley contain early farmhouses dating from the 17th and 19th centuries. Borrowdale contains several major Herdwick farms while the northern part of the valley is a key area for the Swaledale breed.

The evidence for early land use is evident from the important Neolithic sites and finds of polished stone axes in the area and the evidence for Roman occupation includes important forts and marching camps. Place-names indicate extensive early medieval settlement, including in the Norse period. The Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley is one of the most important areas of the Lake District for the landscape evidence of early industry. The Company of Mines Royal established a presence in Keswick in the late 16th century and significant early mines were developed in the Newlands valley and on the Caldbeck Fells, which feature a particularly complex and geologically important mineralisation. The unique graphite (wad) mine is located in Seathwaite and in the 19th century extensive slate quarries operated at the southern end of Borrowdale. The last mine in the Lake District to close – Force Crag – is also located in the valley. The key market town of Keswick was established in the medieval period and its early pattern of market place and burgage plots survives within the modern townscape. Smaller settlements such as Grange and Rosthwaite also have medieval origins while the large village of Caldbeck in the north has a particular character deriving from both agricultural and industrial activities.

The Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley is also one of the key areas for the second theme of aesthetic inspiration. It was one of the primary areas of focus of the early visitors to the Lake District from the mid-18th century and the area around Derwent Water, from Keswick to the 'Jaws of Borrowdale', became celebrated nationally as a landscape of great Sublime and Picturesque beauty. Villas and designed landscapes proliferated on the shores and islands of Derwent Water and Bassenthwaite and Keswick developed accommodation and facilities for the increasing numbers of cultural tourists. The Valley was visited by numerous guidebook writers and artists and its landscapes and features were recorded in hundreds of watercolours and prints. The key Romantic poets Southey and Coleridge both took up residence at different times at Greta Hall in Keswick while the poet Shelley also lived briefly in Keswick. The Wordsworths were frequent visitors to Keswick and Borrowdale features in many of William Wordsworth's poems.

The Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley is also highly important in demonstrating the attributes of the early conservation movement. This was where the very first concerns emerged over the preservation of the scenic qualities and beauty of the English Lake District landscape, occasioned by the felling of mature oak trees on the northern shores of Derwent Water in the mid-18th century. This was followed in the later 18th and early 19th centuries by the purchase of key parts of Borrowdale by John Marshall and others keen to preserve the beauty of the area. Canon Rawnsley, vicar for many years of the Parish of Crosthwaite, led the battle against a proposed railway on the west side of Derwent Water to the Honister slate quarries, and the National Trust, of which Rawnsley was a founder, made its first purchases of land in the English Lake District in this valley. Today the National Trust ownership is extensive and has been responsible for helping to maintain both the important agro-pastoral and picturesque aspects of the landscape.

As a functioning agro-pastoral landscape with extensive surviving evidence of aesthetic inspiration and a key importance for the early conservation movement, the Borrowdale and Bassenthwaite Valley demonstrates strongly the attributes for all three themes of Outstanding Universal Value of the English Lake District.



FIGURE 9.22 View of the inbye land in the Newlands valley, surrounded by the Derwent Fells, from Catbells